



## The Little White Car

*Danuta de Rhodes*

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## **The Little White Car** Danuta de Rhodes

When a concept album by The Sofia Experimental Breadboard Octet sparks a relationship-breaking argument, Veronique jumps into her little white Fiat and drives off into the night - straight into an incident with global ramifications.

## **The Little White Car Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2005 by Canongate Books (first published 2004)

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Author : Danuta de Rhodes

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## From Reader Review The Little White Car for online ebook

### **MJ Nicholls says**

A brief cartoon romp imagining the life of the white Fiat Uno driver the night of Princess Diana's crash. In this book she's Veronique, a probably very talented photographer whose break up with her boyfriend leads to a drunken ride home and the unfortunate accident. The rest of the story is about her attempt to dismantle the car and avoid the coppers, while being generally rather French in that way the Brits assume all French women are, i.e. glamorous *femme fatales*.

Dan Rhodes's Anthropology is some of the warmest wittiest flash fiction out there, but this feels like it was written in two weeks during a stay in Paris. For a comic novel, it isn't nearly as risky or dark enough to rise above its cloying tweeness, its cute-funny-boyfriend tone, its half-chewed ideas. A longer book satirising a zany French movement like the Oulipo might've been funnier, and he could've gone mad with the form and style.

Shame. Feels like it's for a younger audience, too, maybe twelve-to-fifteen-year-olds.

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### **Emelie says**

This is just so fucking funny! There's not a single boring moment.

It's hard to say anything more without spoiling any moments in the book.

The best I can describe it is chic-lit Dan Rhodes style. There's sex drugs, boys, romance, a big accident and plenty of WTF moments.

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### **Ridge Adam says**

I personally really enjoyed this book, it was a nice light-hearted summer read that had laughable moments. It was really fun to tag along with the main character Veronique and her best friend Estelle as they set out to a fun night out filled with crazy antics and tough situations. Not the best read but enjoyable.

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### **Ioana Fotache says**

One day i'll be able to pick up a book by Dan Rhodes and not read it in one go. Today was not that day.

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### **Oscia Wilson says**

Meh. Being a wreck and drinking too much doesn't make you adorable. It makes you lame.

**Michael Palkowski says**

The storytelling is really impeccable, affecting and touching. There is a whimsical antitheses within the delicate quirky prose, in that it seems to be fresh and unlike anything else within the marquee. I genuinely believe that proposition.

Rhodes writing sticks with you and in some glib forensic analysis, you realize that you seem to refer to the intrinsic dilemmas, conflicts and personality traits/disorders all too often in conversation.

Main characters do not have to be your best friend.

liz says

So imagine if Princess Diana's car crash in Paris was actually caused by some drunk, stoned chick weaving in front of Di's limo in her "little white car"... Yep, that's what the story is about. And I still can't decide whether I'm bothered by it or if the whole thing charms me. It seems kind of horrific when it's laid out like that, but the nice thing is that the author doesn't take any of her characters seriously enough (or have the characters take themselves seriously enough) for that to be the big question. Di's death is just the backdrop, and the protagonist approaches dismantling her car with the same nonchalance as breaking up with her boyfriend (and then stealing his stereo). It's treating everything that is in the moment with impenetrable seriousness, and everything that came or is coming before or after as inconsequential. And if you're actually appalled about the whole Princess Di thing? You're just taking it too seriously.

Opening sentence: *One of the things about The Sofia Experimental Breadboard Octet was that they weren't an octet. There were fourteen of them. Another thing about them was that none of the fourteen played a breadboard.*

And later- Veronique looked over her shoulder at Francoise, who was sitting at her desk and ostentatiously reapplying her bright orange make-up. Veronique wondered where on earth it was possible to buy such stomach-churning cosmetics. Maybe she had them flown in specially from the eighties.

The funny thing about this book is that I thought it was translated, but just now going back to check I realized it's not. I was thinking earlier about how there seems to be a certain contemporary European novel voice/vernacular, and I was wondering if it's just because I've read the works in translation and not in their native tongues. I suppose this answers the question for me.

**Siv30 says**

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### **Paul says**

Sorry to say, this really wasn't very good.

We all know that this is actually a book by Dan Rhodes. I really rather enjoyed 'Little Hands Clapping'. 'Timolean Vieta, Come Home' and 'Gold' were funny and different. This book, though, shows the flip-side of Rhodes' writing. For a book that presented itself as a 'light read' (that's light as in almost insubstantial) it took me a long time to finish . It seemed intentionally middle-brow and yet there were few of the compensations that such a read might offer. The book's anti-intellectualism wasn't as funny as the author seemed to think. All in all, it felt like a book satisfied with its own lack of ambition. If a book can be lethargic then this one was.

I was disappointed because Rhodes' best work is well worth reading. There were touches of it here - the side story about Uncle Thierry and his pigeons, for example - but by and large this book left me cold.

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### **Deanna says**

I found this book to be just "ok". I guess I expected more fun and foolishness. There were a few moments of amusement, but nothing that stands out, really. I'm not sorry I read it, but I can't say I'd recommend it to anyone.

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### **Charlotte Pattison-Rideout says**

An interesting imagining about Veronique being the driver of the titular little white car who believes she has caused a fatal collision in the Pont d'Alma in France. A few eccentric but limitedly formed supporting characters help move this along. Perfect for a light and quick read, but not going to set the world alight.

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### **Sally Whitehead says**

I'm a huge fan of Dan Rhodes and have been meaning to read this for a long time. Ridiculous, satirical farce which had me laughing out loud several times before I even reached the 50th page. Rhodes obviously had a huge amount of fun writing under this pseudonym, and as a result so do we. Great stuff!

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### **Gemma Davis says**

I love Dan Rhodes' story-telling technique and this was a thoroughly enjoyable (and quick) read - it is not his best but I would still recommend it to most people who want a light, fun, silly read.

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### **Lisa says**

Fabulous tale, beautifully written and very readable. When I bought it, flicking through I noticed a chapter starting "I decided not to mention that I'd killed Princess Diana at the weekend" .... I knew I'd love the book, and I did.

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### **Myrthe says**

Dit boek is echt briljant! Zo grappig geschreven!

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### **Lena says**

I like how the writer merged the fictional characters of the book to those in the real world i.e. Princess Di and the infamous car crash. Stealthily (or not) post-modernist. Easy read with wry humour that can be done within a day, or even a couple of hours!

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### **Terry Mark says**

This is the fourth of Dan Rhodes books I've read and it's not laugh out loud funny like some of his others but still very amusing and a nice easy read which is just what you want to break up more challenging stuff.

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## **AdultFiction Teton County Library says**

TCL Call#: Fiction DeRhodes

Madeleine - 3 stars

What a bizarre little book. It's kind of like "Dumb and Dumber" meets "Bridget Jones" meets "Clueless". It's funny and innane and a perfect gentle read when your brain needs a break.

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## **Jen says**

I got this book because I thought it looked silly and smart and fun. It was silly, alright. How it failed to be very fun at all is really a mystery. Smart? Almost not at all. So disappointing. You try to treat yourself to some mind candy and you just end up underwhelmed. I was really happy to start Of Human Bondage after this one. Seriously.

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## **Christen Harm says**

A charmingly hilarious quick read. There is never a dull moment, and the erratic and absurd behaviors keep you wanting more.

A kind of wrap-up movie type ending but I suppose that could be a technique being used when writing to appeal to a female audience.

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