

'Funny, unexpected, fragile and inspiring' *Guardian*

# douglas coupland

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rigby*



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# Eleanor Rigby by Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland

Liz Dunn is not morbid, she's only a lonely lady with a truly pragmatic outlook Eleanor Rigby on life. Overweight, underemployed, and residing in a nondescript apartment with not anything yet chocolate pudding within the fridge, she has pretty well given up on whatever fascinating ever occurring to her. every thing alterations whilst she will get an unforeseen mobile name from a Vancouver sanatorium and a stranger takes on a truly intimate position in her life. From right here the plot of Douglas Coupland's Eleanor Rigby skyrockets Eleanor Rigby right into a very strange world, rife with opposite sing-alongs and apocalyptic visions of frantic farmers. the fashion and plot paths are very identifiably Coupland--slightly mystical, off-kilter, and very, very smart. eventually a unique in regards to the burden of loneliness, Eleanor Rigby takes its characters via unusual and occasionally approximately unbelievable predicaments. enthusiasts of Douglas Coupland's later novels, rather hiya Nostradamus! and leave out Wyoming, are sure to like Eleanor Rigby. Like a lot of his novels, the adventure is unusual and unforeseen yet you return out on the different finish with a picture of a sardonic and peculiar yet ever-so-slightly hopeful place. --Victoria Griffith

it's not that i am Liz Dunn, even though I do establish with her. Obviously, I don't have a twenty-year-old son whom I gave up for adoption. yet i will be able to comprehend her virtually ascetic obsession with solitude. I too am a solitary person; I are inclined to desire the corporate of a great booklet and its characters to the corporate of fine people. not like Liz, though, i have to confess to Eleanor Rigby having a social life. i've got friends, notwithstanding i'll now not "hang out" with them as frequently as most folks do. And whereas a few humans may possibly query its validity, my on-line interactions are a wide a part of my social matrix as well. So I get pleasure from being alone, yet i'm really not lonely consistent with se. Loneliness and the usually unforeseen connections among humans echo all through Douglas Coupland's works, yet they arrive to the vanguard in Eleanor Rigby. Liz has conscientiously ensconced herself in a bubble, warding off all however the so much resilient of her relationships. or even those are routine, predictable affairs: her mom badgers her and attempts to intrude together with her life; her sister pities her for no longer short of the existence that her sister has yet isn't satisfied with; her brother accepts her yet is wrapped up in a relatives and company of his own. the one wildcard in Liz's existence used to be the kid she had whereas she was once nonetheless in excessive school, a baby who exhibits up 20 years later, precipitating a Eleanor Rigby hindrance of loneliness Eleanor Rigby in Liz's life. One cause I take pleasure in Coupland's novels quite a bit is that his characters regularly believe like people. They speak like those people who are on the subject of one another talk, in meandering conversations that department into a number of subject matters as each one person's phrases spark new connections in others' minds. It's certainly not just like the user-friendly discussion of so much novels, in which discussion Eleanor Rigby is principally a mechanism for advancing the plot. And it comes with a challenge, due to direction fiction isn't actual life, and so one needs to stability the reasonable discussion with the desires of the story. It's this skill to strike an equilibrium among the craziness of actual lifestyles and the necessity for fiction to be plausible that makes Coupland so compelling for me. This is a stark distinction to Coupland's plots, which make little or no experience and are

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continuously lined in a modern layer of absurdity. no longer that there's something incorrect with that. Take the connection among Liz and Jeremy Eleanor Rigby for example. Jeremy's reappearance in Liz's lifestyles comes with a deadly complication: a number of sclerosis (MS). there isn't any fortunately ever after for those two, and Liz needs to face the truth that their reunion may be short-lived and complicated. i locate it attention-grabbing that there's by no means any pressure among those two. Liz accepts Jeremy's reorganization of her lifestyles with equanimity. Similarly, Jeremy does no wrong. for a child who had a slightly tough time of it in foster homes, he looks principally untroubled. He doesn't appear to have an ulterior motive, doesn't appear to be looking to simply make the most of Liz, steal her stuff, and leave. regardless of his lousy success within the foster domestic lottery, he by some means controlled to show out as an honest individual. Similarly, within the genuine world, Liz's incident on the Frankfurt airport may have even more critical effects than a slap at the wrist and a radical decontamination. In Coupland's novels, undesirable issues happen, yet they continually appear so conscientiously calibrated to a couple detailed measure of badness. this is often how i do know Eleanor Rigby Coupland, for all his caustic observations of recent society, is an optimist and never a cynic. His endings are chuffed endings—not for each character, and perhaps no longer even for the most character. humans event loss and unhappiness and death, yet by way of the tip of the book, whatever has replaced for the better. Coupland's novels are sneaky reminders that it's by no means too overdue for hope, no longer even after an apocalypse, or top oil, or the go back of one's twenty-year-old son. And then we come to the ending, which is, for me, the least passable a part Eleanor Rigby of the book. It's simply dumb: Liz flies to Austria to fulfill a person she slightly recalls from her past, after which they fall in love. I'm virtually tempted to conjecture that Coupland misplaced a gamble and was once forced, as a situation of his loss, to write down the finishing this way. yet I'm convinced he had his reasons, no longer the least of that's the necessity to rectify Liz's loneliness, which has again seeing that Jeremy's death. Still, Eleanor Rigby i feel he can have performed better. Coupland is well known not just as a author yet as a visible artist as well, and that i imagine this impacts his writing to a good extent. that's to say, his books usually appear to make extra experience while considered a bit of from a distance, as an entire and entire entity, instead of viewing them up shut and in a sustained, linear fashion. Paintings, in contrast to stories, should not intended to be learn from left to right, web page to page. Eleanor Rigby And actually, i'd most likely say Coupland's novels are extra like sculpture or an deploy piece than any two-dimensional art: assorted whilst seen from various angles, with little jaggy bits sticking out. Eleanor Rigby the linear narrative is contrived and just a little disappointing. Eleanor Rigby the murals is stimulating and moving. It's the conception of this distinction (whether wakeful or not), perhaps, that makes it attainable to be keen on Coupland. simply because those who pan his books as contrived or interestingly developed are fullyyt right. This isn't literature quite a bit because it is visible paintings translated into the written word. the truth that this appeals to me is ironic, simply because I paintings at an paintings gallery yet don't take a lot time to examine the art. I think this hasn't been a evaluate of Eleanor Rigby rather a lot as one of those rumination on Eleanor Rigby my Coupland fandom. test as I might, I'm discovering it demanding to select particular elements of Eleanor Rigby to praise, regardless of having the ability to discover a few issues i'll criticize. i guess i actually loved Jeremy's newfound curiosity in promoting mattresses. I don't understand if that's simply because it feels so quotidian and Couplandy, or if I secretly yearn for a sequence of novels that follows a bed salesman. Mostly, though, i believe Eleanor Rigby crystallized a few of my conflicting strategies and attitudes in the direction of Coupland. He's a

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greater storyteller than he's a writer, yet for all their flaws, his tales continuously appear to have nugats of truth.

## Eleanor Rigby

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