

Philip Larkin - a writers life

Farrar Straus Gioux - A fanfare for the common man



Description: -

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Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life

They are staging-posts on the journey of his writing into a new century. It stays as it was left. Larkin starts college just at the start of the War, and although his home town was bombed retold in the novel *Jill*, his attitude to the times is kind of indifferent.

Philip Larkin

Meanwhile telephones crouch, getting ready to ring In locked-up offices, and all the uncaring Intricate rented world begins to rouse. And so it stays just on the edge of vision, A small unfocused blur, a standing chill That slows each impulse down to indecision. Unfortunately, the production of a reasonably insightful and trenchant book necessitates an author who has been acquainted, in some shape or form, with the person to be studied, which tends to result in the aforementioned flaws that so mar their efforts.

Philip Larkin

It is a dedicated professional indeed who eschews the bias concomitant with association in favour of producing an enduring, objective text, in spite of the obvious preferability of the pursuit of such a goal. Andrew Motion is a poet and novelist whose earliest poems were lyrical and highly influenced by the work of Philip Larkin. How people could love Philip Larkin as a friend I occasionally find it hard to understand.

Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life by Andrew Motion

Motion does a good job fleshing these sides out and dealing with them without passing judgment. I feel like an expert now, and its rewarding to have such depth of knowledge. It belongs firmly to the art of literary biography for which the British are renowned.

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