

[FREE] South Wind

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Norman Douglas

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Norman Douglas : South Wind before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised South Wind:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. South Wind is an old minor classic which I love, but will probably not appeal to younger readersBy Deborah Cowanthis edition is so full of typos it's almost impossible to read. South Wind is an old minor classic which I love, but will probably not appeal to younger readers.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Quirky Mind CandyBy EnjaybeeI came to South Wind out of curiosity. I first heard it mentioned, of all places, in Dorothy L. Sayers' Clouds of Witness. It's one of the books found in the bedroom of poor Denis Cathcart. I always wondered why that book, and why Peter Wimsey found it so revealing of the man. Then I read a review this year--in the Christian Science Monitor, I think. Had to try it. Well, I can what see Lord Peter saw. It might not be to everyone's taste, but I found it quirky, funny and very revealing of a certain kind of early 20th century thinking. The writer has a gift for wit, satire and sly description of character.By the way, that's important, because the book is all about the characters. There really isn't much of a plot, so if you go into it thinking the Big Event is going to happen in the next chapter, you're going to be disappointed. Not much really happens on the Island of Nepenthe, which is the point. All these ex-pats come to the island, some to stay permanently, some just "for the season." They're all trying to escape some place else--usually cold England, both its weather and what they feel are the constrictions of its societal demands, as well as whatever unfortunate personal messes they've left behind. Nepenthe offers them the temporary vision (and fantasy) of a life free of most restrictions where everyone seems to tolerate everyone else, even poverty isn't particularly onerous because there's always someone around to stand the drinks and invite one to dinner parties, and the hardest work anyone seems to do is be part of the conspiracy to keep the town drunk from getting

herself into too much trouble. And there's a wry and satirical look at that popular myth that seemed to be going around in England then: that only by returning to the purity of Greek culture, with its imagined freedoms from the constrictions of current British society, could one really live. The boring, duty-bound life of England was stifling and only in the hot Mediterranean with its very different attitudes could one be truly free to live and be one's self. It's not a difficult read. A good book to curl up with on a rainy weekend (the sun is almost always shining on Nepenthe and it's always hot). It's a lot like those crustless sandwiches served at high tea. Great fun if not particularly nourishing over the long haul. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Corfu in 1910 By Malcolm Barnett This is an old book that is strikingly like Kings Row-but not as well written. It describes a fictitious set of characters that I am told were based on real people on Corfu. A good editor would have saved it-indeed still could if it were worthwhile.

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About the Author Douglas is a British author who mostly penned travelogues. His work depicted his unique style and approach. Some of his works attained great popularity.