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LoveisEternal 26 May 2010, 8:45AM

Wartin Amis on why the BBC dramatisation of his novel Money is great television.

let me see...cos you wrote it? No..just co-incidental.

I used to love your books till one day whilst reading 'The Information' I realized that it was the basically same voice- the same view of the world- in all your works.. and it was a view that was cynical and joyless at heart.

And most of your work was simply about saying 'hey look how succinctly and defly I can express this experience/phenomena'.. a linguistic firework display, and whilst that is enjoyable its not worth the negativity of the content.

It's like going out with a partner that is witty, engaging etc. but ultimately leaves you feeling worse about yourself and life. You have to break it off.. sorry martin ..it's over.

It's like that Larkin line in Aubade that you admire.. 'courage is not scaring other people'

This is the key misunderstanding of reality. Courage is being true to who you really are- no matter what effect it has on others.

It's like you see all the futility and emptiness of consensus reality without ever looking long or deep enough to receive any of the love that constitutes ultimate reality.

Any way.. my tuppence..



26 May 2010, 9:06AM

Bollocks, i missed this. Did they not advertise it?



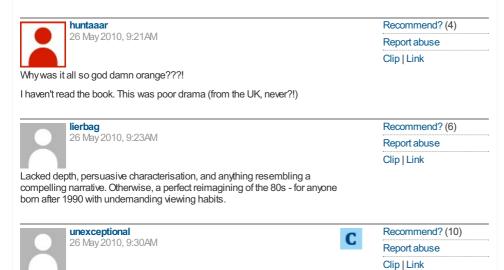
SamCaine 26 May 2010, 9:12AM

Nick Frost seemed to me like an over-indulgent clown, rather than John Self.

Coming from Frost, Selfs casual approach to violence seemed unnatural, and he just doesn't seem like the kind of man that would start a fight, never mind win one.

I pitied him much more than I did in the book, but it was the kind of pity I'd give to an injured sparrow, the kind of pity John Self doesn't deserve.

Overall, I thought it was decent enough telly, but a mediocre adaptation.



I liked Nick Frost too, I thought he was very good. But the show as a whole was a bit disappointing - it wasn't quite as bombastic and fully degenerate as I'd expected. The excess seemed to have been toned down quite a bit, and I get the feeling that without having read the book I'd have had no idea what was going on and wouldn't quite have gotten the Self character.

In that way, it felt more like a companion piece than an actual standalone piece of television. Ironically, I suppose a lack of money stopped them from making it a majestic, 6-hour long series that would've done the book full justice.



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Recommend? (1

Recommend? (16)

