



Lion and Leopard

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A journey into a lost Philadelphia, an artist's search for a new language of expression, and a tragedy that cuts it short.

Nathaniel Popkin's latest book and debut novel, *Lion and Leopard*, dares to portray an event previously unexplored in fiction: the mysterious death of John Lewis Krimmel, one of the first artists to capture scenes of urban street life in America.

Lion and Leopard Details

Date : Published November 12th 2013 by The Head and The Hand Press

ISBN : 9780989312516

Author : Nathaniel Popkin

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Genre : Fiction, Art, Language, Writing

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From Reader Review Lion and Leopard for online ebook

Jeff says

Smartly researched and delicately written historic fiction concerning America's nubile art culture and the political/philosophical weavings of the characters therein. Although at times slow, and including what must have been a tongue-in-cheek inclusion of a journal entry by a monkey, Popkin masters history in a way that doesn't drown (pun intended) in a sterile whitewashing of events. Rather, we are rewarded with charming prose and elegance that shows us Philadelphia's consistent claim to America's past and the power of art to incite and inspire. Hopefully, Popkin can hold his breath long enough and swim well enough to give us more.

Nathaniel says

How is this worthy of print?

Pam says

Read this book if you love or want to immerse yourself in the world of Early American art. Read this book if you are fascinated with Philadelphia/Germantown history in the early 1800s. Read this book if you love a well-crafted sentence, beautifully-wrought descriptions, funny and interesting characters. Read this book if you appreciate an author with a keen understanding of the moral and philosophical questions of an era. If you are looking for a simple linear narrative, look elsewhere. But I suspect there are many readers who will enjoy this fresh and intelligent story that allows us to imagine the torments, motivations, and very human impulses of some of the artists of this very young nation.

A couple of my favorite gems:

"I want to see Trenton," said Victor, ignoring Dixcy, "it's the most beautiful city in America."

"I well know the white Christians of the South don't have a monopoly on cruelty when it pertains to African people. The very powerful apparently need to crush and humiliate as a means of moral elevation or survival. But having now witnessed their behavior, I can definitely report that the North is Jerusalem, correctable in the eyes of God, and the South a bright burning hell."

Dave says

Popkin's affection for the city he so ably writes about is evident in his thoughtful portrayal of the lives of fictional and no-fictional characters. A thoroughly good read.

Callie R. says

God awful, non-sensical writing.

Rachel says

very anti-climatic. cool individual stories and characters, but the book as a whole didn't click together as much as I had hoped. loved the historical Philadelphia aspects!

Theresa says

Not a quick read - but an interesting historical novel that faithfully recreates an era of Philadelphia society about which I knew little. The novel is populated mostly by real historical persons who made up the art world of the relatively new nation. The story is told in many voices - but the primary arc is the narration of the fictional Caleb Cloud, who with his two young friends, walks from Easton PA to Philadelphia with the goal of identifying and publishing a book of "American Masters" from the burgeoning Philadelphia art scene.

After being immersed in the world of the Peale family, I finished the book only to find myself contemplating portraits by Rembrandt and Raphaele Peale in the American Art collection at the Birmingham (AL) Art Museum. It was fun to see the actual paintings after learning about the artists in this fictional treatment.
