Another post in the series

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(1)

**The Master & Margarita**

<https://amzn.to/3qMIxhf>

The highest literacy level book I've read to date. This is classic legendary Russian literature and was supremely confusing. The characters have Russian names and the plot was difficult to decipher. That said, in the end it is an elaborate, mythical, fictional retelling of events surrounding the Jesus crucifixion story.

From the writing,I can tell the book is a masterpiece. It has incredible rhythm, plot, prose, and details. Unfortunately as a reader, I did not meet my end of the deal to give this book its worthwhile attention. I have slowly read this book over many years, largely forgetting everything each time.

I regret rating this book so low however this is my experience. I am certain if I am ever to reread with more lucidity I would score it higher.

6/10

(2)

**Submission**

<https://amzn.to/3RO9op8>

An incredibly subversive book on modern relationships, cultural values, education, and politics. My understanding is that the author is quite controversial here however is an extremely well-known French author.

There is political upheaval and the stones land with Muslim leadership. This leads to implementing Sharia (Islamic) law which is traditional and conservative and causes societal unrest.

In the background there is chaos and disarray; society is falling apart. However in the foreground our main character doesn't give a fuck. He is completely preoccupied with the woman's tits in front of him.

Conservative dress-wear is standardized and the main character contemplates how lingerie stores are risque, however will always remain in business even in these most conservative areas. Muslim women are the best because they wear shapeless garb in public however in private they reveal their amazingly slender figure with sheer bras and gemstone thongs. In contrast, Western women spend so much energy and time looking attractive and revealing in public and when they retreat in private they put on shapeless clothes, tie their hair, drip ice cream on themselves like a slob, etc.

It is impossible to know the author's true thoughts however the main character can be quite offensive. However, I believe it to be funny and not taken seriously: read it like a 4chan post instead of gospel and there is worthwhile commentary along the way.

The introspection, malaise, and meaningless sex reminds me of Japanese literature. Except more overt and crude.

9/10

(3)

**The Last Mrs. Parrish**

<https://amzn.to/3OrbQRC>

An engaging female novel full of drama and manipulation.

The storyline entails our protagonist who is a poor woman who has escaped her past and is starting her plot anew. She has studied with patience and her execution is intelligent. Her plan is to integrate into the life of a billionaire woman.

She lies and manipulates to infiltrate the friend group and plants seeds to cement herself among the rich and powerful.

I have mixed feelings with this book. In the beginning it is an enjoyable, entertaining read with a fun con-artist plot. However at the mid-way point I wanted to physiologically throw up at the betrayal that takes place.

I almost put the book down because I literally could not read anymore however fortunately right around then it changed. The twist of the book was pleasant.

I'm mixed on whether it's more plausible with or without the twist, as both seem absurd to me for different reasons but I won't spoil it in this review. Overall, it's a simple, fun, and entertaining read.

6/10

(4)

**The Happiness Hypothesis**

<https://amzn.to/3V0PVDs>

This book seeks to analyze in an objective way different worldviews and interpretations on happiness, meaning, and the purpose of life.

Similar to Sapiens, it is generalist and an enjoyable synthesis on average. The primary merit is linking and illustrating ideas, most notably in explaining psychological experiments in an accessible, entertaining way.

That said, I am actually interested and moderately well-read on psychology and philosophy so it made this book significantly less enjoyable for me. It's similar to when someone talks about programming or Chess Drama where it's less enjoyable because everyone makes mistakes and misrepresents the actual situation.

In terms of this book being what I was looking for, it's a significant thumbs down and around the same level as any other self-help book I've read, however I am more dissatisfied because of how others' sold me the book and how the book itself markets itself as more than that.

5/10

(5)

**Berserk - Chapter One**

<https://amzn.to/3qMIxhf>

Many people hold Berserk in high regard and so I wanted to check it out for some time. I have never read any manga and I knew nothing about the storyline.

I am blown away and as always happy I'm completely blind to any spoilers. The artistic direction is incredible and the plot is unbelievably intense. It has been quite some time since I've read such a dark storyline.

Magical, surreal, fantasy in the most dark, brutal, gruesome way. The world feels incredibly large however it is unveiling at the perfect pace. The world unfolding is always the most enticing part and I'm happy at the pacing and magnitude of everything so far.

I can't wait to uncover the depths of the tragedy, plot, and inspiration.

9/10

(6)

**Killing Commendatore**

<https://amzn.to/3qMIxhf>

Another Murakami novel, very much in the vein of his others.

It's a Japanese novel where our main character is a portrait painter. He's lost and aimless and wanders around.

He has an affinity for understanding people and introspection which lends him to paint people's essence instead of their literal physical representation.

The plot goes that he finds a mysterious old painting from a legendary painter with a mysterious backstory. Concurrently a strange wealthy man seeks him out to paint his portrait.

As is classic Murakami, there is aimless sex scenes, beautiful prose and descriptions, and a surreal plot that borderlines mystical. As is classic Murakami, it's engaging and mysterious, but I am always left wanting in the ending.

I plan to read Dance, Kafka, and 1Q84 however I think I prefer other Japanese authors over Murakami.

6.5/10

I can wait forever if I get what I want

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dICJbNRtW_g>

Mariah Carey - Touch My Body (Cyril Hahn Remix)