
Don't be put off by the cover, which makes it look like a romantic novel, or by the "Richard & Judy Summer Read" recommendation. This is no superficial poolside novel, but one that explores psychological distress in women undergoing surgical termination of pregnancy under local anaesthesia versus hænone-based anaesthesia.

The book opens with 19-year-old Lewis as he leaves Brixton prison, buys some new clothes with a postal order from his father and travels to meet a chily reception at his father's house in rural Surrey. The novel then goes back to 1945, when 7-year-old Lewis and his mother, Elizabeth, greet his father, Gilbert, who has just returned from the war. Gilbert shows off the display of emotion, curiosity or playfulness in his son and wife. Gilbert goes back to his job, accepting humiliation uncomplainingly from his bullying boss, Mr Carmichael. The author describes well the yearning felt by Elizabeth for love and attention on her young son. It would, of course, look like a romantic novel, or by the "Richard & Judy Summer Read" recommendation. This is no superficial poolside novel, but one that explores psychological distress in women undergoing surgical termination of pregnancy under local anaesthesia versus hænone-based anaesthesia.

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Unless otherwise noted, all book reviews are of fiction. TheOutcast, and also discovering whether their opinion of the book matched that of our guest reviewer. In the April 2009 issue, the fiction book under scrutiny will be The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards (416 pages, Penguin Books, 2007, ISBN-13: 978-0-14103-014-2). We want to remind journal readers that if they would like to offer to review an appropriate fiction title of their own choosing then they should contact the Journal Editorial Office by e-mail (journal@fsrh.org) in the first instance with details of their nominated title.
The Outcast

Gill Wakley

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