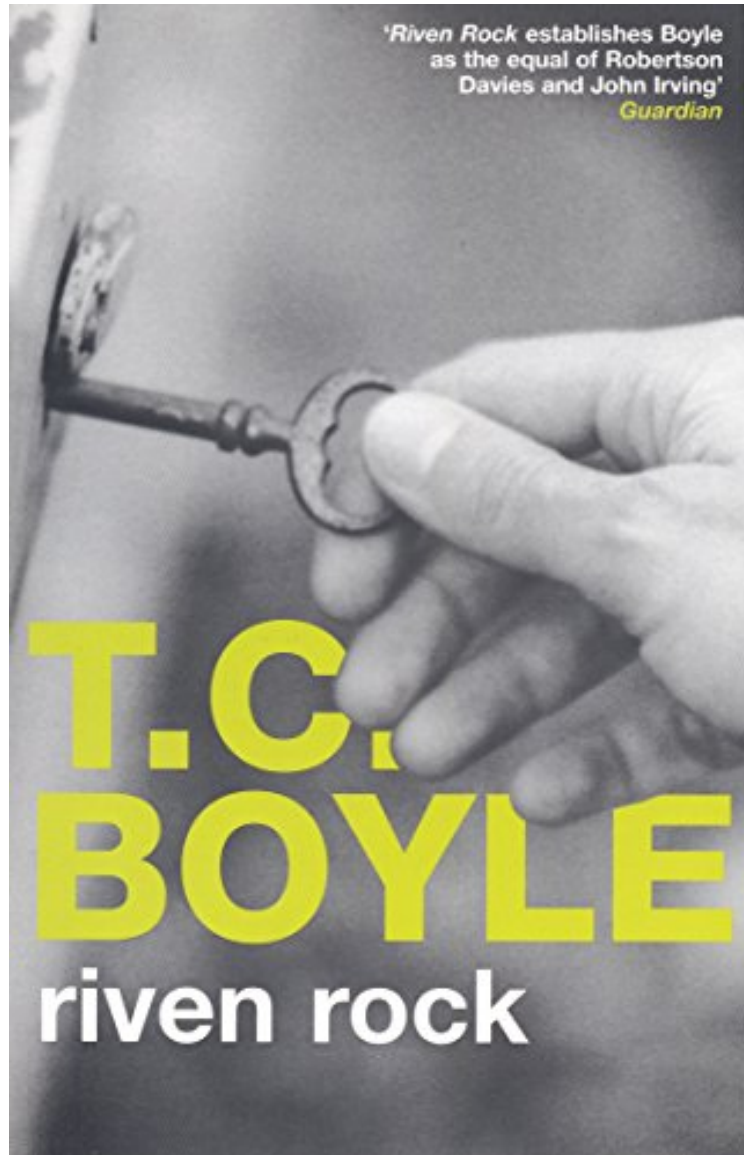


(Free and download) Riven Rock

Riven Rock

Von T. C. Boyle

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Von T. C. Boyle : Riven Rock before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Riven Rock:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Somewhat DissapointingVon R. KonopkaSadly, while this book aims high, it falls short of it's full potential. Mr. Boyle is a fantastic writer, and the he portrays Stanley McCormick in a very vivid and realistic light, however the rest of the

