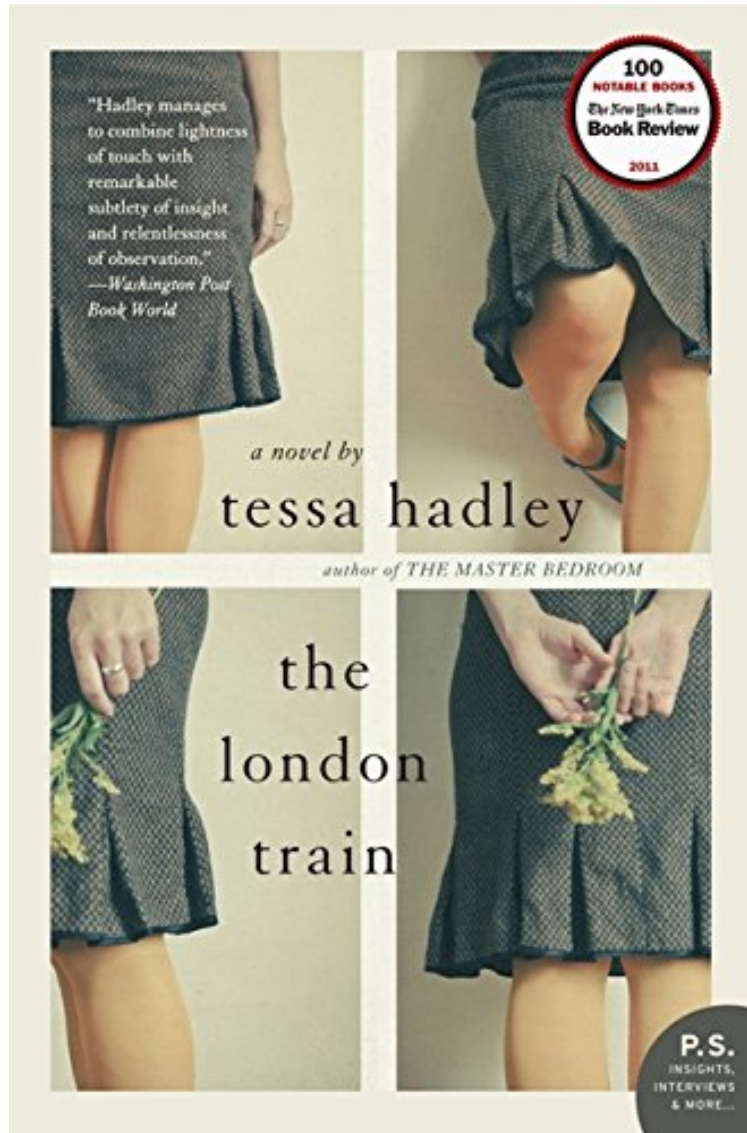


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The London Train

Tessa Hadley

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#292215 in Books Tessa Hadley 2011-05-24 2011-05-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .79 x 5.311, .57 #File Name: 0062011839352 pages The London Train | File size: 35.Mb

Tessa Hadley : The London Train before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The London Train:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wasted opportunity to use a very neat device to tell the story By O Webb Very disappointed unfortunately ... loads of points that go nowhere ... what should have been a really neat device ... London train stories ... just didn't follow through ... hate to say it but I really don't know why this was such a hit ... even the characters are horrible 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Journey in Middle Age By carole okeefe Hadley has explored relationships carefully and slowly, letting small details reveal large issues and truths. The

exploration is almost surgical. The characters need to make new decisions as each layer of a situation is revealed. Two couples whose lives turn out to be intertwined have their stories told: the fog of middle age yearnings with its ability to obscure what life has really brought will strike readers of a certain age as revelatory. The author's style is engaging and Anglophiles (even though the book also takes place in Wales) will enjoy it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interlocking tales By Claire This book is really 2 interlocked stories about a man who is trying to reestablish a relationship with his daughter and a woman who is sorting out her life in the midst of her own struggles. Without revealing too much, they are both hurting the ones they love while trying to find their way to happiness for themselves. When the story shifts it takes a bit to get into the rhythm and I did like the fact that the author worked at writing in a different voice with a different view of the world.

