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Vertigo: A Novel in Woodcuts (Dover Fine Art, History of Art)

Lynd Ward

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#205229 in Books 2009-01-26 2009-01-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.10 x .70 x 6.10l, 1.36 #File Name: 0486468895320 pages | File size: 27.Mb

Lynd Ward : Vertigo: A Novel in Woodcuts (Dover Fine Art, History of Art) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vertigo: A Novel in Woodcuts (Dover Fine Art, History of Art):

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. What's old is new againBy wiredweirdFirst published in 1937, Ward's Vertigo paints a triptych of Depression-era images - the kind with a new urgency in the 2008-9 economic downturn. The first of these stories, The Girl, traces years of a young woman's life from childhood, through high

school graduation, and into the promise of a happy and fulfilling adulthood. The promise isn't kept, however, when personal tragedy strikes, followed by a long, slow slide into poverty. As happens so often in life, this sad story ends with a minor, almost trivial moment that captures the bitter irony of that broken promise. The second story, *The Elderly Man*, examines months in the life of a captain of industry. That captain is sinking, however, as his health fails, his business collapses, and his lieutenants launch a brutal union-busting campaign that seems to horrify him. In this book's third story, *The Boy*, time compresses even further, to just a few days. After leaving an abusive home, his decline on the streets comes even faster. Of course, the ambiguity of these wordless stories and complex images means that other readers will see things very differently than I do. These images and narratives practically beg readers to impose their own vision onto the story. Each reader and perhaps each reading can be a unique experience. I enjoy this book at many levels. The woodcut artwork alone deserves attention, irrespective of the stories it tells, partly because of the way it evokes the WPA style of the later Depression years. Then, modern readers might find interest in this grandfather of the modern graphic novel, showing how complex and mature the medium has been and can be again. The stories in these "pictorial narratives" explain this book's 70+ years of popularity, however, putting human faces to a few of the Depression's many tragedies.-- wiredweird1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Classic within graphic novels. By C~A~T This book had some great stories in it, and reading without words is a very new experience. I enjoyed it a lot. If you to are interested in this book I suggest researching the wood carving techniques that were used as well as the stories, as they can be hard to interpret. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CV0725 Love it!

One of the finest wood engravers of the twentieth century, Lynd Ward took his work to a new dimension when he created the "wordless novel." *Gods' Man*, his first novel in woodcuts, appeared in 1929; during the 1930s, he published five more pictorial narratives. Ward earned the Library of Congress Award, the Caldecott Medal, and other prestigious awards. *Vertigo*, published in 1937, is considered to be his masterpiece. Telling this poignant story with 230 stylized woodcuts, the artist rewards his readers' eyes with the intricate beauty of his craft and satisfies their spirits with a freedom of interpretation that extends beyond the reach of words. Published more than seventy years ago in the midst of the Great Depression, the dramatic tale of three people dealing with financial instability, joblessness, and debt rings strikingly true today. A young girl who longs to be an accomplished violinist, and a boy who hopes to become a builder, find their dreams shattered by desperate economic times. When an elderly gentleman wields his power to cut his business losses, all three lives are changed forever. Includes a new introduction by David Beron, a woodcut novel historian and the author of *Wordless Books: The Original Graphic Novels*.

About the Author American artist and storyteller Lynd Ward (1905-85) illustrated more than 200 juvenile and adult books, working in wood engraving, watercolors, oil, and lithography. He is particularly famous for his woodcut-illustrated wordless novels, the precursors to today's graphic novels.