



## Home Truths

*David Lodge*

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## **Home Truths** David Lodge

Adrian Ludlow, a novelist with a distinguished but slightly faded reputation, is living in semi-retirement with his wife, Eleanor, in an isolated cottage beneath the flight path of London's Gatwick airport. Their old friend from college days, Sam Sharp, who has since become a successful screenplay writer, drops by unexpectedly on the way to Los Angeles. Sam is fuming over a scathing profile of himself by Fanny Tarrant, one of the new breed of pugnacious interviewers, in that day's newspaper. Together, Sam and Adrian plan to take revenge on the journalist, though Adrian is risking what he values most: his privacy. What follows is unexpected and upsetting for all of them, including Fanny.

David Lodge's delicious novella examines with characteristic wit and insight the tensions between private life and public interest in contemporary culture.

## **Home Truths Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2000 by Penguin Books (first published 1999)

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Author : David Lodge

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## From Reader Review Home Truths for online ebook

### **João Moura says**

Trata-se de uma adaptação de uma peça de teatro, por isso é de leitura simples e agradável, com poucas personagens e acontecimentos. Uma crítica aos paparazzi e aos jornalistas que entrevistam as celebridades...

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### **Leah says**

This book was just ok. The story is interesting, but I didn't like where it went at the end. Basically, these two writers are trying to get back at an interviewer who has written some nasty things about them. However, the wife of one of the writers unwittingly releases some personal information that she shouldn't have and it gets published. However, the article is published on the same day that Princess Diana dies, so no one reads it anyway. Wuah wuah.

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### **Priscilla says**

What fun. Lodge manages to skewer self-absorbed writers and the journalists who unmask their weaknesses at the same time. When I started the book, as usual, I checked when it was written and noted the time when it was set and guessed at the deus ex machina that would resolve the conflicts at the end. Although not a surprise, it was very satisfactorily handled. I think my next book will also be a Lodge.

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### **Alistair Edwards says**

As a lecturer myself, I like anything by David Lodge and came across this one I had not read in a charity shop. It is adapted from a play and it was easy to see how it would have been staged.

It was an amusing, short read.

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### **Yersinia Pestis says**

Home Truths (1999)

Non mi sembrano chissà quali rivelazioni quelle uscite dall'intervista, sarebbero interessate davvero a qualcuno se non ci fosse stato l'evento catartico del finale a distogliere l'attenzione nazionale?

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### **Rui Alves de Sousa says**

Uma peça de teatro transformada em livro, que se lê depressa mas com um enorme prazer. David Lodge escreveu diálogos deliciosos nesta crítica ao mundo dos media e das celebridades. Funciona exactamente por, ao menos, conseguir ser exactamente aquilo que pretende dar ao leitor. Um livro muito divertido.

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## **Susana says**

*(review in English below)*

Não me lembrava (e ainda não me lembro) de ter lido este livro anteriormente, pelo que decidi levá-lo para uma viagem de autocarro, porque os que tinha "em mãos" eram inconvenientemente grandes.

De leitura fácil, com bastantes diálogos e um ritmo rápido, com um humor tipicamente britânico e tipicamente "lodgiano", foi uma opção excelente.

Por vezes nota-se demasiado que se trata duma adaptação duma peça do próprio autor, tal como explicado no prefácio, mas nada que incomode muito.

Gostei (novamente?).

*I couldn't remember if I'd read this book already, so I decided to take it for a bus trip, because my "currently reading" ones were inconveniently big.*

*An easy read, with lots of dialogue and a fast pace, the typical british - and typical "lodgish" - humor, it was an excellent choice.*

*Sometimes it becomes too obvious that this is an adaptation from a play by Lodge himself (as explained in the Foreword) but it didn't bother me.*

*I liked it (again?).*

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## **Anthony says**

I have occasionally toyed with turning both of my less-than-successful attempts at one-act plays into novellas. David Lodge's *Home Truths* made me think twice about it. Lodge's novella is a prose rendering of his play of the same title. His short note at the beginning tells you so, and also tells you that he put back in dialogue cut from various productions of the play. The problem is, the novella doesn't feel like a novella -- it feels like a playscript with very very explicit stage directions added in, and one odd veering-off into something that could not actually have been staged the way it's written (which, perhaps, was Lodge's whole intent for the piece, but since most of it sticks to what conceivably would have been an English Country Home One Room Drama, the piece that doesn't take place in that one room feels highly highly out of place.)

