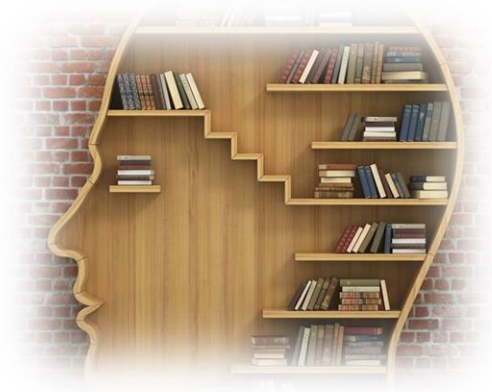


BOOK THOUGHTS

BATCH 33
BATCH 33



1. The Fury - Alex Michaelides
2. **The Future is Now** - Bob McDonald
3. Mercury - Amy Jo Burns

BLUE = MEMOIR OR BIOGRAPHICAL

BLACK = FICTION

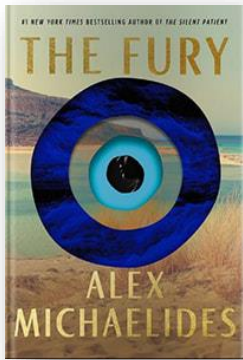
DARK RED = EDUCATIONAL + HISTORICAL FICTION

PURPLE = ESSAY OR STORIES

ORANGE = POETRY

THE FURY

ALEX MICHAELIDES



A cross between "Clue" and "Knives Out."

How did the book make me feel/think?

A group of fawning, self-absorbed narcissists seek to flaunt their fading glory, escaping the dreariness of England for the idyllic, sun-drenched Greek islands.

These characters are fixated on one thing: their reflections. As a fading star dims, their stories of opulence and excess turn the pages, gripping readers and transporting them through lives most can only imagine. It offers a glimpse, to us common folk, into a world that begs the question: why would anyone want to live in it?

"The Fury" by Alex Michaelides stands out as a refreshingly original tale, with his narration inviting readers to dive into this new twist on a tried-and-true genre. It reads like a cross between "Clue" and "Knives Out."

For those who enjoy this genre and fancy the idea of escaping the monotony of everyday life for a glimpse into the ephemeral world of fleeting celebrity, this book will leave you breathless as you navigate the gauntlet of surprises that await you on every page.

WRITTEN; 12 December 2023

Lindsay Wincherauk

THE FUTURE IS NOW

BOB McDONALD



Are humans the last elephants in the room?

How did the book make me feel/think?

There's no denying that we, as humans, are orchestrating our own downfall. Our planet, the cradle of our existence, is under threat due to our actions. The relentless hum of consumerism and the insatiable appetite for material wealth are testament to how our pursuit of a certain lifestyle has contributed to environmental devastation. The Industrial Revolution, which symbolized progress, ironically paved the way for the environmental crises we face today due to its excessive and unsustainable practices.

Warnings are sounding with an unmistakable sense of urgency to address these dire issues. However, the economic implications of transitioning from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources present a multifaceted challenge. Economic factors often weigh heavily in the decision-making process, reflecting the complexity of embracing sustainable practices.

In the wild, animals consume only what they need for survival, either gradually heading towards extinction or being hastened to their end by human encroachment and habitat destruction, accelerating their demise as we prioritize our own lifestyle preferences.

For the duration of the Industrial Age, it is the mantra of 'more is better' that has defined progress, and we have embraced this wholeheartedly.

Now, we find ourselves in a precarious position, instructed that our compliance poses a danger to our continued existence. News reports continually highlight the predatory cost of living, urging a transformative change in how we live.

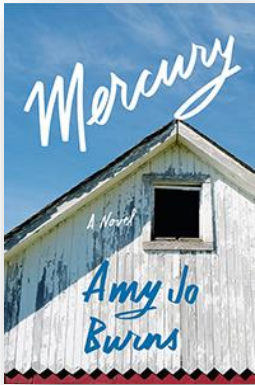
"The Future Is Now (maybe too late)" by Bob McDonald insightfully underscores how we possess the means and capacity to alter our trajectory and foster a greener world, potentially saving humanity. McDonald's approach is nuanced, avoiding additional blame on an already bewildered populace. Instead, he illuminates the stark reality: while we have alternatives to fossil fuels, their significant economic costs are daunting. This brings us face-to-face with the proverbial 'last elephant in the room': the lack of economic willingness to implement necessary changes, especially when so many people are uncertain about their next meal.

WRITTEN: 12 December 2023

2

MERCURY
TATEKOKI

AMY JO BURNS



Connects with readers by mirroring common familial dynamics...

How did the book make me feel/think?

In the novel “Mercury” by Amy Jo Burns, a once vibrant town is reinvigorated by the arrival of an outsider. This individual integrates into a prestigious local family, known for their roofing business—a trio of sons, a father shadowed by his experiences in Vietnam, and a self-sacrificing matriarch, Elise, who suppresses her own needs to tend to her masculine household.

Upon meeting Marley, the newcomer, Elise (an underlying condition lurks inside her) struggles with feelings of isolation, her ability to lead dimmed by the toll of her lifelong dedication to her family.

“Mercury” paints a relatable portrait of life in the fading towns scattered across America. The narrative brings together familiar elements: a fractured patriarch and a set of brothers competing for recognition, particularly the middle son, whom everyone views as special.

The tale connects with readers by mirroring common familial dynamics without resorting to excess or improbability. However, the story takes a sharp turn. Abruptly, two characters are revealed to be gay – a lazy revelation that alters the direction of the family drama. This shift, somewhat unexplained, left me perplexed about its purpose in the narrative.

I am hesitant to expand further on my thoughts, wary of possibly sounding insensitive.

“Thankfully, the writer avoided the cliché of diversifying the cast merely through the love interest’s ethnicity.”

Reflecting on what I’ve written, I wonder if I should have refrained from commenting further.

WRITTEN; 12 December 2023