



Crow Roads

Charles de Lint

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Set outside of Newford in 1967, Annie lives in Tartown with the rest of the poor kids. When a handsome, longhaired hippie shows up outside Ernie's Poolroom, Annie is smitten by his exotic good looks and long black hair. The local boys just want to beat him up, but before they can, the stranger suggests an irresistible contest, which reveals that he may be even more mysterious than he appears.

Crow Roads Details

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Author : Charles de Lint

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From Reader Review Crow Roads for online ebook

Grae says

Good little short story. I really enjoy Charles de Lint's writing style.

Tracy says

The Lang-haired boy

I really think this is my favorite Crow tale yet. And that's saying a lot! I love the Crow sisters, but this tale of the Crow road is special. I only wish it were longer.

Tracy Rowan says

Note: This is a review for both this story and Somewhere in my mind there is a Painting Box, which I reviewed in tandem on my blog.

I forgot about Charles de Lint. There was a time when I couldn't get enough of his writing, having picked up Moonheart on a whim, fallen in love with it, and forced it on all my friends who also fell in love with it. Each of us, Karen, Glinda, and I, ordered a hardcover copy from the UK because we had to have the hardcover.

But over time, I turned to other things, other authors, and forgot about the magic of de Lint's world, which is a shame. It's a beautiful place where everything is alive, everything has a spirit, a meaning.

In Somewhere in my mind there is a Painting Box de Lint gives us a young woman hungry for a bigger life. She wants to be an artist, but without money or training, she's not likely to accomplish much. One day she finds an abandoned paint box that had belonged to an artist who worked in the area years earlier. Since he disappeared with an apprentice, his work has become famous, so when Lillian sees the artist's name on one of the panels, she knows exactly who the box belonged to.

Lillian knows there is magic in the world, she's experienced it, she expects it. So when she encounters the young apprentice in the woods, looking not a day older than he was when he and the older artist disappeared, she accepts his tale of having crossed into another world, one so beautiful and brilliant that neither he nor the older artist ever needed to paint again.

The second book, Crow Roads, gives us a story set in the past, about a stranger who comes to a small town, antagonizes the boys and challenges one of them to a contest. After he fights with them, he seduces Annie, the narrator of the story, and then disappears.

She knows she's been touched by magic just as Lillian knows. They understand and accept. But both women find that the encounters put them at crossroads in their lives, and force them to make choices which,

even a day earlier, were not remotely available to them.

These are stories about girls becoming their own women, growing, coming to understand who they are, what they want from their lives, and what they have to do to get it.

These are stories about choices, and the not-always-reliable lure of magic. They made me sorry that I'd stopped reading de Lint. But it doesn't matter, because I've begun again. Like meeting an old friend.

Barbara Stafford says

Really short short story

Loved it even though it really left me wanting more. It was so short, but what was a lack of resolution for me paralleled the feelings of the main character.

Susan says

from *The Coyote Road* re-read e-book 5/7/2015

re-read aloud to Lisa 5/14/2015

Katy Lohman says

Who is that mysterious guy with the long hair?

Karen Wapinski says

If I have any complaint about this story I wish it were longer. As usual, De Lint builds realistic, engrossing characters in a short span and weaves the mythic elements in a way that feels very natural. Annie is a girl from the poorer side of town who wants to get out and prove that she can be something better than what anyone else thinks she can. One day a handsome, long-haired Native hippie boy arrives and she can't help but be drawn to him. Some local jerks try to push him around and he shows that for all his calm manner he can be dangerous if he wants to.

Annie meets him again later and he reveals he comes from another world and shows her how to find him again through the Crow Roads. Although tempted to follow him now, she wants to stay behind to prove to everyone what a girl from Tartown can do. She promises to find him again someday and when she does she'll have a name to give him.

Good short, short but wonderful. The characters are ones I'd love to see again and as usual the dialogue and storytelling is fluid and graceful. Well worth the ebook price.

Renee says

I really enjoyed this short story. As much as I enjoy Charles de Lint's novels, I really love his shorter novels and stories.

Crow Roads was a lovely short story.

Beth Roberts says

For avid, lifelong readers, there is nothing better than the sense of discovery and awe that overwhelms you as you fall between an author's words and into a world far and away from personal experience.

Charles de Lint is fast becoming a new favorite for me and I wish I had found him sooner. No matter. "Crow Roads" is an awesome piece of magical realism and 99 cents is a small price to pay for the beautiful imagery of the crows and the ghost roads. The kind of image that seeps through the mind and creates an almost-memory.

Shey Wicklund says

Very well done for a short. Mystical entwined with reality that makes you think the stranger is a cousin of the crow girls from the fictional town of Newford that the author created.

Emmala says

Neat little short. It leaves you wondering what name she comes up with for "Buddy," and how old she is when/ if she takes the crow roads to him, and what is that place/world like? I was born in the mid eighties and had to research what a "ducktail" hairstyle is and also what "spaghetti westerns" are.
