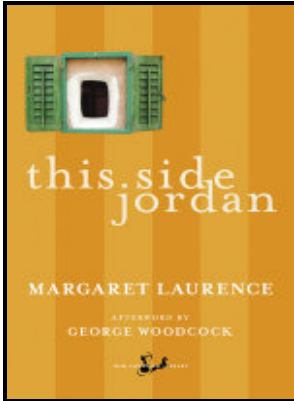


River of now and then - Margaret Laurences The diviners

ECW Press - Analysis of Margaret Laurence's Novels



Description: -

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National characteristics, Canadian, in literature

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New collection of Margaret Laurence's essays reveals what she meant to CanLit

I laughed out loud , I cried out loud , I paused to stare into the middle distance while savouring a particularly astute observation or turn of phrase, I stayed up until 3:30 am to finish. Just as the Métis tried to maintain their independence from a paternalistic Canadian government in Ottawa, so Vanessa MacLeod struggles to escape the Brick House and her grandfather's influence, and Morag Gunn tries to reassert her inheritance. I didn't care about the main character at all, and certainly didn't care about her sex life or her road to becoming an author that I would never read or the many and vari I did not enjoy this book.

The Loons by Margaret Laurence, 1970

Morag Gunn is the central figure in this book, an orphan that was brought up on the wrong side of the tracks in Manawaka by Prin and Christie who is the town scavenger. A few years ago I reread The Stone Angel and so I was primed to give this book another go when I saw it for sale in the lovely used book store in Onanole Manitoba, Poor Michaels.

The Diviners, 20 years on: aged, but not dated

Despite, or perhaps because of, this grotesque anticlimax, Rachel is able to make the decision to leave Manawaka; she applies for and earns a teaching position in Vancouver. Many people have called The Diviners Laurence's outstanding achievement. No wonder Stacey hides her drinks in the Mix-Master.

Margaret Laurence: Critical Reflections

How does The Diviners incorporate iconic cultural elements of that era, like speakeasies and jazz, with lesser-known historical tidbits? In Morag Gunn, Laurence has created a figure whose experience emerges as that of all dispossessed people in search of their birthright, and one who survives as an inspirational symbol of courage and endurance. The Diviners, considered to be the final book in Laurence's Manawaka series, sounded exactly like my cup of tea. This multi-layered tale follows , a retired forty-seven years old writer living in a farmhouse in the fictional province of Manitoba, Canada.

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