



Mammals

Pierre Mérot, Frank Wynne (Translation)

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One of the most internationally noteworthy titles from Europe in recent years, *Mammals* is a witty anatomization of modern life. Caustic, comic, and unflinchingly honest, *Mammals* is a cruel but beautiful tale of love, solitude, alcoholism, family, and unemployment. This fictional memoir of a glorious loser recounts the life of the Uncle, an unhappy Parisian bachelor whose only true loves were a Polish girl and a divorcee. He is a drunk; he is sarcastic; he works and fails desultorily in several fields until he winds up surrounded by neurotic women, a teacher in a secondary school. He tries out therapist after therapist and can't figure out who is the butt of the joke. He has nephews and this makes him nervous. In fact, almost everything about family life makes him nervous — especially now that he's living at home again. He coins proverbs for living with lowered expectations and attempts a bestiary of his pathological parents, the mammals of the title.

Riding its handbasket merrily to hell, veering now and then toward overwhelming lyricism, *Mammals* pieces together the portrait of modern society's Everyman. It establishes Pierre Merot as an extraordinary and delightful voice of international stature.

Mammals Details

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ISBN : 9780802170194

Author : Pierre Mérot , Frank Wynne (Translation)

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From Reader Review Mammals for online ebook

Adelina Genova says

?????? ????? ?? ??????? "?????? ??????" ? ??????? ??????? ?? ?????? ?? ??????????. ? ? ??-????? ?? 70 ??????? ?????? ???? ?? ??? ?????, ??????? ?? ???????, ??? ? ????????. ?? ?????????? - ?????-????????? "???????" ?? ?????? ?? ?? ?????? 350 ???????.

<http://knigozavar.com/?p=42>

Stephen Witt says

Cute, but forgettable.

Katherine says

On page 33 and this is awesome. DL would love.

[later]

The rest of the book doesn't really live up to pp 1-33, but still worth my time. (Five stars for the first bit; three for the rest.) Cranky and hilarious in that way only the French know how to do.

Vassiliki Dass says

3.8*

Απολαυστικ? σ?τιρα της γαλλικ?ς κοινων?ας (και ?χι μ?νο φυσικα) και κυρ?ως του εκπαιδευτικο? συστ?ματος (γ?λια μετ? δακρ?ων), της επιχειρηματικ?ς κοιν?τητας (επ?σης δ?κρυα απ? τα γ?λια, αντ? το απ?σπασμα ειδικ? θα ?θελα να το γρ?ψω εγ? ?ταν θα π?ρω σ?νταξη και θα μπορ? πια να μιλ?σω ελε?θερα), της ερωτικ?ς ζω?ς στις σ?γχρονες μεγαλουπ?λεις και του κολλ?ματος των αντρ?ν με την μαμ? τους. Να διαμαντ?κι κρυμμ?νο στην βιβλιοθ?κη μου απ? το 2005!

Elizabeth says

Sorry, I disagree with all the hype from le Figaro etc. This book didn't live up to the promise of its (acknowledgedly wonderful) first line.

I don't even think a better translator would have helped that much.

Jana says

If I was sad and lonely, in my forties and mortified of life, impotent and angry, with sexual problems and unhappy, but most of all depressed because world and life are just dark and unfair (allow me my inspiration break so I can order new glass of wine and cognac while I write this in some basement pub) – then there would be a chance for which I would say that I found myself in Uncle's words.

Current French existentialism is one sad sad place.

I don't like books with no existent dialogue ... words on words on words ... but that are so deep that you want to drown yourself like they are at the end of the well and you need to dive for them, because there is obviously no way out.

And you have no light in your life and people are bastards, and you KNOW your family will leave you, and your lovers will leave you, and children will leave you, and you are penniless and work some shitty job, and your anger toward your parents the mammals is so frustrating (why did those creatures have you in the first place, because obviously lets blame everything on mammals) and you just want to have a decent fuck, and you even annoy your psychiatrist, and you had few unsuccessful marriages.

And you have only one faithful friend.

Your alcohol.

Misery come to me, I can't stand life anymore – basic thought of this book. BUT I like it. Because I know that I will not always be young and happy and sunshine flowers all around me. Cynicism, irony, wrinkles, shitty bank statements and arse full of cellulite will come to me as well, and then I will embrace this book in my arms and say, at last, at last we meet face to face my dear friend.

Lets be serious. I just purely hope that in my forties I will not be as screwed up as this asshole is.

Let me pour you another drink, n'est-ce pas?

Lampone says

A fantastic read, a story well told of a life quite frustrated. I feel like I should turn back to page one and dive once again into that bacchanalia of sex and liquor at dawn and indulge into the human drama and frustrations, get dizzy on those delicious sentences and descriptions and drink drink drink once again the ambrosia of this genius. But right now somebody's knocking at the door, and I have to put down my beer...

