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Mother has her hobby too:
Cleaning up debris.

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

O Western Wind Author: John Anthony Devon
Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons
Reviewer: Fred Mallender

Take one alluring and seductive young and innocent woman, two strong and allegedly handsome young men, preferably one blonde and carefree and one dark and moody, mix well, and you have the basic ingredients for that great American soapific, the "historical" novel.

Next select some period in history, any period far enough removed from the present to seem romantic will do; from that period select a few historical personalities, and then mold your story so that they can be used in the novel. Here, it should be pointed out, it is advisable to select at least one personality of whom the public is aware, since this tends to lend credence to a tale that would have none otherwise.

Fit all characters in a surrounding comparable either to paradise or the other place if violence and hardship is your dish, flavor with a dash of sex to taste, stretch out interminably, and publish. If this recipe is slavishly followed you will be the proud holder of fame and fortune, and the land of Hollywood is yours.

MR. DEVON, about whom the publishers have supplied little information, seems acquainted with this recipe, but is unable to blend the ingredients well.

Although the jacket blurb leads the reader to believe that he is going to spend some pleasant hours with the voyage of the Mayflower and the founding of Jamestown in England, unfortunately these events are to be mere window dressing for a rehash of the old boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl, boy-

gets-girl cycle.

It takes approximately one-third of the novel to set the stage and establish the hero's motive for the trip to the New World. This Cornwall section of the novel differs very little from a hundred other novels of unrequited love, and due to the familiarity of characters and action, becomes dull reading.

If the reader has survived this section, the voyage aboard the Mayflower is interestingly told in terms of the crew rather than the passengers.

LIKEWISE, the initial chapters covering the settling of what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, are well written and draw the reader's attention. Once these sections of the novel are past however, the novel degenerates again into the tedious story of insiduous love.

The writing seldom rises above the level of the acceptable, usually falling short of that, and in style, runs the gamut from the flowery to the terse, the succinct to the verbose.

The characters never attain a quality of reality, making it very difficult to care what happens to any of them. This is simply an event or "historical" novel, with nothing either to recommend or really to condemn it.

Author: Graham Greene
Publisher: Viking Press
Reviewer: Ruth Downey

The Potting Shed

The wedding of such components as mystery and the supernatural, with a theme of faith and atheism produces a strangely believable drama in Graham Greene's THE POTTING SHED.

The crux of the story is a miracle, a modern Lazarus raised from the dead, which inspires a faith with great power over the lives of a family. James, the Lazarus, is haunted by a blackout of his life until his fourteenth year. At this year an event robs him of all love and hope, and it is to regain these that he seeks and finds the answer.

AS THE skillful detective story we see faith, in this case truth, stripping reason from the

So Deadly My Love

So Deadly My Love by Stephen Ransome is the new Crime Club selection and justifiably so. A kidnapping and two murders provide excitement and drama for even the most sophisticated mystery reader.

In this case the tension is intensified as each clue and new piece of evidence strengthens the case against the estranged husband of the kidnapped woman.

Even Lynn's loyalty wavers as she hears Griff, waiting for her arrival, nervously whistling the very tune whistled by one of her abductors.

atheist father's life; the lack of faith destroying the life of a priest; and the quest for faith a driving motivation in James.

The drama's realism lies in the portrayal of minor characters, and in sterile, mundane settings.

Between the poles of fanatical rationalism and blind faith lie characters of rationalizing and weak normalcy. The drama's psychiatrist, for instance, seeks only "relative truth" to make life more tolerable, because the courage to face the truth is too difficult a neurosis.

The author obviously believes the prize of truth and faith worth the neurosis, for the drama ends optimistically with faith in sight for all and neurosis at a minimum.

Author: Stephen Ransome
Publisher: Doubleday & Co.
Reviewer: Robin Bahr

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