



No One Thinks of Greenland

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"You'll want to scratch." These spoken words open to us the strange and beguiling world of young Rudy Spruance, forced to join the military due to a mysterious past, and sent for some inexplicable reason to a top-secret military hospital in Greenland. There he meets a wide cast of unusual and colorful characters, outcasts and rejects all; begins to fall for the commanding officer's leggy and strong-willed girlfriend; and slowly uncovers the awful secret behind the portion of the base dubbed "the Wing."

No One Thinks of Greenland Details

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Author : John Griesemer

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From Reader Review No One Thinks of Greenland for online ebook

Jos says

While I'm neither into books about war nor conspiracy theories, Griesemer's story about a presumably existing post WWII hospital for war veterans in Greenland nonetheless managed to keep my interest. If the characters were a bit more plausible this could have gotten four stars.

Pauline says

I've always been very diverse about the books I read, moving out of my comfort zone in a quest to find some great masterpiece. This book is definitely something I would not exactly pick up immediately, but it was on sale so I said, "Why not?" I wouldn't say that I extremely enjoyed reading this. I'm giving it three stars because it did keep me hooked in some parts, but it's not exactly the page-turner I thought it would be.

Sally says

Thoughts:

-Delightful and refreshing as a dip in a fjord!

-This book is just calling out to be made into a movie. I'd love to see the surreal landscapes on the big screen.

-I came up with a better ending, and I bet other readers did, too.

-If you liked Catch-22, you'll like this. If you didn't like Catch-22, you'll probably like this anyways.

Edit: Apparently this has been made into a movie! "Guy X", 2005.

Jennifer says

I do not in general enjoy reading books about war and the military because it's hard for writers to find something new to say. Griesemer, however, does manage to take a new approach to criticizing the military. This book is sort of like a melancholy Catch 22. Everyone's going crazy, but there's a moving air of sadness that permeates the book. Not exactly lighthearted, but an engrossing read. My one gripe is that the main character doesn't really have enough of a personality to justify all the things that happen to him.

Lee Gingras says

This isn't the type of book that I normally would pick up, but Nancy Pearl recommends it in Book Lust (as well as More Book Lust), so I gave it a try, and it surprised me. While the characterization is fairly thin, Griesemer is excellent at set and setting, and I don't think that I'll forget Stark Raving Dark for a while.

Lisasue says

Although it was a slow starter, I really liked this book. I think that anyone even remotely interested in the Korean War or Greenland would enjoy this book.

Here's an awesome quote:

"Now Rudy was alone. Standing among the dead. This went beyond fucking up, although that was still part of it; it also had elements of ordination and choice, of destiny and duty. We're here because we're here because we're here..."

Heck! This book is chock-full of this stuff. Read it.

BTW: This book was made into a movie, although I can't vouch for the quality of it. See below.

<http://www.celluloiddreams.co.uk/guyx...>

Alexis says

No-one Thinks of Greenland by John Griesemer (2002)

Greg says

More of a transitory novel than anything else. There are several parallels to "The Thing" and "The Day the Earth stood still" - which go directly to the purpose on why Greenland, why the narrator landed there, and just plain old why (although limited in the framework of the "US Army in Korean War/50's/1960). It is a quick read; the author does keep a fast pace.

Jen says

2012 AW80B - Greenland

started: 3/25/12

finished: 3/31/12

I really liked this book from the start. I wasn't really sure what to expect, and I was pleasantly surprised. It was an interesting look at what happens in an isolated community and how humanity can't always triumph over external stimuli (or lack thereof). I'm not sure who I would recommend this book to, but it was worth the read.

It was more of a 3.5-star book for me, but I'm erring on the side of giving it some additional benefit of the doubt.

Jen says

I did not love this book. Maybe it's because I just didn't get it. I read reviews that said it was Vonnegut-esque and similar to Catch-22. I can kind of see the similarities, but it wasn't funny, wasn't ironic, and just left me a little flat.

I think I like a little more closure in my stories and characters, and this one didn't wrap much up. I also know that I like more character development than what Griesemer provided.

I did finish the book, so that says something, but I think had this not been a book group read, I probably wouldn't have finished.

Tedi Kohinke says

I wouldn't compare No One Thinks of Greenland to Vonnegut or Heller...because this book makes sense. It's reverent and funny and depressing in all the right places. It is a very well-written story... and well-edited to boot.

Phil says

A thoroughly enjoyable book. It takes us to an unusual place, with great characters, and a really unique and creative story line. I would not hesitate to recommend this book.

Andi says

A very interesting book. I originally picked it up because of the title, "No one thinks of Greenland," which I thought was particularly hilarious. The book swung between hilarious to tragic, often times all within the space of a page. Although the book is not large, it felt very heavy to me.

Tony says

I saw this book mentioned several years ago as an overlooked gem and figured I'd check it out. Ever since I flew over Greenland while en route to Iceland, the place has intrigued me, and the book's premise of a post-Korean War secret military hospital on the southern tip was intriguing. The story follows Cpl. Rudy Spruance, who steps off a plane in 1959 not really knowing where he is or why he's there. This turns out to be a classic Army snafu, as the hospital has no need for his skills as an information officer. But the base's nutty commander, Col. Woolwrap, decides to keep Spruance and have him start a base newspaper in order to raise morale.

The book is long on atmosphere, as the harsh and unvarying climate and terrain act as a surreal claustrophobic prison of both body and mind. There's an element of mystery to it all, as Spruance seeks to discover the secret behind the men cared for in a special secured wing, and what happened to Col. Woolrap in Korea. The other significant plotline involves the Colonel's sexy aide-de-camp (and lover), who rather inexplicably falls into a torrid affair with Spruance, and their attempt to keep things secret. This latter storyline doesn't work very well, as it's never established why she would go for him at all.

The book succeeds largely on mood and in the smaller scenes, which are evocative and well told. The opening, in which Spruance is mauled by mosquitoes and almost dies, is a great example of the weird pockets that exist in the story. Another memorable moment is a scene in which drunk soldiers go polar bear hunting in a jeep. However, the overall story never quite worked for me, and I'm not sure why. It might be that this kind of story about the military has been told before (the most familiar examples being Catch-22 and M*A*S*H and to a certain extent Johnny Got His Gun, and in countless less well known but excellent books such as Buffalo Soldiers). It's just not as subversive as it seems to want to be, but portions of it display some real talent, and I'm curious to check out what else the author has done.

Note: The fictional hospital and airfield in this book was very loosely inspired by the non-secret WWII-era U.S. military hospital and airfield at Narsarsuaq, Greenland, which was shut down after the war but then reopened in for a period of time in the mid-1950s.

Carol says

I'm torn between 3 or 4 stars. This book is dark and harsh in an intriguing kind of way. I thought the scenes were well written and did a good job of creating the harsh atmosphere of the setting as well as the uncomfortable subject matter.
