



The Teahouse by the Tracks

Eric Schoeniger

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Janet Charbray is scatterbrained, effusive, and charming. At age 62 she finds herself retired, widowed, and living alone in an unfamiliar suburb. On a whim she opens a teashop. Little does she know the surprise in store on her first day of business. Janet soon becomes involved with an unlikely collection of lost souls. Charles Grapnel, Janet's landlord and neighbor, is a scandal-plagued former college professor. Ben Shriver is the shy, unknowable young man who rents Charles' attic. Ann Firth is a 60-something British transplant whose only son has joined a monastery. And Paula Pereira is a beautiful young Brazilian facing the possibility of deportation. All are haunted by past sadness and paralyzed by an uncertain future. Yet together they find friendship and sanctuary-till a sudden tragedy ravages the haven they have created. Will they retreat into their sorrow? Or expand into the world around them? And how will Janet come to terms with a past secret that is now a tragic part of her present? With unique voice and vision, debut novelist Eric Schoeniger explores what it means for people to be both together and alone, and tests the limits of selfishness and selflessness. Straddling the line between literary and commercial fiction-and in turns hilarious, sad, light, and profound-The Teahouse by the Tracks examines the vagaries of life as we now live it. And confirms that it's never too late for rebirth.

The Teahouse by the Tracks Details

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From Reader Review The Teahouse by the Tracks for online ebook

David Ketelsen says

I received this book free through Goodreads' First-reads contest.

According to his webpage, Eric Schoeniger has been a professional writer for more than 20 years. It shows. His writing is smooth and effective. I admire his skill---I only found one type. On page 281 the phrase "well-heeled" was written as "well-healed". It's rare that you find a book with only one mistake in it.

So why, you might ask, have I only given "The Teahouse by the Tracks" a two-star rating? It sounds picky but I really didn't like the transitions in the novel. The book is basically written in 3 parts, the first part introduces the separate characters, the second part pulls them together and in the third part they grow apart. The two happenstances that force the transitions really hurt the novel, at least for me. The first transition was hard to believe and the second damaged the tenor of the book.

This was quite unfortunate since the first part of the book was quite good. Schoeniger's characters were well drawn and quite believable. Their interaction was real and immediate. I was quite happy with this part, and despite finding the transition into the second part annoying, I was so charmed and delighted at the second part that I forgave the transition. This second part of the book is by far the longest and could quite possibly be worth buying the book for.

Unfortunately the second transition is a real bummer and the third part isn't all that interesting. And that's why I only give this 2 stars. But despite that, I really like his writing.

Esther Somorai says

Won this book through Goodreads, first-reads. Thank you.

I really thought this was going to be a good story. To me it alternates from liked, to okay, to didn't like, throughout the story. The writing is better in some places, than in others. The main characters are mainly atheist. What I didn't care for is the totally one-sided belief in atheism. I can only think this is the main intent of the author in writing this story and publishing this book. I may be wrong, but I don't think so.

Jennifer says

I got this book by entering a giveaway, and overall I enjoyed it. I think it was very well written, and the author gives lots of background information on the characters so you almost feel as if you know them. I was kind of thrown off by the blood being on the cover, so I kept waiting for something to happen. The story kept me on the edge of my seat. I would recommend this book to my friends. I was hoping that it would end differently, but all in all the book was very satisfying.

Betty Thompson says

Very believable, nice read

Lucy Montgomery says

I liked this book -- it was well-written, and had an interesting and unpredictable plot. The subject matter was an unusual choice for a 40-something male author, but the character development was well-done, and the main cast of characters were original and believable. However, the book was a little too complex, with too many characters/story lines for a book of this length. The Teahouse by the Tracks was self-published, and probably would have benefitted from a professional editor. I think Mr. Schoeniger is a talented writer, and I look forward to reading his next book.
