



ATONIA

a novel

GEORGE CRAIN

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A travel narrative, Atonia fits with a classic canon that includes Jack Kerouac's 'On the Road' and Ernest Hemingway's 'The Sun also Rises'. In vivid, visual prose, the story follows an anonymous artist in travels across London, Paris and western France where he encounters inexplicable visions of ghosts and nightly interviews Ernest Hemingway, who visits from beyond the grave. Throughout, George Crain paints the current anomie of the West with unexpected color, the author works with unexpected color keyed to a feverish Van Gogh-like pitch. It's quite the colorful ride, one even Ernest Hemingway might have included in his library ... were he still alive.

Atonia Details

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Author : George Crain

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From Reader Review Atonia for online ebook

Bree says

Have you ever felt completely alone? Have you ever felt like you may not make it through another day? Have you felt like no one understands? This novel is for you.

Atonia is a book for the lonely, the disenfranchised, those on the fringe.

Crain's voice is a cut above the rest. As the protagonist searches for meaning in a life where all counts are against him, the most unlikely hero comes across his path to lend a helping hand: Ernest Hemingway's ghost.

It is unclear if Hemingway (and other ghosts the unnamed protagonist sees) are real, or impressions in an all too fickle imagination, but I will tell you this: the ghosts, in this story, are beacons of hope. It is uncanny the way Crain writes Hemingway's character and leads the reader to wonder: is he channeling Hemingway's ghost somehow? Truly?

In terms of how it is written, it has the philosophical bent of Thoreau's Walden & Civil Disobedience and is written with the same real life madness and fervency of On the Road. It's quite thought provoking, intellectual and has a wonderful turn of art and historical perspective throughout.

By the end, you will feel more. You will have lived more. And yes, you will know you are not alone.

Lindsey says

DNF. I have a B.A. in English and an M.F.A. in English Literature and let me tell you, I went to college with guys like the dude who wrote this. The kind of guys who love to hear themselves talk about things they think are revelations into the soul of humanity, who like to use big words to sound important, who want you to know just how much they love (insert pretentious author here) and how no one else has ever understood (pretentious author) on the same deep level as them. They like to refer to things they think are shallow as "constructs" (time is a construct, education is a construct, marriage is a construct...you get the idea). They usually pretend to have read Joyce's Ulysses all the way through, more than once, without the use of annotations to understand it. They shun television as anti-intellectual. Enjoying things for the sake of fun is for the mass of "sheeple" who aren't connected to the expansion of the mind. Ugggghhhhhh...

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.