Elaine says

This makes you rethink what a novel is. There is no character development, no plot to speak of. It is more of a witty bunch of observations about alcoholism and the general failings of a ne'er do well uncle, which,

supposedly everyone has, or maybe not everyone. Quick read.

Oh, how could I forget? Mammals are mothers and he doesn't much like them at all.

Allison says

Bitterly existential. And French!

Bla says

ack! i am clearly not literate enough to enjoy a french translation.

Walter says

Funny opening line:

"Every model family should have a fuck-up: a family without a fuck-up is not truly a family, because it lacks an element that challenges it, thereby reinforcing its legitimacy."

I picked at this book and took it down in small bites(and still do when I need a laugh).

As this novel *is* sardonic. That is, the word is derived from the Sardinian plant. You eat it, laugh in a spasm like fashion, and then die.

So: small bites. Hilarious riffs on teaching, people, publishing, etc.

Edit: more info on sardonic:

'Sardonic Grin' Has Roots in Poisonous Herb

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2009/05...>

Noelia Mendizabal says

No se puede huir de los franceses.

Georgia Douk. says

Θυμ?ζει μ?λλον Μπουκ?φσκι αλλ? με καλ?τερη γραφ? θα τολμ?σω να πω; . Εμμον? στο αλκο?λ στις καταχρ?σεις και στο σεξ. Αυτ? η εμμον? νομ?ζω ?τι το εμποδ?ζει να απελευθερωθε? και να πει αυτ? που ο?τως ? λλως επιχειρε?. ταξικ? ζητ?ματα, ανεργ?α, αστικ? πρ?τυπα και οικογ?νεια, μεγαλουπ?λεις και αστικ?ς τρ?πος ζω?ς.

Ιστορ?α ?νας θε?ος κοντ? μεσ?λικος που ?χει ζ?σει γ?μο, χωρισμ?, περιπ?τειες, καρι?ρες, ανεργ?α, ?ρωτα καταστροφ? αλλ? λλα αυτ? ιδωμ?να μ?σα απ? τη σ?νθλιψη της επιβολ?ς της αστικ?ς δυτικ?ς κοινων?ας. Αλλ? και μ?λλον αρκετ? φρουδικ? επιρρο?. ?σως και για αυτ? αναφ?ρεται σε θηλαστικ? για να δε?ξει τη δυσφορ?α της μετ?βασης απ? την αρχ? της ηδον?ς στην αρχ? της πραγματικ?τητας.

Σημε?α:

"Αν δεν ε?χα συναντ?σει τον πατ?ρα σας, θα ε?χα αγορ?σει ?να καν?ς". "Η συναισθηματικ? αυτοκτον?α συν?σταται λοιπ?ν στον να μ?νομυε πολ? καιρ? με ?να πλ?σμα που δεν προσπορ?ζει παρ? ελ?χιστη ικανοπο?ηση" σελ 62

Καταπληκτικ? η παρουσ?αση της ?ννοιας της παγκοσμιοπο?ησης:

"Τον θε?ο τον ε?λκυναν συχν? οι ?ριμες γυνα?κες, ?νδειξη, δ?χως λλο, εν?ς ανεπ?λυτου οιδιπ?δειου συ-

μπλ?γματος. Χ?ρη στις τεχνολογ?ες που εκμεταλλε?εται, το ?ντερνετ ικανοποιε? τις πιο αιχμηρ?ς σεξουα

λικ?ς προτιμ?σεις. Οι επ?μαχες διακλαδ?σεις του σας φ?ρνουν κατευθε?αν στην καρδι? του προσωπικο? σας

λαβυρ?νθουν. Ε?ναι τεχνολογικ? εφιχτ?, μ?σω διαδοχικ?ν διασταυρ?σεων κριτηρ?ων, να οδηγηθε?τε στην

απ?λυτη εικ?να γ?ρω απ? την οπο?α περιστρ?φεται ?λη σας η σεξουαλιχ?τητα: μια γρι? παχ?σαρκη, φα-

λαχρ?, αλυσοδεμ?νη, που γλε?φει ?ναν Τσετσ?νο ?φηβο με ροζ καλσ?ν, εν?σω τη σοδομ?ζει ?να σπ?νιελ

Βρετ?νης με ζαρτι?ρες, το οπο?ο συμπλ?κεται με μια τριχωτ? Γιαπων?ζα που φ?ρει ?να γιγαντια?ο π?ος κι

?χει στον ορθ?νοιχτο πισιν? της το πυροβ?λο εν?ς αμεριχ?νιχου ?ρματος μ?χης, X.O.X. Ε?ναι αυτ? που

ονομ?ζεται παγκοσμιοπο?ηση. Η παγκοσμιοπο?ηση συσχετ?ζεται, καθ?ς φα?νεται, κατ? φριχτ?

χαι αναγχα?ο

τρ?πο με το απε?ρως μικρ? σλ 194 -195

Virag says

Dark and funny.

Matic Sket says

Tako ?isto na kratko povedano: Vsi smo mi malo v ku*cu.
