

Zoo, or Letters Not About Love

By Viktor Shklovsky

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While living in exile in Berlin, the formidable literary critic Viktor Shklovsky fell in love with Elsa Triolet. He fell into the habit of sending Elsa several letters a day, a situation she accepted under one condition: he was forbidden to write about love. Zoo, or Letters Not about Love is an epistolary novel born of this constraint, and although the brilliant and playful letters contained here cover everything from observations about contemporary German and Russian life to theories of art and literature, nonetheless every one of them is indirectly dedicated to the one topic they are all required to avoid: their author's own unrequited love.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
The Russian Shklovsky's own infatuation with a woman led to this epistolary novel set in 1922 in which a man is permitted to write to a woman named Alya under the condition that he not talk about love. During the subsequent correspondence, the author makes observations about Russian life, art, literature etc., all of which under the surface really are about love.
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Review

"... a work of gossip, allusion and esoteric reference, with devices--some typographical--which Shklovsky borrowed from Sterne, whom he much admired. "--John Bayley, Listener

Language Notes
Text: English (translation)
Original Language: Russian

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Curnutt:

Typically the book Zoo, or Letters Not About Love has a lot of information on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after looking over this book.

Dale Winsett:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Zoo, or Letters Not About Love, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Ariane Swanson:

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Ian Louviere:

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