



Flaubert's Parrot

By Julian Barnes

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A kind of detective story, relating a cranky amateur scholar's search for the truth about Gustave Flaubert, and the obsession of this detective whose life seems to oddly mirror those of Flaubert's characters.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Just what sort of book is *Flaubert's Parrot*, anyway? A literary biography of 19th-century French novelist, radical, and intellectual impresario Gustave Flaubert? A meditation on the uses and misuses of language? A novel of obsession, denial, irritation, and underhanded connivery? A thriller complete with disguises, sleuthing, mysterious meetings, and unknowing targets? An extended essay on the nature of fiction itself?

On the surface, at first, Julian Barnes's book is the tale of an elderly English doctor's search for some intriguing details of Flaubert's life. Geoffrey Braithwaite seems to be involved in an attempt to establish whether a particularly fine, lovely, and ancient stuffed parrot is in fact one originally "borrowed by G. Flaubert from the Museum of Rouen and placed on his worktable during the writing of *Un cœur simple*, where it is called Loulou, the parrot of Felicité, the principal character of the tale."

What begins as a droll and intriguing excursion into the minutiae of Flaubert's life and intellect, along with an attempt to solve the small puzzle of the parrot--or rather parrots, for there are two competing for the title of Gustave's avian confrere--soon devolves into something obscure and worrisome, the exploration of an arcane Braithwaite obsession that is perhaps even pathological. The first hint we have that all is not as it seems comes almost halfway into the book, when after a humorously cantankerous account of the inadequacies of literary critics, Braithwaite closes a chapter by saying, "Now do you understand why I hate critics? I could try and describe to you the expression in my eyes at this moment; but they are far too discoloured with rage." And from that point, things just get more and more curious, until they end in the most unexpected bang.

One passage perhaps best describes the overall effect of this extraordinary story: "You can define a net in one of two ways, depending on your point of view. Normally, you would say that it is a meshed instrument designed to catch fish. But you could, with no great injury to logic, reverse the image and define the net as a jocular lexicographer once did: he called it a collection of holes tied together with string." Julian Barnes demonstrates that it is possible to catch quite an interesting fish no matter how you define the net. --*Andrew Himes*

Review

"Delightful and enriching... A book to revel in" -- Joseph Heller "A gem: an unashamed literary novel that is also unashamed to be readable, and broadly entertaining. Bravo!" -- John Irving "Endless food for thought, beautifully written... A tour de force" -- Germaine Greer "Unputdownable... A mesmeric original" -- Philip Larkin "A wry and graceful book... Unfailingly sharp and often very funny" Sunday Times

From the Inside Flap

A kind of detective story, relating a cranky amateur scholar's search for the truth about Gustave Flaubert, and the obsession of this detective whose life seems to oddly mirror those of Flaubert's characters.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessica Bradsher:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have

do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to remain than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this specific Flaubert's Parrot book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Robin Millard:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want feel happy read one with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. Typically the Flaubert's Parrot is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Johnna Chapin:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Flaubert's Parrot, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Gregory Sims:

As a college student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library in order to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's heart or real their hobby. They just do what the professor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring along with can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this age, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Flaubert's Parrot can make you really feel more interested to read.

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