



The Graveless Doll of Eric Mutis

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'The Graveless Doll of Eric Mutis' is narrated by a young adolescent named Larry Rubio who, with his three Anthem City, New Jersey, buddies Mondo, Gus, and Juan Carlos, discovers a scarecrow lashed to an oak tree in the city park.

The Graveless Doll of Eric Mutis Details

Date : Published February 18th 2013 by Electric Literature

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Author : Karen Russell

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From Reader Review The Graveless Doll of Eric Mutis for online ebook

A. Dawes says

Wickedly clever, Russell, has the antagonist evolve into the protagonist. With a dash of fantasy and magical realism, this story is a compassionate look into the darker side of bullying and the reasons for it. Highly recommended. And who isn't scared of scarecrows?

Zoe's Human says

Touch base with Justine after reading.

Bahia says

I heard Karen Russell read and excerpt of her new book "Sleep Donation" on NPR and that lead me to purchase not only that but also this novella. All I can say is "wow". I really love her style of writing. She paints pictures with her words and builds an incredible sense of mood. Her characters are complex and developed in relation to each other. This story was creepy and surreal, but also deeply connected to real life and real world experiences. I highly recommend it.

Andy Weston says

Recently I have complained that some novels I have read would be better as novellas. Some wasted space. Now I find myself in the opposite situation.

So much goes on here, in 38 pages. The genre is horror, and I'm uncertain as to whether its aimed at teenagers or adults, but either way it works well.

Very different, and top stuff.

Jen says

Pretty freaky and disturbing.

Brianna Hamilton says

This book was hard to read because I could keep up with what was going on, it kept going back and forth between current time and flashbacks without warning.

Sandra says

Karen Russell's wicked prose and deliciously crafted metaphors ("A black eel thrashed in Larry's stomach") make this novella a captivating read, one that I would highly recommend for either the young adult audience or any adult that enjoys the slightly twisted.

The antagonist becomes the protagonist in this tale, and through the first person POV we enter the mind of Larry Rubio. He is a quiet bully whose encounter with an effigy brings his conscience over the threshold that lies between the mindlessly angry boy and the teenager who is beginning to realize that sometimes it is regrettably too late to do the right thing. Rife with internal and external conflict, this plot moves along quickly and kept me riveted the entire time.

In Larry's world, not all children have great home lives. It's a place where children have hard-working single parents and cheap, knock-off shoes. In this world, kids line up at one of two lines: the one for free lunches or the one for the kids whose families can afford to pay. The park where Larry and his friends hang out is an urban excuse for a natural wildlife area, a place even the Canadian geese choose to avoid. Whether the setting is the product of the characters in this story or the characters are a product of their environment is debatable. The author brings fully-developed characters to life in their world of Anthem City, New Jersey through realistic dialogue and crisp descriptive language.

I found this after hearing that Karen Russell would be the keynote speaker for the 2015 AWP conference (hosted in my hometown, Minneapolis, yay!). Having never read her work, I found this to be a great example of her writing, very readable at just under 40 pages.

Trina Marie says

Found this audio on New York Public Library's website, in their Summer Shorts section. It's boring tho

Benjamin says

More like 3.5 stars. This is almost by definition what you would call "literary fiction," which I have a love/loathe relationship with. Okay, not loathing, but mild annoyance. The things I love about literary fiction are the (usually) wonderful prose, deep characterization, and meaningful themes. However, I find this is usually at the detriment to an exciting and/or satisfying plot. I realize that plotting is not the point of most literary fiction. However, when a story like *The Graveless Doll of Eric Mutis* introduces such a mysterious and intriguing premise, it's hard not to feel a little let down by the lack of resolution. The story here just kind of ends. It doesn't help that the narrator is, or at least was during the time frame of the story, unappealing. Russell does however give humanity to the schoolyard bullies, though that sympathy is in short supply whenever the boy's disgusting behavior comes to light. This is definitely worth a read, and I'm excited to dig into some of Russell's other work.

Siskiyou-Suzy says

By the end of "The Graveless Doll of Eric Mutis," there's no doubt that if you had to pick who the "bad guy" is, it'd be the protagonist and his friends. Yet the protagonist is so sad, even as he's awful -- his lack of identity, his manic need to justify his cruelty, his cowardice is all so heartbreakingly awful. This story just kicks you in the guts. Nobody is happy, nobody won, all the characters are just eating away at each other and themselves until there's nothing left of anybody.

Pauline West says

This is one of the most frightening and most hauntingly powerful stories I have read about adolescence. About midway through I almost put it down-it was breaking my heart- but glad I broke through. It tells the becoming of a kind of man few of us understand.

Stacia says

Under 40 pages but a well-developed story about bullies and their victim. It has a creepy edge to it and wonderful descriptions by the author really help develop the sense of foreboding. I like that it doesn't end with all of the questions answered - it adds to the creep-factor.

Mariana Montiel says

Well written but this freaked me out and disturbed me so badly Also the way in which it kept switching fomr present to flashbacks really confused me. I'm not sure I followed the sequence of events well. Maybe I didn't understand everything...? However, the author did submerge me in the story.
