



Lucca

Jens Christian Grøndahl, Anne Born (Translation)

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On a lovely evening in April, Lucca Montale is rushed to the hospital after the car she was driving collided head-on with a truck. Robert, her doctor, has to break the news that she may never see again.

Lucca is an actress with a string of love affairs behind her, now unhappily married with a son. Since his divorce, Robert has lived in a state of emotional paralysis and resignation, relieved only by the weekend visits of his young daughter. During their daily conversations he and Lucca share their life stories, and slowly they are drawn to one another, on terms new to both.

The result is a love story of immense emotional reach that will enhance Jens Christian Grøndahl's reputation as one of the most readable and perceptive novelists writing today.

Lucca Details

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Inge Vermeire says

In het begin is dit boek toch wel even doorbijten - het is zeker geen vlotte pageturner maar geleidelijk kruipet het boek toch onder je huid, vind ik. Grondahls talent bestaat vooral uit zijn gave om menselijke relaties zeer accuraat te ontrafelen en te beschrijven - ik kan me voorstellen dat niet iedereen enthousiast is over het trage ritme van dit boek, of over de zeer gedetailleerde zelfanalyse van de personages maar ik heb alvast een volgend boek van Grondahl gekocht :-)

Mepi says

Uden tvivl forfatterens bedste. Siden denne udgivelse har hans bøger ikke rigtig kunne opretholde min interesse, selvom jeg har læst en del af hans titler. Man han har et meget smukt og poetisk sprog, og denne bog er faktisk skide god.

Om den gudesmukke Lucca Montale der bliver blind ved en trafikulykke, og derfor (i sagens natur) ikke længere kan sole sig i, og blive bekræftet igennem, beundrende blikke. Identiteskrise under opsejling. Men mødet med lægen Robert giver ny indsigt.

Salome says

I simply didn't like it. At the beginning I thought this book will have great depth, but it wasn't the case. Their hindsights seemed both artificial and superficial, and the female part was a plain exaggeration from A to Z. I got tired of reading all the love affairs, one after the other. I know a novel is always about the author, not about the reader, but in this case, I felt a huge distance between the two.

Jeanne says

Grondahl's books explore the complexity of romantic relationships with honesty and insight like no other author I have come across. Most of us, at sometime or other, have suffered the consequences of love. I'm reminded of a passage I read somewhere that has stayed with me over the years: "Though loved ones move in and out of our lives, the capacity to love remains." Lucca's story is a perfect example.

Karel says

Nooit eerder las ik een boek dat het genre van de psychologische roman zo goed belichaamt. Jens Christian Grøndahl fileert het liefdesleven van zijn personages met een ongekende precisie. Lucca is dan ook van begin tot eind opgetrokken uit emoties, herinneringen, twijfels, angsten en verlangens. Voer voor liefhebbers.

metaphor says

If he sometimes thought to himself that love was like music, it was not because he was feeling poetic. But love was just as invisible and hard to understand, perhaps because there was nothing to understand. An impersonal, transforming force, which found the way by itself according to its own interior laws, uncaring of who and what is pulled with it or left behind in its calm or restless flow.

Dee says

I tried...but I just can't get into it...maybe something about the way it was translated from danish, but I'm just not connecting with the characters

Lauren says

I really like this author and this book doesn't disappoint. He explores romantic relationships and the roles men and women play. The title character loses her eyesight and meets Robert, the surgeon who cares for her while she is in the hospital. Told in alternating stories, is the life stories of Lucca and Robert and ultimately concluding with their friendship. They have been telling each other their romantic experiences and learning about each other and themselves. Very insightful and thoughtful book.

