JOIN IN A CELEBRATION OF FICTION THAT'S BEST TO READ AT THIS MOST MYSTERIOUS TIME OF



.....NAHCOTTA, THE MOBY DICK HOTEL ON THE LONG BEACH PENINSULA, SETTING FOR NEW YORKER, MARY BRINGLE'S MYSTERY NOVEL ZITTLE CREATURES EVERYWHERE'S ETS THE STAGE FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL WRITER'S HALLOW-LISHED OR HOPEFUL

Mystery Writers

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TOPICS DISCUSSED LAST YEAR INCLUDED: THE IMPETUS BEHIND MYSTERY WRITING; THE RISE OF THE FEMALE DETECTIVE IN POPULAR FICTION; DIFFERENT FORMS SUSPENSE CAN LEGITIMATELY TAKE; THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE MYSTERY NOVEL.

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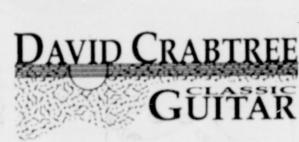






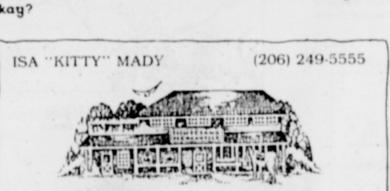


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The Spoon River Anthology Opened Friday Sep. 30th and will be performed at the Nehalem Community Center, (in Nehalem) again on Oct. 7th & 8th. Though we are not sure of times, we do know a lot of folks in the play as well as the director, who said she would give us free tickets; but we can't go cause we have to pack so we can move, though we don't have a house to move into yet. Dr. Karkeys is playing music for it and our friend and revered bartender Jessica is in it, so find out where it is and when it is and go see it. Okay?



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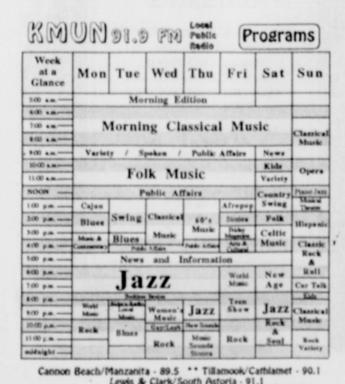
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Take Heart with Remains of the Day

devotion. In the end, like the Apostle

he has spent his days serving.

Peter, Stevens denies the very master

But his ultimate sin of pride, his

hubris, has been the failure to let down

his guard, to let anyone see beneath his

heart of his life. Imprisoned by his role,

performance (Terry Kellogg's human

doing rather than a human being), and

tossed his way by the upper-class men

and women of importance. Unable to

acknowledge a higher order, he goes

views of the ruling gentry that mere

ordinary people are not fit to rule, to

judge, to vote, but only to serve. The

figure. Yet he is so estranged from

matters of the heart, that he cannot

for: intimacy. Miss Kenton is not

allowed to bring flowers into his

is reading. In fact, he is reading a

romance, but he fails to see this as

vocabulary. He cannot see what her

eyes and heart tell her: that he is a

manage what his heart no doubt yearns

private guarters, to see what book he

anything but an exercise to improve his

romantic caught up in the trappings of

On his journey, he gets an inkling of

his profession, unable to deal with the

foibles and follies of the real world.

what has been missing. It has to do

thread of bantering skillfully

throughout the narrative. In the

informality and spontaneity of

with "bantering." Ishiguru weaves the

beginning, Stevens strives to learn to

banter solely to improve the quality of

his service to his new American master.

At the end, he begins to see that the

bantering, which he has missed out on

most of his life, may hold the keys to

happiness. This stuffy British word

sums up in butlerese the message

behind The Art of Intimacy, Visions

from the Heart, and The Path With

a persistent Escape from Intimacy.

Stevens resolves to find its true

meaning through bantering, for

Heart. Having spent most of his life in

whatever remains of the days before

repetition of his father's life, even to

the point of allowing small errors to

creep in after years of otherwise perfect service, makes this story a kind of codependent tragedy. Doomed to

repeat his family of origin history,

riddled with perfectionism, unable to

form intimate attachments, Stevens

symbolizing all that is noble yet tragic

the butler is the modern anti-hero,

As a son, Stevens' respect for his father knows no bounds, yet even this relationship must play second fiddle to his own workaholic path. His sad

In serving, he is a kind of Christ-like

ruling gentry becomes his Higher

Power

through life adhering to the elitist

by the occasional crumbs of praise

wall of dignity, the feelings at the

he can only judge himself by his

In the Eighties it was "intimacy."
That word kept cropping up in nonfiction book titles, as in Escape Erom Intimacy. Art of Intimacy. In the Nineties the word is "heart," as in Visions from the Heart. A Path with Heart. Can it be that the literary world has exhausted the subject of intimacy and moved on to larger affairs of the heart?

of the heart?

Certainly Remains of the Day.

Kazuo Ishiguru's award-winning novel and one of the year's outstanding movies, argues against this notion. It takes the reader (and viewer) on a tour of intimacy avoidance while also exploring the depths of the human heart. Stevens (Anthony Hopkins), choked by his own crippling lack of connection to heart, goes through the motions of life as a butler with all the dignity he can muster, but sadly, without Miss Kenton (Emma Thompson), his heart's desire.

Doomed to isolation because he cannot fathom what his heart desires, he goes through life caught up in the form and function, manners and mannerisms of the butler in his esteemed role in the British household of yesteryear. Having reached nearly the pinnacle of success in his chosen profession, he somehow senses that something is missing. Mistakes are taking place around the household: it must be a staffing problem.

Finally, he must take his journey, late in life but nevertheless at long last (another Nineties trend: see Awakening the Archetypes Within). Having led a remarkably virtuous life aspiring to reach the very top of his profession, to have dignity and a high sense of duty and loyalty, he must now leave the womb, the village, the country represented by his lordship's estate and go out into the world.

As he takes the hero's journey, he looks back over the course of his career, still fearing to question the infallibility of the man he chose to serve for 30 years. His devotion has been almost priestly. His allegiance to the all too human Lord Darlington threatens to make a mockery of his life of

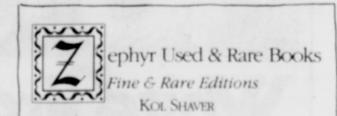


about the unrecovered human condition. As for Miss Kenton, she serves for longer than could be expected in this dysfunctional household, seeing in Stevens what he unfortunately can never see in himself: an all too human side that is the reason for her endearment. If intimacy is "Knowing yourself in the presence of others," as defined in The Art of Intimacy, then Stevens fails to achieve this, though the meetings for tea at the end of each day with Miss Kenton bring him closest to fulfilling this unconscious longing. Deceiving himself into thinking he is merely extending his duties, he remains blind to the meaning behind these informal sessions, the meaning behind Miss Kenton's willingness to prolong

the work day to be with him, and the

inner yearnings of his own heart. Without revealing the end of the book and movie, one can only say that Stevens' journey through the English countryside driving his master's Ford ends with the discovery of A Path with Heart, to be traveled by way of bantering. Like Driving Miss Daisy, that other journey of the heart, The Remains of the Day explores the common bonds between master and servant in former times, and the ultimate triumph of intimacy over class distinctions. As for the love affair between butler and housekeeper, you may have to wait for Shadowlands to see Anthony Hopkins lower his British

Phyllis Moore recently took a box of tissues to the movie <u>Shadowlands</u> where Anthony Hopkins at last is permitted to display his full range of emotions.



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14 UPPER LEFT EDGE OCTOBER 1994