characters suffer at his expense. As a method actor might ask: "What's my motivation here," the reader is left asking precisely that same question. Stanley's wife Katherine, is so blindly devoted to her husband that she stays with him for thirty years, even though he became insane during their honeymoon, and never formally consummated their marriage. Mr. Boyle never explains why this is so other than the fact that "Katherine loved her husband," which means nothing at all. The other characters have a similar lack of motivation for their actions - which in the end heavily detracts from the story. Lastly, the plot of the book suffers from severe stagnation. After Stanley is ensconced at Riven Rock, his private house where he is separated from humanity save for a few orderlies and his psychiatrist, nothing changes. Basically every once in a while Stanley gets better, everyone's hopes are raised, after which he falls into a deeper funk than he was in before. The three different psychiatrists that treat Stanley through the years are basically indistinguishable from one another, even though the author tries to give them unique personalities by changing their methods of treating Stanley, other than that he has them acting and chanting the same mantras like some old broken record with a Ph.D. All in all the writing is excellent, but not good enough to save this book from a weak plot, and bad character development.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. He can write, but.... Von A. Maxham I saw TC Boyle discussing Riven Rock on AE on a Sunday morning and it seemed fascinating, so I hopped on that day and ordered it. I've read several novels based on historical facts, so I see elsewhere the struggle that novelists who write this type of novel are faced with - How do you tell the "truth" without frustrating or boring people if the truth is, in fact, frustrating or boring. Unfortunately, I was both frustrated and bored with this book. This is my first TC Boyle book and the man can write. I could smell Stanley's rotten teeth and I could see him scrubbing his toes. I also really shared (as best I could) Stanley's fear and disorientation at becoming like his mentally ill sister. This is probably part of the problem. The story is about a guy with rich and mean parents who meets a girl who, despite the fact that he is CLEARLY becoming more and more mentally ill, marries him anyway. And this is no ordinary woman. This is the first female graduate of MIT, in the physical sciences, no less. This is a woman with a scientific and practical mind. Unfortunately, Boyle is saddled with the task of explaining sympathetically why this woman - despite all evidence suggesting she should borrow Julia Robert's running shoes from that flick last year and RUN LIKE HELL - doesn't. I just didn't buy it. I had assumed that Stanley didn't display evidence of mental illness until after they were married - but oh no. She had every opportunity to make like a tree. Also - Stanley's mom is made out to be this evil villain b/c she tried to keep Katherine and Stanley from getting married, and then when it dawns on Katherine that she's married a (and I mean this in the nicest way possible) a wacko, Stanley's mom is portrayed as supersized evil because she tells Katherine basically, "you've made your bed - now lie in it." Apparently I'm supersized evil as well, because that's what I was thinking. I think Katherine is supposed to be perceived as this determined admirable creature. Maybe I've watched too much Oprah, but she just didn't quite have enough sense of self-preservation. I was irritated with her - but I think it's because Boyle is such an incredible writer that she did feel like a true person, worthy of being irritated with. And the whole story is static ... Aside from this external status quo, there is no internal development - obviously Stan hasn't really grown as a person, so you look towards Katherine - and she just becomes political and gets a girlfriend. I kept hoping something would happen ...

The problem is that Boyle could elegantly and perfectly describe the most foul smell thing in the world - the question is - do you want to smell it? As a side note - I did a little research about the characters. Stanley and Katherine are real people, but the nurse Eddie is a fictitious character based on Stanley's nurse, but his name wasn't Eddie, and I don't think he was quite the slime Eddie is. I think Boyle simply introduced him so *somebody* would do *something* and Boyle wouldn't be restrained by facts.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fascinating story of male sexuality and female response Von B. Smith Boyle has written an almost mythic exploration of the sexual tensions between men and women. There is exquisite irony in the commonality between the two principle male characters: the wealthy and brilliant schizophrenic Stanley McCormick who is deemed to be so dangerous to women that he must be kept away from them forever, and his nurse Eddie O'Kane the supposedly normal male who beats his wife, beds every woman he can, deserts his son, drinks too much, and gets into bar fights. Who is the madman, the book begs us to ask, and who is normal? If both men suffer, and their wives and families also suffer, what is the cure? McCormick's loyal wife Katherine tries to answer this question by engaging in two lifelong pursuits that seem, at first glance, to be unrelated and even contradictory. One is her selfless dedication to her husband's well-being and hope for his cure, and the second is her role as an activist in the women's suffrage movement where she strives for sexual equality and lives, if only temporarily and by choice, in a world without men. But every attempted cure -- from Katherine's response as a social activist to the wackiness of early 20th Century psychiatry, to O'Kane's wives' and girlfriends' manipulations -- fails. Almost a hundred years later, we still don't have a good answer to the question of how men and women are supposed to live together. In the end, Riven Rock is a tragedy and the questions it raises remain unanswered.

