



Shadow of Ashland

Terence M. Green

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In the depths of the Great Depression, Jack Radey left his home in Toronto to seek a better life in the United States. He left behind a newly married sister and his estranged father. They received only one letter from him. As she lies dying in 1984, Leo Nolan's mother asks him to find her brother, Jack Radey, whom she hasn't seen or heard from in over fifty years. Leo does everything he can to locate his uncle, but can find no trace before his mother dies. And then a letter arrives. It is from Jack. It was sent a few weeks after the other letter - fifty years ago. Jack had just moved on in his search for work. Some time later another letter arrives from Jack, also postmarked in 1934. Jack was heading south. A final letter arrives - from Ashland, Kentucky. Jack had settled down there. Fifty years ago. Moved by these letters, windows on the youth of his mother and an uncle he never knew, Leo goes to Ashland. He finds a town that still bears the scars of the 1930s. He finds his love, a woman who, like Leo, has been disappointed by life but who is unwilling to let it make her bitter. And he finds Jack, a man pushed to desperate action, while Leo himself experiences the despair of the Great Depression as no one else has in over fifty years.

Shadow of Ashland Details

Date : Published February 12th 2000 by Forge Books (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780312873011

Author : Terence M. Green

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Fiction, Fantasy, Mystery, Science Fiction, Time Travel

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From Reader Review Shadow of Ashland for online ebook

Kevin says

I found this wonderful little novel at a library book sale and paid a whole dollar for it. Money well spent! I enjoyed the story very much, especially the seamless jumping back and forth across time. Good stuff! Time to seek out more of Mr. Green's work...

Whitney says

This is a real page turner. I sat down and I read this book in just over an hour. I loved the story, it really keeps you guessing, gives insight into what life was like in the past, and shines light on the importance of family.

Kev Willoughby says

Nice time-travel type of story that reminded me of the movie, "The Lake House," because the protagonist, Leo, receives a series of hand-written letters (one at a time) from his uncle 50 years after they were originally mailed.

The "present day" portions of the story take place in Kentucky in 1984, not far from Cincinnati. As a baseball fan, I enjoyed the accounts of the Reds, Tigers, Blue Jays, and other teams and players from the '84 season that made cameo appearances at different points in the story. Eventually, Leo meets the 1930s version of his long-missing uncle and finds out some interesting things about his past. And along the way, Leo starts to put the pieces of his own future together.

I found the accounts of life in both 1984 and 1934 to be very endearing, but couldn't follow how Leo suddenly found himself in 1934 alongside his uncle, nor how he made it back to 1984. In some ways, it made me think of the exchange between Kevin Costner and Burt Lancaster on the streets of Chisholm, Minnesota in "Field of Dreams."

This book is the first in a series, but I'm not sure if I'll continue with the second book or not.

Spark says

Was a good read on a rainy day when I was feeling under the weather, but I ultimately found it unsatisfying. Wanted more depth to the characters. Felt like Leo and Jack especially needed to be fleshed out more fully.

Harriette says

Loved it! Thought provoking.

Zoe Schools says

Wonderful story about a man who is trying to answer his mother's last question. What happen to her brother, Jack?

Amy says

A quiet, somewhat melancholy book that tells of a man's search for family through time and space. Loss, love and family all intertwine to give a picture of life in the Great Depression.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

In the depths of the Great Depression, Jack Radey left his home in Toronto to seek a better life in the United States. He left behind a newly married sister and his estranged father. They received only one letter from him. As she lies dying in 1984, Leo Nolan's mother asks him to find her brother, Jack Radey, whom she hasn't seen or heard from in over fifty years. Leo does everything he can to locate his uncle, but can find no trace before his mother dies. And then a letter arrives. It is from Jack. It was sent a few weeks after the other letter - fifty years ago. Jack had just moved on in his search for work. Some time later another letter arrives from Jack, also postmarked in 1934. Jack was heading south. A final letter arrives - from Ashland, Kentucky. Jack had settled down there. Fifty years ago. Moved by these letters, windows on the youth of his mother and an uncle he never knew, Leo goes to Ashland. He finds a town that still bears the scars of the 1930s. He finds his love, a woman who, like Leo, has been disappointed by life but who is unwilling to let it make her bitter. And he finds Jack, a man pushed to desperate action, while Leo himself experiences the despair of the Great Depression as no one else has in over fifty years.

Peter Bradley says

Please give my Amazon review a helpful vote - <https://www.amazon.com/review/R32E1QN...>

This is a well-written and well-plotted book. I liked the main character and I remained curious throughout the story in finding out how it would end.

Nonetheless, the book didn't impress me and I doubt that it will stay with me.

The story begins with Leo Nolan's mother dying. It is 1984 and Leo's mother's last wish is to see her brother, Jack, who disappeared fifty years before. Leo starts on this project, but his mother dies before he can get anywhere. Suddenly, though, his father receives a letter from Jack, which is postmarked fifty years before. Leo decides to follow the postmark trail on Jack's belatedly delivered letters to Ashland, Kentucky. In Ashland, Leo stays at the hotel where Jack stayed, and he develops a love affair with a waitress at the Woolworth.

Then, for no explained reason, and without causing Leo any concern, Leo begins to see Jack. Then he starts to follow Jack. Then, he speaks to Jack and, for no particular reason, and without any particular reaction of

surprise on the part of Leo, he ends up fifty years in the past where he can unravel some mysteries, including unknown relatives and Jack's fate.

The tone of the book is melancholy. Memory is the theme of the book. The characters remember back fifty years, to a time when they listened to radio and saw King Kong at the movies and won a raffle at the movies and fought on the side of the union or the side of the strikebreaker. The pace is leisurely. Leo accepts everything in stride, whether it is a love affair with the waitress or jumping back in time fifty years.

I think there are three reasons this book left me feeling "bleh."

First, the time travel element was odd and underplayed. Yes, certainly, Leo isn't going to have the technical ability to unravel the secrets of time travel, but, certainly, he should have been more surprised than he was, unless he had a brain embolism or was dreaming it all, which is not how the story plays.

Second, I liked the historical bits, but they left me wondering what was going on. What was the point of mentioning Father Coughlin? I don't remember people still carrying a grudge about the strikes of the Depression in 1984, so why make that such an issue? Was it to excuse the plan to rob the bank on the grounds that the rich ought to pay?

Third, we never found out what happened to Jack. We thought we got a conclusion, which would have been a good ending, but that was a red-herring, it seems. The actual answer was never delivered.

This is a short, decent, well-written book. If you have a hankering to relive the 1930s and a low-tolerance for magical time-travel, then this might be your book.

Her Royal Orangeness says

<http://onlyorangery.blogspot.com/2011...>

Nance says

Really wanted to know where the letters were coming from.

bridget trinkaus says

this went really fast. i really enjoyed it

Laura says

Revisiting a book I remember as an old favorite from my bookstore days, circa 1996. I hope it's as good as I remember...

John says

Not a great book but an OK book. I only picked it up because I was born in Ashland. Easy read.

Heather says

I liked this book....quick afternoon read. Kinda scary reading about the depression.....a little too close to home living in Detroit today.
