



Pic

Jack Kerouac

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In 1948, Pictorial Review Jackson, a ten-year-old black boy, and his brother, Slim, hitchhike from North Carolina to New York City, observing the strange life-styles of people they encounter.

Pic Details

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Andrew says

After Subterreaneans which in itself was a great Stream of Consciousness novel, it was refreshing to read Pic, which had a linear and more definite storyline. I think Kerouac perfectly constructed Pic's character through Pic's country drawl and naive perspective on new things. "Well she was the finest soul, I knowed it jess then by the way she got red and didn't mind". While also bringing the story together in a written-letter format to his late grandpa.

Slim in contrast was a hardened adult, who through living in New York, had hardened him and made him cynical, he continually struggled financially and found it hard to commit to a job. However, this didn't hold him back from loving his life, his wife, and committing to rescuing his brother from his North Carolina orphanage. He finally persuaded Shelia in moving out of the City, across the country to Cali.

As much as Pic idolised his older brother, it was clear he was ambition in his own way to excel further than his brother. He saw the pain that Slim and Shelia suffered, yet loved how happy they were while penniless. "Someday, Grandpa, I'll make a lot of money for you and me, but I'll enjoy it like Slim enjoyed it with no money, and make sure I'm a happy man".

Arax Miltiadous says

Πολ? μικρ? και σ?ντομο για να χωρ?σει ?να τερ?στιο Κ?ρουακ μ?σα του... Νομ?ζω πως η προσπ?θεια του να ξεφ?γει απ? την μελαγχολ?α του διαφα?νεται στις σελ?δες του βιβλ?ου σαν και ο ?διος να γνωρ?ζει πως ε?ναι απ?ηχος του εαυτο? του και μιας ζω?ς που φτ?νει στο τ?λος της. Και η δημιουργ?α του Πικ, δεν ?ταν παρ? η προσπ?θεια του να πε?σει τον εαυτ? του και τον αναγ?στη πως ?τι και αν ?ζησε, ?που και αν βρ?θηκε,, το παιδ? μ?σα του παρ?μεινε αγν?, επιλ?γοντας την περιπ?τεια απ? την επισφαλιση.

Να το διαβ?σετε. Δεν ε?ναι παρ? ?να τσιγ?ρο δρ?μος και παρ?λληλα φ?ρος τιμ?ς στον λογοτ?χνη.

?ννα Μακρ? says

Σαν δροσι? σε μεσημερι?τικη κ?ψα, ε?ναι ο Κ?ρουακ.

Corto Maltese says

Γλυκ? οδοιπορικ? επιβ?ωσης μ?σα απ? τα μ?τια του μικρο? ?ρωα Πικ, με νοσταλγικ? τ?νο, στην Αμερικ? της δεκαετ?ας του 50'. Με τις γν?ριμες σταθερ?ς του απ?κληρου, του δρ?μου, της Τζαζ και της λατρε?ας του αμερικ?νικου τοπ?ου να διατρ?χουν το κ?κνειο ?σμα του συγγραφ?α.

David Highton says

This story was in the back of the library copy of the *Subterraneans*, so I read it - the last novel Kerouac wrote. The story of Pictorial Review Jackson, a young black orphan from North Caroline, who is taken to New York by his brother and then across country to Oakland to catch up with his sister-in-law. The book ends just as it builds up momentum in the road trip section. A bit of a mish-mash.

Yuri Ulrych says

O último livro de Jack Kerouac, conta a história de Pic, menino negro de 11 anos órfão de pai e mãe, neto de escravos, aos cuidados do avô, seu melhor amigo desde a primeira infância lá no interior dos EUA na Carolina do Norte. De repente o avô fica doente em estado terminal, a criança fica sem lar, e apesar de quem resolveu acolhê-lo não ter mau coração, não vive em boas condições para dar o pertencimento familiar necessário. O menino então sente-se apartado. Slim, o sumido irmão mais velho aparece para buscá-lo, vestindo roupas usadas sofre por preconceitos, é impedido, mas consegue raptá-lo para louca alegria de Pic. Aí começa a aventura ao modo Kerouac, que faz de seus livros, grandes viagens espirituais.

O que impressiona é o fato da criança ser o narrador-personagem da história que em meio às lembranças dos relatos da viagem, constantemente lembra-se de seu avô com carinho na maneira coloquial de criança, como se quisesse que ele estivesse presente às transformações das cenas. Por se tratar das impressões da criança sobre a realidade cruel do ser humano, trazendo uma leitura simples e sutil ao mesmo tempo, o texto de Kerouac perpassa por sua essência, diante da contradição de tempo entre o campo e a cidade grande da forte maquinaria pesada. Acima de tudo, é a prova de amor entre neto e avô que nunca mais se viram, respondida na amizade dos gestos de prazer e felicidade com o seu irmão mais velho, e sua nova família.

(Yuri Ulrych)

Ian Warr says

I quite enjoyed this, although it does end very suddenly as if he gave up on the idea, which is a shame because it has potential if fully developed.