The plot, in short, is this: retired author Adrian Ludlow and his wife are visited by their old friend Sam Sharp, who is quite upset a scathing profile done by paparazzi-journalist Fanny Tarrant. A revenge scheme is set up, involving Adrian being interviewed by Tarrant at the same time that he interviews her. Will the retired author give up his own beloved privacy to skewer the woman who skewers famous people?

I have a feeling if I had seen *Home Truths* staged, I'd have enjoyed it quite a bit. The very British snappy patter speaks to me, and the topic is ... well, topical, perhaps even moreso now than when the play was written in 1998 (the action takes place around a pivotal cultural moment in 1997). But in book form, Lodge uses an awful lot of "he said" style dialogue tags that quickly get repetitive and actually annoying, cutting into the flow of the story. And in the end, the point Lodge seems to be trying to make is almost too cliche precisely because of that pivotal cultural moment Lodge relies on to make the point.

Reading this novella was instructional for me as a writer, but not something I'd recommend eagerly to others.

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### **Best\_books says**

So having always professed to not liking David Lodge's writing that much I quite enjoyed this short tale about the frailty of artists and the integrity of journalists. Worth a read if you have an evening to kill ... and I may even try another of his books if I too find a similar slot of free time.

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### **ristubasan says**

Very quick read, essentially a three-act play set in a single room, and acknowledged as such by the author. Three stars for dialogue and wit. The characters are fickle, though, which makes the plot seem implausible.

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### **Denise Lancaster says**

Medio pelo. Para pasar el rato.

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### **Sarah says**

I really would have liked this better as the play. It was fine, as stories go, but it was mostly talking and I would have liked to see the people marching about a frowsy cottage waving their arms about. I thank Penguin for putting a nice living room on the cover.

I have only one major complaint. The entire novella takes place in one house, except for one scene that happens in a car. Fine. But when the person gets to their destination, the house, they basically repeat everything that happened in the car. Like this:

Sarah sat down at the computer and wrote a review of a book she had read. Then she caught the attention of the man sitting next to her as she wrote.

"Oh, it's you Sarah! I didn't expect you to catch my attention," said the man. "Why have you done this?"

"I've just finished writing this book review," she said.

Maybe it's some kind of commentary on journalism or whatever, but it struck me as a playwright who was like "Hot damn I'm gonna put 'em in a car!" because his usual work can't afford that kind of stagecraft.

Another mark against it was that while talking about it with Greg, who had read it first and was trying to understand why I was talking so long to read such a short book, I managed to guess just about the entire plot. Oh well.

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### **Nicole says**

Short, somewhat amusing, but the Diana bits at the end were terrible. He may have written himself into a corner.

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### **Elizzy B says**

Novelita muy breve al más puro estilo de David Lodge, con un final más cómodo que otras suyas. Es interesante y me gustó bastante. Se nota su origen teatral, pero eso no lo resta interés.

Very brief novel with Lodge style, but with a more comfortable ending than in other of his works. It is interesting and I quite liked it. You can see the theatrical origin, but that does not lose interest.

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### **Alejandro Sierra says**

¿Qué hacer cuando una periodista de chismes expone al mundo tus debilidades más íntimas, abusando de la confianza que le tuviste? Con un plan de venganza, destinado al fracaso, se desemboca una novela que se nota fue basada en una obra teatral, por la escasez de locaciones y el desarrollo a partir de diálogos. Novela muy interesante, sobre la vanidad y el miedo a exponer nuestras debilidades, así como el sensacionalismo que puede ser mortal, como en el caso de la princesa Diana. Las dudas de la mediana edad, la tragedia de haber tenido un prematuro éxito que ensombrecerá tus esfuerzos posteriores. Finalmente, una mirada a circunstancias y relaciones humanas, como el trío protagónico, que sin duda nos hacen reflexionar. Desde hace tiempo prefiero leer los originales en inglés, porque las traducciones españolas apresuradas y llenas de coloquialismos me irritan, al punto de interrumpir la lectura. Pero esta traducción de Jaime Zulaika no está mal, fuera del inevitable uso exclusivo y extenuante del antepresente en los diálogos, no abusa de expresiones vulgares. Recomendable.

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