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Moore's Mythopoeia

a novel



by Christopher WunderLee

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Worldwide Review

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the gates of the sublime..."
IndyLit

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Moore's Mythopoeia is a story in which sci-fi meets the Biblical genesis story, espionage is taken to absurd lengths, action/adventure melds with bodice-ripping love scenes, and one man's defiance illuminates a uniquely human need for sin.

Moore's Mythopoeia Details

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Author : Christopher WunderLee

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From Reader Review Moore's Mythopoeia for online ebook

Natalie says

I poured through this book in two days and missed most of the crazy nuisances, but loved it still. I'm going to reread it cuase theres so much too it. The characters are crazy. The setting is crazy! It's a utopia and its so funny!

Mike Kosiek says

Great book, like kurt vonnegut on steroids.

Miranda says

To say I haven't read many books of this type would be an understatement. There's a lot of humor, but I'm not sure I'm one of those readers who can be in on all of it. I could generally tell what was happening, but all the words piled on can be very confusing. Its dense and sometimes I found myself feeling very lost (I was going to try a plot summary, but I'm not sure I could). Also, there are a lot of made-up words, which adds to the confusion.

Then, there are parts where I knew exactly what was happening and I got really, really into the story – it's very well done. And, lots of scenes that made me laugh out loud, which also made it fun to read.

Elisa, the main female character, is my hero! I want to be her. Literally, as I was reading it, I wanted to be her. She's very intelligent and she's adventurous. She's probably the sexiest character I've ever read. She gets with nearly every guy in the book and she doesn't play around. Her outfits are detailed and sound stylish or sexy or really over the top. The sex scenes are, to put it some way, seriously hot. They are easily some of the best I've read. There are only a few books where, as a reader, you get turned on while your reading them in a way that inspires you.

It took me two weeks of sustained reading to read this book (which I could never remember the name of, so any time someone asked me what I was reading I had to make up a title), and I'm very glad I did. Maybe just a little less 'literary' or 'experimental' and I would give it 5 stars.

Lentz says

I've finally finished this big book and I have to say it was really worth it - what a funny, charming book. I'll admit, I didn't understand everything, but what I did catch was fascinating. This book is at times sexy, funny, crazy and intellectual. But, it is an investment - it took me a couple of months to finish it.

The characters are well laid out - you care about them - and they have quirks and issues. Joseph Moore is a tired, sad star who finally erupts and takes off. He becomes a weird adventurer with hilarious episodes.

Elisa Greene is a lonely, S&M addicted rich girl who pretty much sleeps with everyone in the book. She gets

caught between the system and a hope for change. The sex scenes with her are well done - really well done ;)

These two people live amidst a utopian world, but they are like the only two people who see its flaws. Both of them try to find ways of changing it - Joseph by trying to defeat Elisa's brother - the perfect man, and Elisa by leading a rebellion (made up of children's books writers).

On their tails is a psychic special agent trying to manipulate them, while Elisa tries to manipulate him.

If you are looking for an enthralling book with creative language, humor and sex, this is it. I very much enjoyed this book and have recommended to others.

Vit Babenco says

“Nothing is ever too late, nothing can be absent for too long. Progress proceeds in a mechanical fashion, there is no morality, no ethics, no considerations. It must proceed for the good of all.”

Moore's Mythopoeia is a postmodern consumer's utopia... Thomas Pynchon, Vladimir Nabokov, Yevgeny Zamyatin and Dante Alighieri rolled into one.

“Psychology and psychiatry, the greatest of humanity's inventions, were given a new goal, a new purpose. At all costs, there must be harmony. The drug companies were their able assistants, producing brand new mood enhancers, manner purifiers, temperament equalizers, emotion stabilizers, anger managers, and peace inducers.”

This utopia is so ideal that it turns into its own opposite and becomes dystopia...

“I would wonder what would have happened if I would have been strong and would have let myself continue to fight, to go along with you on your quest, to end the misery of perfection, to be the advocate of the antithesis of the myth.”

“Happiness is not an ideal of reason but of imagination.”

So even in the most perfect world there are those who want to revolt against the perfection and to be free to choose...

Achilles says

This a book to get lost in. It's one of those rare novels – like Gravity's Rainbow, the Recognitions, Ulysses, the Waves, Satanic Verses – that holds your interest while surprising you with its beauty. It's complex while at the same time simple, it blends genres – science fiction, romance, adventure, historical fiction – and invents a new style. Loosely based on Paradise Lost, the author has changed it from taking place in paradise to setting it in utopia, and just like how Milton made the devil the most interesting, sympathetic character, here, the character of Joseph Moore is this fantastical, absurd, hilarious, sad, demeaned, rich protagonist who knowingly follows Satan's quest to force sin into the world. He uses Paradise Lost as if it's a how-to book!