J says

"Sorry, can't help writing in South Carolina-speak, I'm in a good mood, and I've been reading the second story in that Kerouac book I bought. It's called "Pic" and it's written in that style. It takes a while to get used to, but then it's quite infectious. I'm nearly finished it though, and I don't know whether to buy another book with my remaining weekly rations, or to see a movie I've been putting off for three weeks."
<https://deadmansdiaries.wordpress.com...>

Guillermo Ramirez says

Esta precioso, valdrá mucho la pena echarle un ojo en ingles

Dana Jerman says

This is a short and sweet little tale. Basically Jack's whole life in miniature with a heavy accent.

Jim says

From the sounds of things this is something Kerouac kluged together to make a quick buck. The core of the book was written in 1951—this was when the character of Pictorial Review Johnson sprang to life—to which he grafted in the story of the Prophet on Times Square (first drafted in 1941), a chapter about a fudge factory deleted from *Town and the City* (1950) and the full story of the Ghost on the Susquehanna which had been cut from *On the Road* (1957) and it actually comes together quite nicely. The reason for this is that it's a buddy/road novel and they generally consist of a beginning, an end and any number of assorted stops in between.

The story is a simple enough one. Pic has been living with his grandfather who can no longer care for him. An aunt takes him in but really doesn't have room for him and yet when the boy's older brother comes from New York to take charge of him he's sent packing and the intention is for Pic to go into foster care. His brother, Slim, is having none of this, creeps back to the house later that night and runs away with the boy. Pic narrates the story in a thick dialect that takes some getting used to especially when you're a Scot and the only reference you have when it comes to black culture is film and TV but I coped. What's particularly charming about the narration is that it's addressed to his absent grandfather. Pic manages to convey his wide-eyed wonder most effectively:

[E]ver where I turn my ear I hear au-tos, and folkses talkin, and all kinds of noises and music, I tell you, it was the noise of ever'body *doin something* at the same time all over with they hands and feet and voices, jess as plain.

Having written stories in dialect I know how hard it is to get it right and so, yes, you can nit-pick and you will find flaws and inconsistencies but on the whole Pic is a believable, engaging and colourful narrator which raises the standard of this book a notch because it really is a slight (and rather rushed) work; the whole adventure feels like it's over in week. The ending was a disappointment but maybe not unrealistic. It all depends on what the narrative represents. If it's a letter to his grandfather then it's quite possible that it stops when Pic's new life takes over and he no longer feels a need to cling to the past. Distractions get in the way and he forgets to finish telling his tale; it lies in a drawer unsent. Of course beginnings and endings are arbitrary choices and Pic's story obviously begins before the events described in this book and continue on after the last page but the abrupt ending will probably still disappoint most readers even though it's a logical stopping point. I actually think the real problem is not so much the abruptness of the ending but the brevity of the journey.

On the whole the book had a feel of a YA novel or even younger to be honest but it kept my interest right through to the end. I, and this is very unlike me, just wish he'd found a bit more to talk about.

George K. says

Το μικρ? αυτ? βιβλ?ο το τσ?μπησα απ? το φετιν? Παζ?ρι βιβλ?ου, με μ?λις τρι?μισι ευρ?, και αποτελε? την τρ?τη μου επαφ? με το ?ργο του Τζακ Κ?ρουακ, μετ? το "Σατ?ρι στο Παρ?σι" που δι?βασα το 2012 και το "Και ?βρασαν οι ιπποπ?ταμοι στις γο?ρνες τους" που δι?βασα π?ρυσι τ?τοια εποχ?. ?σον αφορ? το "Πικ", πρ?κειται για μια πολ? ωρα?α, καλογραμμ?νη και ευκολοδι?βαστη νουβ?λα, αφηγητ?ς της οπο?ας ε?ναι ?να μικρ? μα?ρο αγ?ρι, το οπο?ο το σκ?ει με τον μεγαλ?τερο αδερφ? του απ? το σπ?τι της θε?ας του στην Β?ρεια Καρολ?να, με προορισμ? αρχικ? την Ν?α Υ?ρκη και μετ?πειτα την Καλιφ?ρνια.

Μου ?ρεσε π?ρα πολ? το ?φος της ιστορ?ας, η εξιστ?ρηση απ? τον πιτσιρικ?, οι περιγραφ?ς του ταξιδιο? και των εμπειρι?ν του. Η γραφ? ε?ναι πραγματικ? π?ρα πολ? καλ?, ξεχωριστ?, ιδια?τερη και αρκετ? ευχ?ριστη. Σαν ιστορ?α ε?χε αρκετ? ψωμ? για να αναπτυχθε? περισσ?τερο, με την ?λη περιπλ?νηση των αδερφ?ν, και προς το τ?λος τα πρ?γματα ?γιναν κ?πως βιαστικ?, σαν να ?θελε ο συγγραφ?ας να τελει?σει μια ?ρα αρχ?τερα. Γενικ?, ε?ναι μια πολ? ωρα?α νουβ?λα, με βαθ?τερα νο?ματα και αρκετ? αισιοδοξ?α, παρ? τις ?ποιες ατυχ?ες των πρωταγωνιστ?v. Προτε?νεται για μια γρ?γορη αν?γνωση.

Pedro Henrique says

a book you can finish in a day.
simple, honest and true.

Sashko Liutyj says

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Max Nemtsov says

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