"Hadley is a lovely, subtly teasing writer." New York Times Book Review Long-listed for the Orange Prize

From Publishers Weekly Hadley's fourth novel (after *The Master Bedroom*) is at once a melancholy and delightful story about Paul, a poet and father of three going through a midlife crisis in a small town outside of Cardiff, Wales, and Cora, a woman from his past whose impact on his life is minimal, and yet, for the reader, pivotal. What begins as an argument with a neighbor spirals into a domestic meltdown that sends Paul storming out and traveling to London to find Pia, his daughter from a former marriage, who, as it turns out, is pregnant, has dropped out of school, and is living in an illegal flat with her boyfriend. Paul, unsure how he should act, teeters back and forth from father figure to thrilled participant in her chaotic existence. Cora, on the other hand, has taken refuge from London in her recently deceased parents' house in Cardiff after separating from her husband and now enjoys the simplicity and the quiet of the country. Her narrative fleshes out the connection she has to Paul and reveals him to be a much weaker man than he'd like to acknowledge while simultaneously offering a smart take on starting over. Hadley's twin narratives are perfectly tuned and heavy with lacerating observations about the way fate works. (June) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. Powerful. Ms. Hadley has a talent for the canny detail. There are platoons of novelists producing work about middle-class marriages in disarray, most of it very dull. Ms. Hadley is one of the gifted exceptions, and the calm acuity with which she depicts these fractured relationships is haunting. (Sam Sacks, *Wall Street Journal*) [Hadley] is a writer who has always allowed her fiction space to breathe beyond its narrative borders. . . . Shows how language, deployed with precision or daring, can make thrillingly new the textures and undercurrents of everyday life. (Peter Parker, *Sunday Times (London)*) Hadley is a close observer of her characters' inner worlds. Her language can be fine-grained, subtle, eloquent. Hadley is a supremely perceptive writer of formidable skill and intelligence, someone who goes well beyond surfaces. (Jean Thompson, *New York Times Book Review*) The *London Train* brings a quiet, nuanced intelligence to domestic fiction. The *London Train* is the sort of muted, thoughtful read that requires switching from the clattering express onto life's slow local tracks. Hadley, a meticulous stylist, has woven into her narrative reflections on memory and time. (Heller McAlpin, *NPR*) Impressive. . . . a triumph of form. (Ti Sperliger, *Independent on Sunday (London)*) Hadley's strength lies in her characterization. . . . There's something pleasingly human about them. With characters like these Hadley makes us wonder what forms our own darkness takes. (Richard Platt, *Time Out (London)*) Spectacular. A compelling and serious page-turner. (Anna Shapiro, *The Observer (London)*) On *Accidents in the Home*) Tessa Hadley is a writer whose antennae are almost indecently attuned to the interior static of private lives. . . . [M]asterly. . . . (Emma Hagestadt, *The Independent*) Elizabeth Bowen-like in its attention to nuance in language and behaviour, this concise novel also offers a sharp portrait of modern Britain. (Peter Parker, *London Sunday Times*) The minds of Paul and Cora are so fully occupied by this most astute and sympathetic of writers. . . . Hadley has crafted real excitement, so that each story ends in a flurry of curiosity and *The London Train* snaps shut with an effective twist. (Susanna Rustin, *The Guardian*) From the Back Cover Unsettled by the recent death of his mother, Paul sets out in search of Pia, his daughter from his first marriage, who has disappeared into the labyrinth of London. Discovering her pregnant and living illegally in a run-down council flat with a pair of Polish siblings, Paul is entranced by Pia's excitement at living on the edge. Abandoning his second wife and their children in Wales, he joins her to begin a new life in the heart of London. Cora, meanwhile, is running in the opposite direction, back to Cardiff, to the house she has inherited from her parents. She is escaping her marriage, and the constrictions and disappointments of her life in London. But there is a deeper reason why she cannot stay with her decent Civil Service husband: the aftershocks of which she hasn't fully come to terms with herself. Connecting both stories is the London train, and a chance meeting that will have immediate and far-reaching consequences for both Paul and Cora.