

Skylight

By José Saramago, Margaret Jull Costa

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, December 2014: Anyone who has ever lived in an apartment building is familiar with the unique intimacy that such dwellings unintentionally provide. You may never see your upstairs neighbor, but you know that he wakes up at 6am sharp, grinds his coffee beans, and has a parrot that knows how to say a few choice curse words. Sometimes you know far more--stories pieced together by casual encounters in common areas, or bits of conversations overheard through too-thin walls...In the previously unpublished novel, *Skylight*, the late, great José Saramago gives us unfettered access to the lives of several tenants in a Lisbon apartment building in 1940—lives that intersect and sometimes clash in shocking ways. Saramago's gift for penning well-drawn female characters is on full display here, as is his mastery of illuminating the extraordinary in the mundane. But *Skylight* is also a very philosophical novel in Saramago's signature style, one in which the characters wrestle with profound questions, questions the reader will grapple with long after the last page is turned. *–Erin Kodicek*

Review

"Fluid and imaginative...[*Skylight*] is a masterly creation: pessimistic without being bleak, lyrical without being sentimental...Brilliantly structured, the novel contains moments of extraordinary poignancy...[Saramago] shows humanity at its most anxious, its most vulnerable and most true." —*The Independent* (UK)

"Not only does [*Skylight*] illuminate the slow development of a radically original artist, but it is an interesting novel in its own right...The explicit sexuality of the book (which may have kept it from being considered for publication in Salazar's Portugal in 1953) is remarkable now only because it is so compassionate...Moving from character to character, the loosely plotted story includes a good deal of mean-spirited evildoing, quite in the tradition of Balzac and the naturalists. It also includes dry humour, and at least one tranquil domestic scene revealed suddenly as almost visionary." —*The Guardian* (UK)

"Compelling...[*Skylight*] is shot through with more than enough flashes of brilliance to justify it seeing the light of day." —*The National* (UAE)

From the Inside Flap

Translated by Margaret Jull Costa

Called "the book lost and found in time" by its author, *Skylight* is one of Saramago's earliest novels. The manuscript languished for decades in the publishers' offices in Lisbon and is only now being published in English.

Lisbon, late 1940s. The inhabitants of a faded apartment building are struggling to make ends meet: Silvestre the cobbler and his wife take in a disaffected young lodger; Dona Lídia, who used to work the streets, is now kept by a businessman with a roving eye. The cultivated family of Dona Cândida, come down in the world,

keep to themselves with their books and music. Emilio the humble salesman has a Spanish wife who's in a permanent rage; Claudinha, the beautiful young typist, has a boss who lusts for her; Justina and her womanizer husband live at war with each other.

Happy marriages, abusive relationships, jealousy, gossip, love—*Skylight* is a portrait of ordinary people painted by the master of the quotidian, a great observer of the immense beauty and profound hardship of the modern world.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lamont Williams:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book Skylight it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

Alvaro Holloway:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Skylight, you may enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Adele Yeager:

Reading a book being new life style in this year; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read ebooks, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and soon. The Skylight will give you new experience in reading a book.

Anita Rodriguez:

A lot of people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt that when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose often the book Skylight to make your current reading is

interesting. Your personal skill of reading talent is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the opinion about book and studying especially. It is to be 1st opinion for you to like to open up a book and study it. Beside that the e-book Skylight can to be your new friend when you're feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of these time.

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