

Used To Live Here Once: A Literary Analysis

Kelly Link's novel *Used To Live Here Once* is a critically acclaimed work of fiction that has been praised for its unique blend of magical realism, surrealism, and traditional storytelling. The novel tells the interconnected stories of several characters who are all connected to a single house. The house, which is located in a small town in California, has a long and mysterious history, and its former occupants all seem to have left their mark on it in some way. The novel explores themes of love, loss, memory, and the nature of identity.



I Used to Live Here Once: The Haunted Life of Jean

Rhys by Miranda Seymour

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 9683 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 295 pages



Characters

The novel's cast of characters is diverse and well-developed. Each character has their own unique story to tell, and their lives are all interconnected in some way. Some of the most notable characters include:

- **Lulu** is a young woman who has recently moved into the house. She is struggling to come to terms with her past and her place in the world.

- **Sam** is Lulu's brother. He is a musician who is struggling with addiction.
- **Terry** is the previous owner of the house. She is a mysterious woman who has a long and complicated history with the house.
- **Mr. Whittier** is the elderly man who lives next door to the house. He is a kind and gentle man who has a deep connection to the house and its history.

Themes

The novel explores a wide range of themes, including:

- **Love:** The novel explores the different types of love, including romantic love, familial love, and self-love. It shows how love can be both a source of joy and pain.
- **Loss:** The novel also explores the theme of loss. The characters all experience some type of loss, whether it be the loss of a loved one, the loss of a home, or the loss of a way of life.
- **Memory:** The novel explores the power of memory. It shows how memories can shape our lives and our identities. It also explores the ways in which memories can be unreliable and distorted.
- **Identity:** The novel explores the theme of identity. It shows how our identities are shaped by our experiences, our relationships, and our memories. It also explores the ways in which we can change our identities over time.

Writing Style

The novel is written in a unique and distinctive style. Link uses a variety of literary devices, including magical realism, surrealism, and stream-of-consciousness writing. She also uses a variety of different voices and perspectives. The result is a novel that is both lyrical and haunting. It is a novel that will stay with you long after you have finished reading it.

Used To Live Here Once is a powerful and moving novel that explores the human condition in all its complexity. It is a novel that will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. If you are a fan of literary fiction, then I highly recommend this book.



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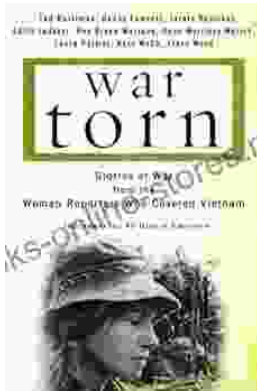
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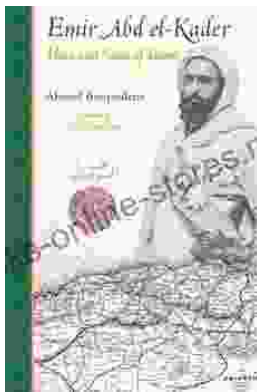
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