Kurzbeschreibung This extraordinary love story, based on historical characters and written with Boyle's customary brilliance and wit, follows the lives of two scarred creatures living in a magical age. It is the turn of the century.

Stanley McCormick, the twenty-nine-year-old heir to the great Reaper fortune, meets and marries Katherine Dexter, a woman of 'power, beauty, wealth and prestige'. Two years later, Stanley falls victim to a tormenting sexual mania and schizophrenia, and is imprisoned in the massive forbidding mansion known as Riven Rock. He spends the next two decades under the control of a succession of psychiatrists, all of whom forbid any contact with women. Yet Katherine Dexter, now famous as a champion for women's suffrage and Planned Parenthood, remains strong in her belief that someday her husband will return to her whole. Based on a true story of love, madness and sexuality this is a tragic book with enormous depth and scope. Set in America at the turn of the century, it is full of fascinating historical detail.

In 1905, Stanley McCormick, heir to East Coast millions, is most definitely mad. Heredity and an early, horrifying glimpse of his naked sister have rendered him schizophrenic, incapable of being around women--right down to his wife, Katherine, "a newlywed who might as well have been a widow." Not even the dawn of modern psychiatry can save him. Instead, he's barred and carefully cosseted in Riven Rock, the California estate he helped design for his sister, the first of the McCormicks to crack. Will the 31-year-old patient be cured? His wife, the first female graduate of MIT, believes that he will. So, too, does his loyal head nurse, Eddie O'Kane, a preternaturally articulate, handsome Boston Irishman. Indeed, Eddie thinks himself blessed with good luck. Going to Montecito to care for Mr. McCormick will, he is convinced, enable him to take center stage in the drama of his own life. Over the next 20 years, Stanley will go from catatonia to a semblance of normality (so long as there's no woman in sight and no sharp cutlery on the table). Eddie, however, will never play the leading role he'd envisioned, instead taking refuge in alcohol and recollections of the one woman he thinks he has let get away, the plainspoken, explosive Giovannella Dimucci. When Eddie first describes his patient's violent response to women, "he wondered if he'd gone too far, if he'd shocked her, but the mask dissolved and she leaned in close, her hand on his elbow. 'Sounds like the average man to me.'" As for Katherine McCormick, she will still visit every Christmas, hoping to at least see her husband if she can't see him get better.

Based on a true story, Riven Rock is unclassifiable, a discomforting and often hilarious mix of tragedy and comedy. (Only Orson Welles could do the book justice on film.) T. C. Boyle writes in a controlled frenzy of rich description and dialogue, pulling us up sharply each time we begin to wonder if his patient isn't a helpless victim. Eddie recalls one nurse before Stanley "got to her": "She was a shadow in a back corner of his mind, a cat you pick up to stroke and then put down again when it stops purring.... Now she was back in Rhode Island, with her mother, but the look of her that day, the way her eyes had melted away to nothing and the color had gone out of her so you could see every lash and hair on her head like brushstrokes in oil, came to him in infinite sadness." Boyle has great empathy, but there is no avoiding his novel's comic energy. Stanley's first psychiatrist-jailer, Dr. Hamilton, is obsessed with primate sexuality and will go to Riven Rock only if Katherine funds a large living laboratory. He spends all of his time watching the imprisoned creatures copulate, a pathetic counterpoint to his patient's plight. The sight of the disheveled doctor following one animal encounter amuses even the suspicious Katherine. "To his credit, the doctor laughed too. And O'Kane, the bruiser, who'd gone absolutely pale at the tiny hominoids that couldn't have weighed a twentieth of what he did, joined in, albeit belatedly and with a laugh that trailed off into a whinny." Alas, all goes awry when Hamilton takes the joke too far and declares his chimps "the very devils--they're even worse than my patients." Riven Rock is a maximum-velocity study of love, primal energy, and what is sacrosanct in society: control. It is also about loyalty, absurdity, domesticity, and depravity, all of which, Boyle knows, coexist within the best of souls.

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