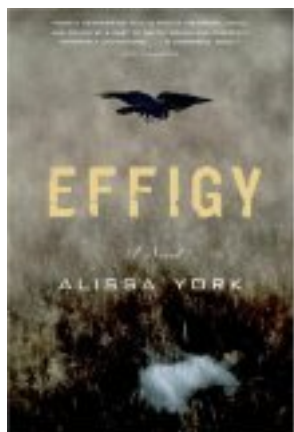

Alissa York

Effigy



Title: Effigy

Author: Alissa York

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Description

A stunning novel of loss, memory, despair and deliverance by one of Canada's best young fiction writers, set on a Mormon ranch in nineteenth-century Utah.

Dorrie, a shock-pale child with a mass of untameable black hair, cannot recall anything of her life before she recovered from an illness at seven. A solitary child, she spends her spare time learning the art of taxidermy, completely fascinated by the act of bringing new and eternal life to the bodies of the dead. At fourteen, her parents marry her off to Erastus Hammer, a polygamous horse breeder and renowned hunter, who does not want to bed her. The role he has in mind for his fourth and youngest wife is creator of trophies of his most impressive kills, an urgent desire in him as he is slowly going blind. Happy to be given this work, Dorrie secludes herself in her workshop, away from Mother Hammer's watchful eyes and the rivalry between the elder wives.

But as the novel opens, Hammer has brought Dorrie his latest kills, a family of wolves, and for the first time in her short life she struggles with her craft, dreaming each night of crows and strange scenes of violence. The new hand, Bendy Drown, is the only one to see her dilemma and to offer her help, a dangerous game in a Mormon household. Outside, a lone wolf prowls the grounds looking for his lost pack, and his nighttime searching will unearth the tensions and secrets of this complicated and conflicted family.

Inspired by the real events of the Mountain Meadows Massacre in 1857, Alissa York blends fact with fiction in a haunting story of a family separated by secrets and united by faith.

Insightful reviews

Carlie: This is the reason I love Alissa York. A beautiful story told from multiple points of view over multiple time periods laced together and exploding at the end. It's what she does, and she's great at it. It's a story of Mormons, taxidermy and Western expansion, half a dozen lonely people all living together. I read it in two days. You should too.

Mike: This book was like a wine with too much happening on the palate. Overwhelming. York has tried to be symbolic, deep, and meaningful. What she's forgotten is to be a story-teller. Her profusion of characters and her penchant for flashbacks and dream sequences, took away from some interesting situations with Bendy and Dorrie. Keep it simple. I've read other complex fiction, but those books didn't feel like I was being diverted and detoured needlessly, way off the beaten path. Kudos for the idea of using a Mormon taxidermist and a nomadic Victorian contortionist as characters, but use them in a more linear way, don't dilute, detour, and divert.

April: I really enjoyed this book. It was hard to put down but took awhile to read. The story skips around and at times was a little hard to follow but it all came together nicely in the end. I enjoyed the historical aspects and the character development. The whole story was well woven.

Sharon: I learn this many years in the past and bring it to mind as a dismal and intricate book,

filled with strange, and in a few cases, terrible, people, lurking dreams, evil, yet nevertheless, infused with a deep humanity. Set within the aftermath of the darkest episode in Mormon History, the Mountain Meadows Massacre, it's an ancient novel approximately homesteading, polygamy, and 4 tremendous fascinating wives. One's a taxidermist. One increases silk worms. rather well researched, i believe it's a masterpiece. must have gained anything

Mike: this can be an historical novel set in Utah in 1870ish whilst Mormons have been pretty well settled. It presents a number of the previous background of the Mormons and likewise a few concerning the California gold rush. the tale positive factors 7 major characters, all fascinating and all dealing with diversified challenges. The Mormon husband a prepared hunter has failing eyesight, and needs to try and preserve peace with and between his four wives. His 19 12 months previous son annoyed that the robust Mormon men have been marrying the entire younger women. (polygamy). The four disparate wives. (more on polygamy) An Indian significant other of the husband with a really various global view, and a tender non-Mormon farmhand. The heritage is interesting, the characters are interesting, and the plot will get pretty well resolved by way of the end. The writing is able and straightforward to read. All in all, an excellent effort.

Jen: This e-book does not rather deserve the single big name I gave it. It used to be slow-moving and bizarre, i did not care approximately any of the characters and it used to be simply darkish in a manner that was once certainly not entertaining. i discovered the dream sequences complicated and the author's kind simply did not do it for me. i will not think i stopped it, I hated it so much.

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