Hakan T says

?smini daha önce hiç duymad???m Danimarkal? yazar Grondahl?n bu kitab?na geçen ay bir seyahatte girdi?im bir sahafta rastlad?m. Konusu ilgimi çekince, biraz tereddütle de olsa ald?m. ?yi ki de alm???m. Zaten ?skandinav yazarlara bir zaaf geli?tirmeye de ba?lad?m yava? yava?. Kitap çok sa?lam bir ili?kiler roman?. Roman?n ba??ndaki trafik kazas? kör bir kad?n?n (Lucca) hikayesini okuyaca??n?z? zannettiriyor ama çizgisel olmayan olay örgüsü, geriye dönü?ler, farklı karakterlerin - elbette ana eksende Lucca olmakla birlikte- keyifle okunan hikayelerini sunuyor size. Keyif derken hafif bir eser sanmay?n. Epey dü?ündüren, insan?n hislerini, baz? basit görünen davranış?lar?n?n arkaplan?n? ortaya döken, en az?ndan benim için, birçok yerde onikiden vuran bir roman oldu Lucca. Sevgi, sadakat, yeni vücutlar?n çekicili?i, aile, ailinin getirdi?i zincirler gibi, kolay kli?eye dü?ebilecek konular derinlemesine ve s?r?tmadan i?lenmi?. Tabii baz? k?s?mlarda ili?kilerin yo?unlu?u art?k bu kadar? da fazla dedirtebiliyor. Yazar?n üslubu da çok ho?, tasvirler nefis. Ana karakterlerin önemli bir k?sm?n?n tiyatro dünyas?ndan olmas?, tiyatroya ilgi duyanlar için ayr? bir çekicilik unsuru. Ben ?ngilizce çevirisinden okudum, umar?m bir gün Türkçe'ye de çevrilir bu s?k? roman.

Kate W says

This is the story of a woman who loses her vision after a serious car accident. In the following months she

and her doctor become friends and share intimate, painful and vulnerable stories of their romantic histories. Realistic.

Sus says

I loved reading this in Danish. A great story. I didn't want it to end.

Cecilie Sund Kristensen says

Bare fantastisk. Har skrevet en ordentlig anmeldelse på cecilie.sund.dk

Kristinamarija says

Knygos ašis ne veiksmas, o jausmai. Ir tai b?t? gerai, bet n?ra:

- pasakojimo kalba nenuosekli: lyrin? pasakojimo stili? dažnai pertraukia grubiai primityv?s ir vulgar?s išsireiškimai;
- jausm? aprašymai negil?s, paviršutiniški, banal?s;
- neretai apimdavo jausmas lyg skaity?iau dešimtoko bandym? b?ti rašytoju;
- detali? aprašymai dažnai beprasmiški, netikslingi.

Maniau, kad grei?iausiai kalta vert?ja, bet pasirodo ji išvertus kelias mano tikrai mylimas ir tokio jausmo nesuk?lusias knygas. Tod?l ne.

Erzinanti, nuobodi knyga.

Kimberly Miller says

In Lucca, Grondahl moves more closely into a woman's experience of life lived in relationships with men than he does in Silence in October; in Silence, he was mainly concerned with a man's realization that, indeed, he had no idea what he was doing to the women in his life until he lost them. In Lucca, the main relationship is one of tentative friendship, with the erotic tension between the principals understood, and yet endlessly deferred for other satisfactions, or, perhaps more accurately, necessities. There's plenty of erotic connection in the pages, but not between Robert, a Copenhagen doctor, and Lucca, his patient who has lost her sight in an accident that occurs in response to her understanding the depths of her husband's betrayal of her. A feeling of contemplation and of storytelling suffuses this novel; if I were composing a formal critical essay, I'd go find that term (some of you out there know it well)...Scheudenfrade? Anyway, you know, the story of the woman who saves her own life night after night by telling her captor a new story. In Lucca, both Robert and Lucca are saving one another and themselves by telling the other their long love-histories; we understand that to create a new life, to keep on going, whether as lovers or as brief companions, each of them must purge themselves of these pasts by confessing them to one another. The effect is subtle, teasing -- will they become lovers? Or is there something that transcends the erotic bond?

As in Silence, Grondahl moves backwards and forwards through time with ease; here, the stories are shuffled a bit more chronologically, since there are two characters' perspectives to keep straight.

I must leave this writing time soon, so let me summarize my response to Lucca: I plan to read it again. I have a feeling it will hold up well, with new satisfactions, on a second reading. There aren't many higher compliments I can pay a novelist than that.

Sien Luyten says

deense psychologie met enkel wat rimpelingen op het water. maar wat een stijl!
