

(Ebook pdf) Stern Men

Stern Men

Von Elizabeth Gilbert

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Von Elizabeth Gilbert : Stern Men before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stern Men:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Clever AuthorVon C. DavidsonElizabeth Gilbert has written an unusual and readable book. She embellishes a simple tale of feuding Maine islanders with eccentric characters who, improbably but successfully, strive to get along (or not) in their peculiar social system.Ruth, the protagonist in the story, is a blunt-spoken,independent, sometimes foul-mouthed

young woman who has no trouble speaking her mind to the various fogies and other adults who all seem to know what is best for her. Her fresh, sarcastic, and witty responses make her come alive to the reader and provide plenty of laughs. The novel does drag at about midpoint and delivers a fast and implausible ending that seems to have been thrown together without any preparation for the reader. Still, this is a refreshing story and a thoroughly enjoyable summer read. And the lobster facts at the beginning of each chapter are interesting as well as tied to the behavior of the book's characters. This one is worth your time and \$\$\$.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Novel of Great Depth! Von Kathryn R. Jackson Elizabeth Gilbert's first novel creates a memorable setting on two Maine islands isolated from the rest of the world, steeped in their own inbred histories, caught up in their eternal lobster wars. Her characters step off the page and become real through their individual eccentricities. She finds the humor, warmth, and irony in the normal physical or mental grotesqueness of the people who make up the small world of her protagonist, Ruth Thomas. Senator Simon, an aquaphobe who cannot leave the island or bring himself to attend the funeral of a drowning victim, spends his life researching shipwrecks and collecting artifacts for an island museum. The doomed child Webster Pomeroy, who stopped growing the day he witnessed his father's drowned body being returned to shore, becomes the Senator's assistant, his only skill his ability to dredge the mud of low tide for lost treasures. His mother Rhonda, the widow Pomeroy, for whom the joy of alcoholism disappears at her husband's death, becomes the great mother-figure of the novel despite her "failure" with her seven sons; certainly she is Ruth's best life-line. Ruth's real mother--an orphan as much by choice as by birth--deserts her when Ruth is only 9, choosing (for many reasons) a life of servitude to the wealthy Ellis family over her own marriage. But while many of these secondary characters remain undeveloped, there mostly for the edification of the protagonist's character, Gilbert adds levels of complexity that defy stereotyping. By the end of the novel, the reader cannot even completely despise the despicable Ellis family! The novel simultaneously entertains and enlightens, but Gilbert does not assault her readers with obvious themes. Instead her subject matter--like the epigraphs which introduce each chapter--creates a clever metaphor for the human condition. Mankind does indeed resemble the lobster: beneath the hard, grasping shell hides a sensitive, weak creature like the one Ruth once let slide through her hands to a certain death in the ocean. Gilbert pries beneath Ruth's "shell" and lets us watch her "molt" in this story of initiation into adulthood. Best of all, Gilbert's prose finds an easy cadence with a simple, wry, humorous style that engages the reader, taking him along on the same search for meaning and morality that occupies Ruth Thomas's adolescent years. There are moments when her story inspires both laughter and tears--reason enough to wait expectantly for Gilbert's next novel!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good summer read... Von Dianne Foster As I read the first 50 pages of this book, I kept dozing off, and then around page 90 was shocked by a very big secret that kept me reading until another secret was revealed, and then another, and then I was caught like a lobster in a pot and read the whole book in two sittings. The plot line of this book is very unpredictable--an original drama to say the least. "Stern Men" will be compared to "The Shipping News" but I didn't laugh as hard, though Gilbert's writing is clever and her observations wry. The protagonist is a female who pretty much stays where she was born, not a male who leaves home. Also, the disappearing culture of lobster men and their families is different from the tourist town culture depicted in "News." Where Annie Proulx introduced each chapter of her book with a little epigram on knot tying, Gilbert introduces each chapter in her book with a relevant blurb on lobsters that seems somehow to mirror Ruth's life. The book will also be compared to "Snow Falling on Cedars" because the characters live in an island community where everyone knows everyone and there are ethnic overtones (Swedes on Courne Haven Island and Italians and Scots Irish on Ft. Niles). All the locals rely on fishing for a living, and like the seamen in "Snow" there are petty rivalries that result in death. "When I was a child I spoke as a child." In the beginning of the book, Ruth sees the world as a child would, and tries to make sense of it from a child's perspective. The text and dialogue reflect her childish thoughts in short direct sentences. She learns to hide under the kitchen table and become invisible. As Ruth matures, her thoughts and the book become more complex. On occasion Ruth still hides. Stern Men are the men who go out to sea with the lobster fishermen. They are the second fiddles who supply the physical strength to haul the lobster pots up and down. They are essential, they do the grunt work, but they are not the masters of their own fates. Many of the stern men eventually become the masters of their own ships. Stern men is an analogy for Ruth's maternal lineage. In the beginning they are pretty much taking orders and doing the grunt work. By the end, Ruth is the master of her own destiny.

Kurzbeschreibung