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Vulgar Things

Von Lee Rourke

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Von Lee Rourke : Vulgar Things before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vulgar Things:

KurzbeschreibungThe second novel from Lee Rourke, author of the cult hit *The Canal*. Jon Michaels a divorced, disaffected and fatigued editor living a nondescript life in North London wakes one morning to a phone call informing him that his uncle has been found dead in his caravan on Canvey Island. Dismissed from his job only the day before and hung-over, Jon reluctantly agrees to sort through his uncles belongings and clear out the caravan. What follows is a quixotic week on Canvey as Jon, led on by desire and delusion, purposeful but increasingly disorientated, unfolds a disturbing secret, ever more enchanted by the island its landscape and its atmosphere. Haunted and haunting, *Vulgar Things* is part mystery, part romance, part odyssey: a novel in which the menial entrances and the banal compels.

Pressestimmen`Sad, lost men looking for maps in the starry Essex sky, small-town strippers, absent mothers, angry brothers, planets photographed on smart phones, cider and a lot of rare steak - Rourke is on his way to becoming the J. G. Ballard of Southend-on-Sea.' Deborah Levy`The poetry of estuary landscapes - muddy creeks, silhouettes of refineries, the slow passage of giant container ships, the flat horizon - shines through Lee Rourke's prose with a black luminescence.' Tom McCarthy`As poignant and unsettling as a beam of light hitting the night sky from across the far-off wastes.' Eimear McBride`A consistently disturbing yet compelling vision of loss, violence and identity, "*Vulgar Things*" stalks the reader's memory long after the last page. A novel of innovation and resonance, it is as bleak and as beautiful as a deserted coastline.' Stuart Evers`Rourke now shares a publisher with Jonathan Franzen ... Admirers may rest assured that in other respects Rourke has not sold out ... Rourke writes under the spell of "*The Waste Land*" ... [For T. S. Eliot] the sense that literature must embrace modern life wrestled with an equivalent urge to grip it in tweezers, nose held. You feel the same tension at work in "*Vulgar Things*".' Anthony Cummins, *Literary*

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