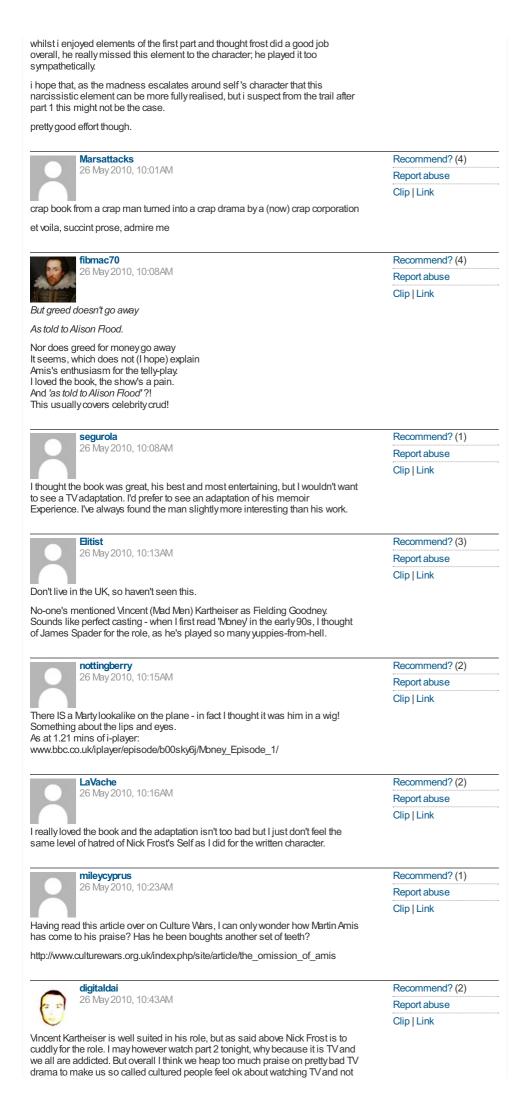
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@loveiseternal - well said sir or madam. I loved Amis in my very early teens, devouring his novels, but then I learned about proper writers and realised, like you, that he is lacking in any real heart or human understanding. Essentially he writes about shallow, unpleasant, emptysouled urbanites and those are the people who worship his writing. And clearly there are some on the Guardian - devoting a whole piece to an author telling us why the adaptation of his novel is great?	
www.sw 7barrels	Recommend? (6)
26 May 2010, 9:44AM	Report abuse
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I struggled to maintain interest, in fact I couldn't.	
CrewsControl	Recommend? (4)
26 May 2010, 9:47AM	Report abuse
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Wee Martin? Kingsley's boy? Wrote a novel? Oh that's lovely! But I thought he died in	
High Wind in Jamaica	
. Fell off a balcony or high horse or something.	
	Recommend? (15)
26 May 2010, 9:48AM	Report abuse
The second se	Clip Link
They should have kept in the Martin Amis character, but played by Will Self.	
edinamikie	Recommend? (12)
26 May 2010, 9:50AM	Report abuse
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I've watched three dramas recently on the BBC: The Boy George drama, Luther and Money. All three dramas were very average with Luther being the worst because of the fact that well, nothing memorable happened. Perhaps its because I'm too used to watching the Sopranos, The Wire and even Battlestar but I'm not talking about the writing, acting or budget spentI just seen each of the above dramas as actually pointless because they didnt entertain or grip. They reminded me of rich tea biscuits.	
Chambazi	Recommend? (4)
26 May 2010, 9:55AM	Report abuse
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loveiseternal: "Essentially he writes about shallow, unpleasant, emptysouled urbanites" maybe he's trying to comment on these people? Maybe that's the point?	
I like money because it is grotesque, but I don't think I'm grotesque (but maybe I am, I'll let you be the judge).	
AlexJones	Recommend? (21)
26 May 2010, 10:00AM	Report abuse
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@rh1968: ". Essentially he writes about shallow, unpleasant, emptysouled urbanites and those are the people who worship his writing."	
Well, you've got me bang to rights there. I really enjoy Amis's books (though not so keen, admittedly, on The Pregnant Widow) and I am indeed a shallow, unpleasant, empty-souled urbanite.	
plymsoul	Recommend? (2)
26 May 2010, 10:00AM	Report abuse
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Self should definitely be a badder bastard than Frost. The hair adds a softness that one might say is Frosts contribution. One can be fat and mean, Frost appears vain with his hirsuitism.	
Can't wait to see the showdown and carnage, tonight.	
The audiobook is unbeatable, fyi.	
farknash	Recommend? (2)
26 May 2010, 10:01AM	Report abuse
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not convinced. agreed; i read the novel a long time ago, but i echo sentiments above - self was a ba5tard. a self aggrandising, self indulgent self.	

