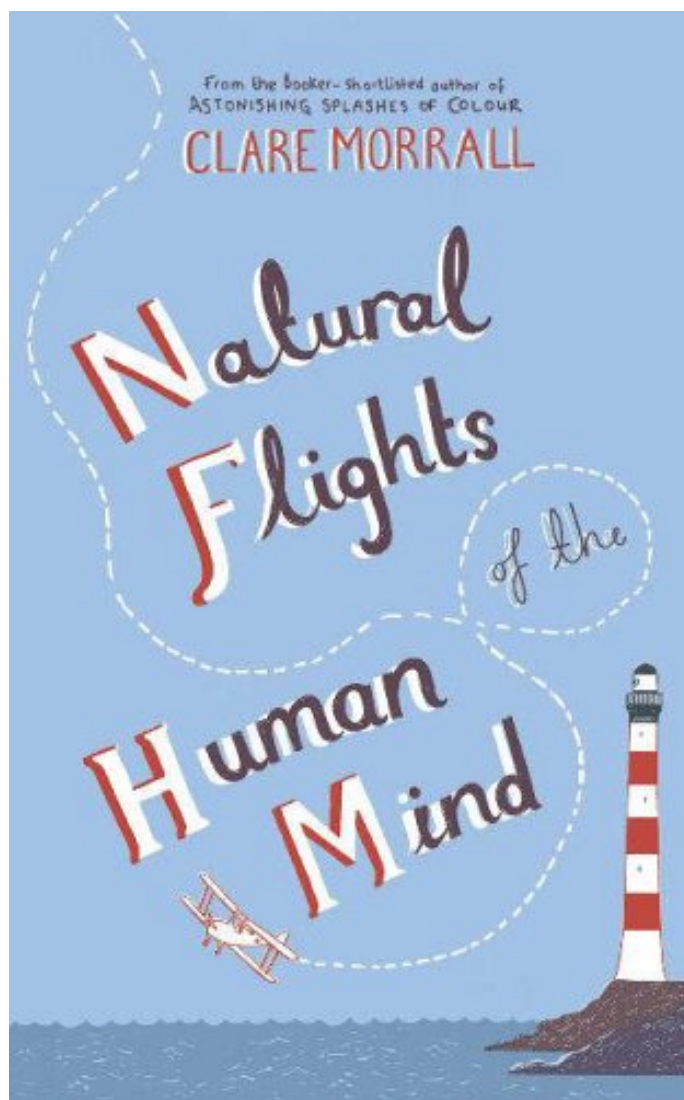

Clare Morrall

Natural Flights Of The Human Mind



Title: Natural Flights Of The Human Mind

Author: Clare Morrall

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Description

Peter Straker lives in a converted lighthouse on the Devon coast with a fine view of the sea, two cats, and no neighbors. That's just the way he likes it. He speaks to no one except in his dreams, where he converses with some of the seventy-eight people he believes he killed nearly a quarter-century earlier -- though he can't quite remember how it happened. But Straker's carefully preserved solitude is about to be invaded by Imogen Doody, a prickly and unapproachable school caretaker with a painful history herself. Against his will -- and hers -- Straker soon finds himself helping Imogen repair the run-down cottage she's inherited. There are forces gathering, however, as the twenty-fifth anniversary of Straker's crime approaches, and they're intent upon disturbing his precarious peace.

Insightful reviews

Amina:

Sometimes something bad happens in our life and we almost stop living. That is what happened to Straker. And then a chance meeting changes everything. Doody also has a past and is filled with mistrust and hate. Sometimes we enter people's lives for a reason and change them forever.

This book was a pleasure to read. No loose ends and a happy ending.

Joan: This was an engaging story about two broken people who are brought together and are healed by their interactions. Something to think about when considering the people in your life. If you have a tendency to skip to the back of the book, listen on audio instead. Definitely worth the suspense.

Surreysmum: I think I may have found a new lady novelist to add to my shelves. This book is delightful to read, full of hope without sentimentality, and deft (not daft) in its wielding of symbolic landscape and symbolic objects. The protagonists are two lonely people; Peter Straker, who lives in a lighthouse, and Imogen Doody, a school caretaker who inherits a cottage nearby. Straker has a horrible incident in his past, which is revealed to us in just the right doses; Doody (as she calls herself) also has trauma and guilt, though not on the same scale. The cottage is eventually built to full usefulness by the pair of them together; the lighthouse, which is a place of shameful exile, eventually falls into the sea. An ancient biplane, which carries worlds of entirely different meanings for each of them, takes flight at the climax of the story. And more I will not say, because you have to get to know these characters - and the many, many others who surround them - in order for it to make the strong emotional sense that it does.

There are no monsters in this book, just painfully imperfect human beings, some of them rather funnier in their imperfection than others. I did find myself smiling quite often.

Morrall has been nominated for the Booker Prize (though not for this particular novel, I think). In this reader's opinion, it's perfectly clear why.

Karschtl: Auf den ersten Blick (auf's Cover) wirkt es wie eine leichte Frauenlektüre. Nach dem Lesen der Zusammenfassung am Buchrücken merkt guy dann doch, dass es eher ein Drama ist. Auch kein Problem. Allerdings warfare mir der Stoff nach den ersten 70 Seiten immer noch viel zu trocken, und schließlich habe ich es zur Seite gelegt. Die Autorin hat sich zu viel Zeit gelassen, das Buch wirklich spannend zu gestalten. Ich denke, wenn ich weiter durchgehalten hätte, wäre es vielleicht noch unterhaltsamer geworden. Aber ich las das Buch im Urlaub, und wo ich da schon einmal Zeit habe wirklich viel zu Lesen, wollte ich dies nicht mit uninteressanten Büchern vergeuden. Manchmal muss ich einfach sehr kritisch sein in der Auswahl meines Lesestoffs, sonst würde ich gar keine Zeit mehr haben all die wirklich guten Bücher auch zu lesen.

Terry Mark: This was once a superb ebook and the 1st of Clare Morrall's i've got learn yet i'll be interpreting the remainder of her books now simply because if her different books are part nearly as good as this one they are going to be worthy it.

Anna Tatelman: Love this author. Love her dependent and lovely prose, love her memorable characters, love the best way she will be able to flip a publication with no longer a lot real plot into whatever wealthy and engaging. I do think that the various 'reflective' inner monologues obtained a bit repetitive, yet i am not going to mark her down for this. One, it definitely captured the character's lack of ability to get out of his rut, and two, it really is nonetheless a stellar read.

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