



Sad Movies

Mark Lindquist

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An acutely etched portrayal of up-to-date disillusionment in L.A., *Sad Movies* speaks to the generation of readers drawn to Jay McInerney and other contemporary writers--but in a searching, exact voice all its own.

Sad Movies Details

Date : Published February 20th 2018 by Grove Press (first published November 1987)

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Author : Mark Lindquist

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Stephan says

This slim book was required reading for my group of friends in the early nineties, and something of an obsession of mine for several years (I even wrote a screenplay, thinking I might one day try to option the book). Probably a little dated now, but still a great entry in that list of books describing the ennui of being in your mid-twenties in late-capitalism America.

Ricky says

Decent book for this debut from Lindquist. I expected better after it was a recommendation from Easton Ellis. Kind of juvinle in perspective to him, but a decent quick read nonetheless.

John Marr says

Life. Is. Just. So. Sad.

PS. When Brett Easton Ellis says it's "hilarious and affirmative," you know it's not

Tim Andersen says

Debauchery! Thoughts of suicide! Sophomoric! Ho-effem-hum! There was some resolution in the end but otherwise...forget it.

Kevin Cole says

Gen X pulp.

Patrick says

Another alternative young people in the city book, you could do worse.

Peter Azzopardi says

I cared very little for privileged, good-looking, suicidal Zeke, with the good-looking, kind-hearted actress girlfriend who he treats like shit.

The novel is mostly made up of random occurrences where Zelenograd either a) gets drunk b) gets high c) gets maudlin d) quotes a song lyric from an 80s indie band e) espouses fairly vacuous philosophical repartee with his boho friend f) gets laid. Usually it's a combination of all the above in quick succession.

It's clear to anyone he has a lot to live for and inevitably he makes this realisation, specifically in the hammy final third of the book which brings about the only real action in this fairly aimless read (yes, I know it's kinda the point).

I suspect this book may resonate with undergrads in their early 20s, and would have a killer soundtrack if made into a movie. This felt like a waste of time to me though. I sought it out after reading up on the famed "brat-pack" of the 80s and loving McInerney's "Bright Lights, Big City", which is similar in theme but much better written. Perhaps it's unfair to draw the comparison, but it's the grouping which brought me to this book, which, tellingly, is long out of print.

Logan says

Many, many flaws, such as IDEALISM and MELO DRAMA, but it was a good, quick read, and the first I've read of Lindquist's, and his first book, so hopefully he got a little less sentimental with his other books I may read because he was at least fairly funny and did have a sort of B.E.E.-vibe going on except that his characters can't help but be sympathetic and empathetic and a lot less sociopathic.

Carri-ann says

It is the book that inspired everything that I have become as a writer. It was honest and real in every detail. It is written in a style I aspire towards. Simple and easy to read but with an incredible message attached. The message is not forced. You slowly come to see how much it applies in just about everyone's life.

The story is about a copy writer with no job satisfaction beyond the friends he meets at work, a girlfriend who wants to leave him, and a head full of suicidal thoughts. A old friend then comes into his life and asks him to wait and think about his decision to kill himself. If he's certain, they plan on doing it together.

Mark Lindquist deserved every shred of praise he's ever received for his literary works.
