



As for Me and My House (New Canadian Library)

By Sinclair Ross

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As for Me and My House (New Canadian Library) By Sinclair Ross

“It’s an immense night out there, wheeling and windy. The lights on the street and in the houses against the black wetness, little unilluminating glints that might be painted on it. The town seems huddled together, cowering on a high tiny perch, afraid to move lest it topple into the wind.”

The town is Horizon, the setting of Sinclair Ross' brilliant classic study of life in the Depression era. Hailed by critics as one of Canada's great novels, *As For Me and My House* takes the form of a journal. The unnamed diarist, one of the most complex and arresting characters in contemporary fiction, explores the bittersweet nature of human relationships, of the unspoken bonds that tie people together, and the undercurrents of feeling that often tear them apart. Her chronicle creates an intense atmosphere, rich with observed detail and natural imagery.

As For Me and My House is a landmark work. It is essential reading for anyone who seeks to understand the scope and power of the Canadian novel.

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As for Me and My House (New Canadian Library) By Sinclair Ross Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

Sinclair Ross was born on a homestead near Shelbrooke in northern Saskatchewan in 1908. He dropped out of school after grade eleven to work in a bank. After working in many small-town banks in Saskatchewan, he transferred to a bank in Winnipeg in 1933. In 1941 he published his first novel, *As For Me and My House*, with its evocation of prairie life during the Depression. The prairie is the major setting for his two collections of short fiction, *The Lamp at Noon and Other Stories* and *The Race and Other Stories*.

From 1942 until 1946 Ross served with the Canadian army in London, England. In 1946 he returned briefly to Winnipeg before settling in Montreal, where he continued in banking until his retirement in 1968.

Ross' later novels, *The Well*, *Whir of Gold*, and *Sawbones Memorial*, continue his exploration of prairie life and its power to challenge as well as sustain its inhabitants.

Upon his retirement Ross lived in Greece and then in Spain. He returned to Montreal in 1980, and two years later moved to Vancouver.

Sinclair Ross died in Vancouver in 1996.

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Saturday Evening, April 8

Philip has thrown himself across the bed and fallen asleep, his clothes on still, one of his long legs dangling to the floor. . . .

He looks old and worn-out tonight; and as I stood over him a little while ago his face brought home to me how he shrinks from another town, how tired he is, and heartsick of it all. I ran my fingers through his hair, then stooped and kissed him. Lightly, for that is of all things what I mustn't do, let him ever suspect me of being sorry. He's a very adult, selfsufficient man, who can't bear to be fussed or worried over; and sometimes, broodless old woman that I am, I get impatient being just his wife, and start in trying to mother him too.

His sermon for tomorrow is spread out on the little table by the bed, the text that he always uses for his first Sunday. *As For Me and My House We Will Serve the Lord*. It's a stalwart, four-square, Christian sermon. It nails his colors to the mast. It declares to the town his creed, lets them know what they may expect. The Word of God as revealed in Holy Writ — Christ Crucified — salvation through His Grace — those are the things that Philip stands for.

And as usual he's been drawing again. I turned over the top sheet, and sure enough on the back of it there was a little Main Street sketched. It's like all the rest, a single row of smug, false-fronted stores, a loiterer or two, in the distance the prairie again. And like all the rest there's something about it that hurts. False fronts ought to be laughed at, never understood or pitied. They're such outlandish things, the front of a store built up to look like a second storey. They ought always to be seen that way, pretentious, ridiculous, never as Philip sees them, stricken with a look of self-awareness and futility.

That's Philip, though, what I must recognize and acknowledge as the artist in him. Sermon and drawing together, they're a kind of symbol, a summing up. The smalltown preacher and the artist — what he is and what he nearly was — the failure, the compromise, the going-on — it's all there — the discrepancy between the man and the little niche that holds him.

And that hurt too, made me slip away furtively and stand a minute looking at the dull bare walls, my shoulders drawn up round my ears to resist their cold damp stillness. And huddling there I wished for a son again, a son that I might give back a little of what I've taken from him, that I might at least believe I haven't altogether wasted him, only postponed to another generation his fulfillment. A foolish, sentimental wish that I ought to have outgrown years ago — that drove me outside at last, to stand on the doorstep shivering, my lips locked, a spatter of rain in my face.

It's an immense night out there, wheeling and windy. The lights on the street and in the houses are helpless against the black wetness, little unilluminating glints that might be painted on it. The town seems huddled together, cowering on a high, tiny perch, afraid to move lest it topple into the wind. Close to the parsonage is the church, black even against the darkness, towering ominously up through the night and merging with it. There's a soft steady swish of rain on the roof, and a gurgle of eavestroughs running over. Above, in the high cold night, the wind goes swinging past, indifferent, liplessly mournful. It frightens me, makes me feel lost, dropped on this little perch of town and abandoned. I wish Philip would waken.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ella Butler:

The feeling that you get from *As for Me and My House* (New Canadian Library) may be the more deep you digging the information that hide within the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but *As for Me and My House* (New Canadian Library) giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood through anyone who read this because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. That book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this particular *As for Me and My House* (New Canadian Library) instantly.

Ruth Davis:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the reserve untitled As for Me and My House (New Canadian Library) can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Kenneth Hill:

As for Me and My House (New Canadian Library) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing As for Me and My House (New Canadian Library) although doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

Daniel Gomez:

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