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The Day The Novel Died: A Speculative Work of Experimental Metafiction

Andrew Armacost

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THE DAY THE NOVEL DIED is a speculative experimental/bizarro work of metafiction about a book machine that threatens humanity with cultural Armageddon; it's about love, life, and the massive cultural extinction caused by homogeny or, more specifically, caused by the predatory mass-media and the franchisement of nearly everything.

THE DAY THE NOVEL DIED opens on the Townsville Farm in Greenville, a Midwestern town straining to become a small city. Gavin Townsville, a hardboiled Korean War veteran and smalltime farmer, lives each day in a boozy ennui. His brother Stretch, an octogenarian widower and writer, struggles to confront Gavin's drinking problem. Yen-Yen, a pert young Singaporean émigré, endeavors to keep the Townsville brothers at bay.

Such are circumstances when the recently divorced Patrick O'Dawley, a thirty-something broker, leaves New York to seek solace from his two adoptive fathers, Stretch and Gavin.

As Patrick enters Greenville, he is greeted by strip-malled architectural sameness and a vivisected downtown. Still, his homecoming is a sweet one—at first. But soon enough, he finds himself torn between Folgers, an old flame, and the ever elusive Yen-Yen, whose every glance seems equivocal yet magical. Amid the aftermath of Gavin's drunken tirade on Independence Day, Patrick professes his love, only to discover Yen-Yen's long-buried secret.

The family manages to set aside its differences when Patrick discovers that Rockies Books Inc., the largest publisher in America, will soon build a book machine behind the Townsville Farm. Stretch challenges the machine to a phantasmagoric writing duel and from this point forward the novel is imbued with a distinctly postmodern narrative, one that includes a reworking of Orwell's Animal Farm, a second-person account of a slaughtered cow and, potentially, the end of the world.

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Gary Sandler:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to your account is The Day The Novel Died: A Speculative Work of Experimental Metafiction this reserve consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That is why this book suitable all of you.

James Robinson:

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