

A WISHING SHELF BOOK REVIEW

27th July, 2019

TITLE: Cooperative Lives

AUTHOR: Patrick Finegan

Star Rating: 5

CATCHY QUOTE

‘A literary work of art. A look at life and how it was; how, in many ways, it still is. Very enjoyable.’ The Wishing Shelf

REVIEW

This novel is a rich tapestry, strong on character - and range of characters - and almost as strong on plot. Set in New York only a few years ago, it is a story written with a gold-tipped pen; a story full of complex characters, many, if not all of them, inherently imperfect and distrustful of others. And, I must say, I enjoyed it very much.

The reader is introduced to a large number of characters - you will have to work a little to keep on top of who is who - and a cleverly written, complex plot. All of the characters, even the

secondary, jump off the page. So much so, I was sympathising with many and rooting for the rest. The plot looks at many different topics, from family secrets to love, from loss to the agony of divorce. It is a story of sentiments and feelings; a story of how what we do can effect so many others.

Is there a plot? Yes, there is. It's in there. But if you are looking for a plot-driven story, this is probably not for you. But what you will find is a host of splendidly-developed characters that will not only fascinate you but will also force you to think. There's a lot of commentary hidden in here, on how the world works or, indeed, how it's not working. But the author's sly and has such competent writing skills, he can put over his message without the reader ever feeling overwhelmed.

The author, Patrick Finegan, works particularly well with setting. He understands how important it is not to just simply describe the setting but, rather, have the characters interact with it in a natural and unobtrusive way. There's a lot of imagery here as the author, very successfully, helps the reader to get to know the New York setting.

So, to sum up, do I recommend this book?
Yes, absolutely! If you enjoy a
'thoughtful' tale, the sort of story that
keeps you guessing, a story populated
with well-constructed characters, then
this is for you. In fact, I enjoyed it so
much, I'm now going to recommend it to my
husband.

I so love it when I discover a new author
to enjoy!

Editing: 10/10

Plot: 9/10

Writing Style: 10/10

To Sum Up: A gripping, character-driven
novel.

A 'Wishing Shelf' Book Review

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