Joseph wants sin because he's trying to kill himself and it won't work. In the perfect world, which has been achieved by humorous means, not only can you not die, but since humanity has achieved perfection, heaven has closed. This leaves all the souls caught within the phases of achieving utopia wandering around in purgatory (kind of like how in Christianity, those born before Christ are supposedly in limbo). They've gotten very angry about it, and when Joseph leaps off a bridge and his guardian angel appears, she (no name

is given) has no incentive to ‘guard’ him. Rather, it would be better for her if Joseph made the ‘real’ world less perfect, because then, perhaps, she can leave purgatory. Initially, she tries to seduce him, but he’s become so deflated, so defeated, he can’t do it (he’s in an unhappy marriage). Most of this isn’t explained, you have to infer it from the prose. Joseph though likes her, especially her aggressiveness, and then, he thinks he loves her, so to ‘free’ his guardian angel, he embarks on a quest to cause sin in utopia.

Probably the funniest, most clever parts of this book are about how we achieved perfection. There is only one government and it is run by business. There is no religion and races have been bred out of the population so everyone looks the same. All the reasons for war and conflict have been removed. A sort of eugenically determined caste system has been put in place based on popularity – A-list, B-list, C-list. Everyone is promised 15 minutes of fame, but A-list citizens are famous, powerful people who run the government/business. There is a mandatory drug regimen for everyone to achieve ‘tranquility’ (when Joseph goes off his meds, he dips so deeply into *Paradise Lost*, he can’t tell reality from his fantasy).

But, there are ripples in the repressive, controlling perfect world. The writers of children’s fiction have formed an underground resistance and insert into their books suggestions for undermining the system. There are actual children’s books in the novel that are totally believable. They also deliver speeches and at times, do weird things that are supposed suggest protest but really come off as just odd whims. Every member is a character in a famous work of children’s literature, so you have the Big Bad Wolf, Captain Hook, etc. which is what they go by (and which can sometimes confuse things). The rebellion is led by Arthur Dodger (the Big Bad Wolf), who is sort of dating Elisa Green. She’s presented as an uber-perfect fox (I pictured Angelina Jolie) with very dark, S&M fetishes (the ‘erotic’ parts are very graphic).

There is also a government agent, Captain Vincent Belacque (sp?) who works for the part of the government who maintains order. He’s psychic and has become a voyeur because his job is pretty much keeping all these women under surveillance. The women he’s investigating are all people who haven’t done anything serious, but who the government believes are questionable since they refused a marriage proposal or haven’t had a child in a certain amount of time or something like that. If the captain deems them inappropriate or not fitting in, they are ‘rebranded’, an eerie practice based on the idea that every person is a brand and must use their brand to get ahead in life (since everything is about business). Most people sell their names to companies for advertising and the government has a program in which you treat yourself like a product on the market – it’s very well done. So, if a woman is ‘rebranded’ she’s picked up and sent away, which makes it a very scary threat most women live with.

The captain is investigating Elisa because her family is an A-list, her brother is very famous (really funny biography), and she’s a bit of a rogue. But, because he’s been watching her, he has become obsessed with her. He won’t arrest her, and he knows about her involvement in the resistance. Meanwhile, Arthur Dodger has figured out that Elisa is under surveillance, so he sends her to seduce the captain to try to figure out what the government knows (this is the part that’s part thriller, part Robert Ludlum). What ensues is double-agents, a romance (again very graphic sex), and everyone trying to out-maneuver each other. The captain knows Elisa has been sent to trick him, but he wants to convert her.

Joseph meets a writer, who recruits him for the resistance. At a meeting, he is ‘inducted’ by Elisa (she’s used as sort of a tool by Arthur), and she actually falls for him. So, she’s with Arthur, faking it with the captain, and now, interested in Joseph. He disappears on his quest – he’s trying to find an Adam and Eve to foil – who are apparent from the very beginning. Elisa’s good family is led by Graham Greene, who is an uber-jockish type.

I can’t say more without spoiling it, but the prose is dense and bewildering at times. This is a book you have

to study. There's no reading any part quickly, and it is very experimental, from invented words to words I've never seen used before, to layer upon layer of action, plot twists, undetailed dialogue and metafiction. It's easy to get wrapped up in it and there are several sections that are very poetic. It's one of the finest books I've read in a long time, and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys Calvino, Pynchon, Gaddis, Lowry, Beckett, Joyce and those heavy weights.

Debbie says

I was one of the lucky ones who won this book via Goodread's First Read giveaway. It took me a while to get into the book, at the time I won it I was in the middle of re-reading a long series. However, once I picked it up I had a hard time putting it down. It is a wonderful melding of genres that doesn't disappoint.

Katharine says

I am sure my attempt to review will fall short of what is needed to truly understand how new and fresh and interesting this book is. A Science Fiction and Mythology mix presented with a satiric humor that is hilarious, sometimes profane, and always utterly entertaining.
