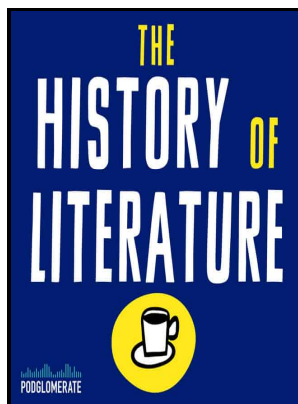


Philip Larkin - a writers life

Farrar Straus Gioux - Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life



Description: -

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Poets, English -- 20th century -- Biography.

Larkin, Philip. Philip Larkin - a writers life

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Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life book by Andrew Motion

Rather than sex beginning in 1963, as he implies in 'Annus Mirabilis', Larkin conducted a delicate weave of relationships with feisty lecturer Monica Jones, and his co-worker Maeve Brennan, never fully committing to any of his lovers lest they intrude on the bleak solitude Larkin believed necessary for his poetry. They represent an eruption of interest that has nothing to do with the convenience of an anniversary it's 17 years since Larkin died: what's so special about that? Poets are a bit like comedians, in my book. Thus, as Amis says, you can feel Motion's impatience with Larkin's fear of death, his rather finicky manner, the way he dealt with his friends, the way he dealt with life in general.

Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life by Andrew Motion

Truly our greatest postwar poet. Likewise, he spends some time in Belfast, and I remember Ireland is not just the Catholic Kennedy land.

Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life by Andrew Motion

His relationships with women were complex and he had a horror of commitment which led him to have long term relationships with two particular women and for some time a third. Renouncing the domestic comforts of a wife and children his attitude to this revealed in his poetry such as Dockery and Son, Larkin lived most of his life behind the 'High Windows' of Pearson Park in Hull, working at an unassuming though not ineffective administrative job in Hull University Library.

Philip Larkin : a writer's life : Motion, Andrew, 1952

In fact, he is rather defensive about the poet's racism and doesn't address the contradiction between his attitude towards non-white people and his taste in music. There is no doubt he could write poetry; especially when he wrote about one of his obsessions; death. Motion's talents as a scholar as undeniable: he digs out information diligently, and the wealth of information present in this book is a must for the Larkin scholar I would say, fan, but not all fans are this rabid presumably? Larkin had a great love of Jazz and wrote a column on it in a national newspaper for years; being a great fan of Armstrong et al.

Philip Larkin : a writer's life (Book, 1993) [satis.farmjournal.com]

How people could love Philip Larkin as a friend I occasionally find it hard to understand. He writes of Larkin in this biography with respect and candor, and not as a hero-worshiper or disparager.

Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life by Andrew Motion

This comes across as disingenuous. No doubt he was impossible to know or be around, but Motion's affectionate, if critical, treatment would be well-advised to consider Amis' warning to keep our faith in the triumph of the individual against the modern mob's claim to all-knowingness.

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