



By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept

By Elizabeth Smart

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By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept By Elizabeth Smart

Elizabeth Smart's passionate fictional account of her intense love-affair with the poet George Barker, described by Angela Carter as 'Like MADAME BOVARY blasted by lightning ... A masterpiece'.

One day, while browsing in a London bookshop, Elizabeth Smart chanced upon a slim volume of poetry by George Barker – and fell passionately in love with him through the printed word. Eventually they communicated directly and, as a result of Barker's impecunious circumstances, Elizabeth Smart flew both him and his wife from Japan, where he was teaching, to join her in the United States. Thus began one of the most extraordinary, intense and ultimately tragic love affairs of our time. They never married but Elizabeth bore George Barker four children and their relationship provided the impassioned inspiration for one of the most moving and immediate chronicles of a love affair ever written – 'By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept'.

Originally published in 1945, this remarkable book is now widely identified as a classic work of poetic prose which, seven decades later, has retained all of its searing poignancy, beauty and power of impact.

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By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept By Elizabeth Smart Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #177820 in Books
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Editorial Review

Review

'Like *Madame Bovary* blasted by lightening ... A masterpiece.' Angela Carter

'At some point every good reader comes across "By Grand Central Station I sat Down and Wept". And he or she recognises an emotion essential and permanent to us.' Michael Ondaatje

'A revelation...This short, powerful work has a profound influence on me and was one of the factors that made me want to be a writer.' Beryl Bainbridge

'I doubt if there are more than half a dozen such masterpieces of poetic prose in the world.' Brigid Brophy

'Explores a passion between a man and two women, one of them his wife – a love despairing and triumphant upon which the reader may gaze, awed, appalled, or even, perhaps, envious.' The Times

'Few writers have ever captured the full honesty of what passion means as shockingly and as piercingly as Smart. Today, its force still strikes us hard in the face, a beautiful and bloody blow.' Lesley McDowell, Independent on Sunday

'Constructed as a single, sustained climax, it is like a cry of ecstasy which, without changing volume or pitch, becomes a cry of agony.' Spectator

'The emotion, the truth and abject affliction comes through...to move the reader, and even to awe him.' London Review of Books

From the Publisher

'Like *Madame Bovary* blasted by lightening... a masterpiece' - Angela Carter

'Fresh, vivid, candid, fine ... a novel of our time.' - Cyril Connolly

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'I doubt if there are half a dozen such masterpieces in the world.' - Brigid Brophy

About the Author

Elizabeth Smart was born in Ottawa, Canada, in 1913. She was educated at private schools in Canada and, for a year, at King's College, University of London. Her landmark work, *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept* was published in 1945. After the war she supported herself and her family through journalism and advertising work. In 1963 she became literary and associate editor of *Queen* magazine but subsequently dropped out of the literary scene to live quietly in a remote part of Suffolk. She died in 1986.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Williams:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information currently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider any time those information which is from the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept* as the daily resource information.

Paul Erdmann:

Exactly why? Because this *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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Mildred Lyons:

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