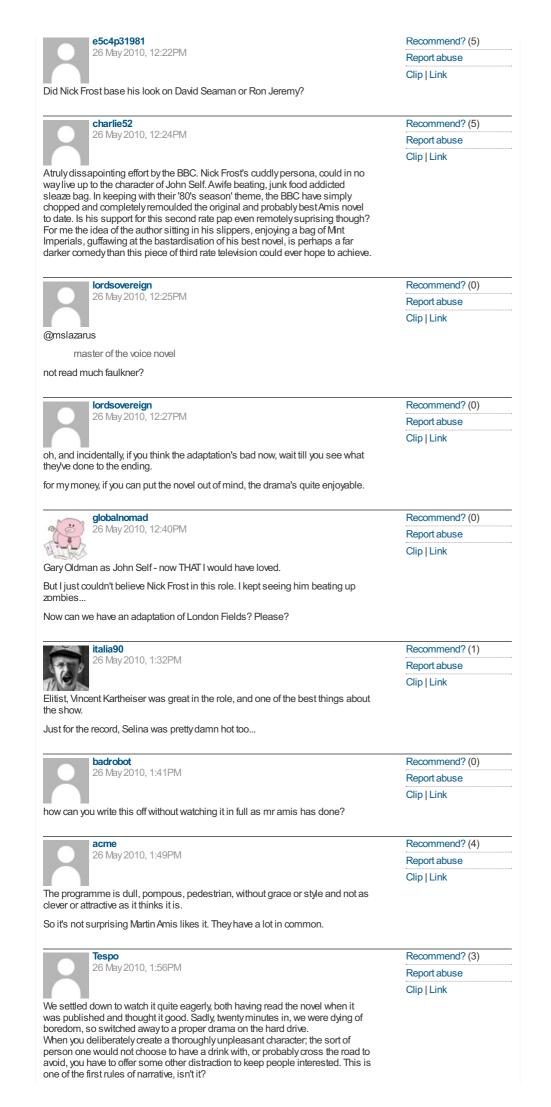
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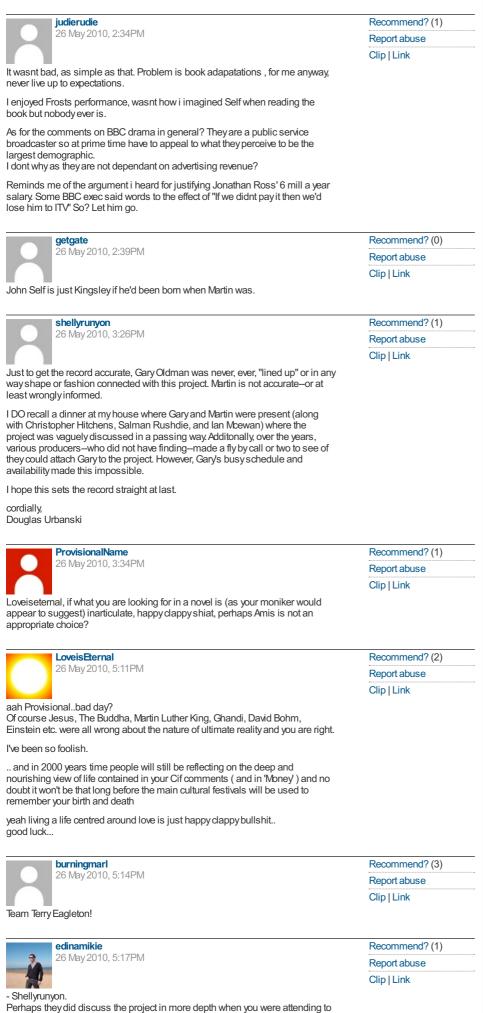
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reading books so much. This did not seem much better than other 80's revival trash available. Where are the nuances and seething underbelly evident in the book. mike65ie Recommend? (4) 26 May 2010, 11:16AM Report abuse Clip | Link What I want to know is why did the beeb film this as a two parter? Its an obvious one-shot drama. WII Self is an inspired idea. mastershake Recommend? (2) 26 May 2010, 11:20AM Report abuse Clip | Link frost is just too nice - without self's constant self-aggrandizing, it's hard to work out how he ever got anywhere, Frost plays him as so stoopid. without selfs voice, too, the story is just so obvious. it was never a novel about plot, after all. i can't remember where I've seen it, but I'm certain that Amis has filmed the 'meeting Martin Amis in a pub' scene before, possibly for Arena or something like that. am glad that amis has reiterated what he said in the 80s - the novel is about greed, not 80s greed. a shame amis's fans don't notice that. williamthoth Recommend? (0) 26 May 2010, 11:20AM Report abuse Clip | Link @SamCaine Nick Frost seemed to me like an over-indulgent clown, rather than John Self. Ok, now re-read this line. You got the two names the wrong way around. Recommend? (1) **MsLazarus** 26 May 2010, 11:23AM Report abuse Clip | Link This is a joke, surely. Just as the TV adaptation of Money completely fails to give us the sine qua non of Amis's novel, which is Amis's voice, so Alison Flood fails to make her little piece sound anything remotely like Amis. 'It was lovely to see Self drinking himself senseless on an aeroplane'. Can you imagine the arch stylist and master of the voice novel saying that? I don't think so. Digitagit Recommend? (2) 26 May 2010, 11:31 AM Report abuse Clip | Link Money completely missed the seething energy and self-loathing that drives John Self and which courses through the book; Frost just came across as an oaf. I wholly endorse edinamikie's comment. Money, Luther, and Worried about the Boy are/were all deeply mediocre, lacking ambition, vigor or insight. Sadly that's true of most British TV drama these days. There have been some high spots - I thought Five Daughters was exceptional, and Red Riding too - but (cliche'd though it is to say it) there"s absolutely nothing that approaches the consistency, sophistication or depth of the best American output. Recommend? (0) tropicalia 26 May 2010, 11:51 AM Report abuse Clip | Link Better than I imagined but then again after raising for hopes for Luther that's not saying much. Stewpot6 Recommend? (4) 26 May 2010, 11:56AM Report abuse Clip | Link It's sweet of Martin to support it but he must know it's not a very good adaptation. The problem is that John Self, in the novel, is not an idiot. He's lost, and he's swimming in bad hedonism, but he's also assaulted by self-loathing and a sense of another life. All this complexity has gone. Any attempt to push the envelope of the character has gone. And the poetry - the Self who thinks how sad it is to see the rain and not know how it falls - has gone. Still not as bad as Abi Morgan's terrible drama about the Royal Wedding though.









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Perhaps they did discuss the project in more depth when you were attending to the parsnips. Also, I wonder what your dinner party gave you out of 10 in the taxi home...

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