

A Room With A View (E.M.Forster)

Well if you thought modern relationships were fucked up just look at the minutiae that the Edwardians had to negotiate.

A Room With A View is a sort of coming-of-age novel for young women of the suffragette era. Bit dull, I thought, but I got the hang of it eventually.

The title is a rather heavy-handed metaphor on the subject matter of the novel....which is Lucy Honeychurch's slow awakening to a new view of the world. Out goes Edwardian starchiness and conformance, and in comes....well, passion is what the novel turns around, but I think we can say that emancipation was in the air. So, the room-with-a-view is a metaphor for this new outlook.

It is no accident that it is the Emersons who offer to gift the room-with-a-view to Lucy and her companion. Nor is it an accident that they initially refuse, but then accept being desirous of it. Nor is it an accident that the closing scene is in said room again, but this time George and Lucy sharing: paradise regained?

Miss Honeychurch, eh? What's in a name? In this case an approved Edwardian mixture of sweetness (honey) and propriety (church). Rather a shortage of passion there. Need to fix that, thought the Emersons.

No problem. A bit of Italy. A bit of Art. A bit of street violence. The odd stolen kiss. Naught boy, George! Job done.

Well, no. Not without a decent amount of angst first. Then job done. Final score, Passion 1, Edwardian rectitude 0.

My score: 60010

Nice line (of the egregious Cecil): "*nothing became his love so well as his leaving it*" (did I remember that correctly?).

