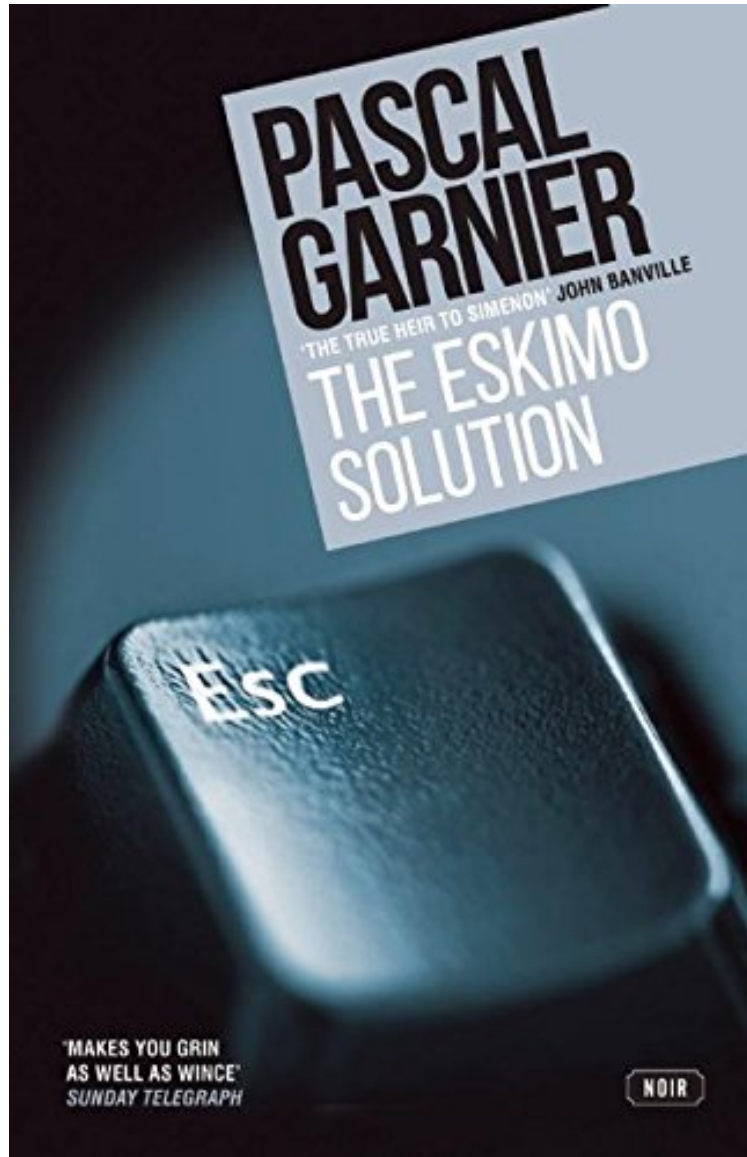


The Eskimo Solution

Pascal Garnier

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Pascal Garnier : The Eskimo Solution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Eskimo Solution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DisappointedBy KasaCDisappointed. I liked so many of his other books, this was a let down. Had I read it first, I never would have read any others0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another enjoyable Garnier book, but not his best!By col2910Another read from Garnier, my fourth in total and whilst enjoyable not quite up there with the others.Kind of a dual narrative here - or book within a book. A

crime author called Louis is writing a book about his protagonist also called Louis. We spend time in the company of both. Our author, has isolated himself from his girlfriend in the hope of making some progress on his book, but is distracted by his girlfriend's daughter, his neighbours, an impending trip to England and by his friend Christophe. I've always been jealous of Christophe.....He lives, I bluff: he's a magician, I'm a con artist; he touches, I manipulate. I can't think of him without comparing myself to him. The fact of the matter is he has always put the spotlight on my own mediocrity. Our fictional Louis is meanwhile doing his bit for population control while similarly improving the financial situations of himself, his ex-wife and her husband and the family of a friend. I found the writer - Louis annoying and much preferred the company of the other one, though he is hardly likeable. Maybe he was just more interesting to read about. There is a kind of symmetry to the novel - art imitating art, as the story of our fictional Louis ends and writer Louis mimics his creation albeit somewhat accidentally. Garnier, as ever has some fantastic turns of phrase.....His mouth flares open like an old hen's a**hole, but very little comes out....If he was a used car, he'd be unsellable...A quick read at about 160 pages. Enjoyable but not his best. 3.5 from 5
Pascal Garnier passed in 2010. Gallic Books have been offering his books in translation since 2012. The Front Seat Passenger, Boxes and The Islanders have all been enjoyed previously. Read in April, 2017
Published - 2016 (originally 2006 in French)
Page count - 160
Source - Gallic Books
Format - paperback
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Eskimo Solution
By Ashrael
I am not sure what drew me to this book, maybe the fact that I have read quite a few books translated from German and wanted to try a French author instead. I recall reading Simenon's Maigret books when I was a young adult and enjoyed those and the blurb here says that Garnier is a similar style to Simenon so, I thought I'd give this a go. Firstly, I have to say that I found the translation to be excellent. In fact, to me, the book read as if it was actually written in English from scratch. The meaning of the words was paraphrased rather than directly translated which meant, for me anyway, the whole book read smoothly. The store we have here is really a book within a book with the lines between them slowly blurring as the story progresses. We follow Louis as he hides himself away by the sea to write his book about Louis who, after having killed his own mother, branches out to relieving others of burdensome ageing relatives (whether they want it or not). And then we have Louis, the old guy who lives next door to real Louis. You'd think that there'd be too many Louis in the book, but the old and young are easily differentiated and the chapters from the real and character Louis are written in different font so they are easy too. The whole premise of the book I think is that art overflows to life as morals become looser. I didn't really like real Louis at all as I found him to have extremely questionable morals at times. On the other hand, he was also good to his neighbours (to a point) but even then, well... you'll see if you read the book. It's hard to say much more about the story or feeling invoked whilst reading as I fear it will turn out to include spoilers, but suffice to say, I did go through quite a few whilst reading. It was funny and serious all at the same time, but that worked really well. I was also disgusted, charmed, angry, and totally engrossed in the surreal storyline I became totally immersed in. All in all, I think this was a good solid read and I am definitely going to check out some of the author's other books. I received a free ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review

A crime author writing the story of Louis, who decides to do his cash-strapped friends a favor by hastening their parents' demise, finds reality and fiction overlapping during a stay in Normandy. Pascal Garnier combines the style of Simenon, the insight of Camus with a wit that is all his own.

"It's fun to inhabit such a powerful mental atmosphere, however dark it may be, when it's created with originality and style. It certainly is with Garnier, whose books start off seeming simple, then sneak up on you. They remind me of those expensive dark chocolates that are 90 percent cacao. They can be quite bitter, but once you get used to the taste, you wouldn't want them any sweeter."*NPR / Fresh Air with Terry Gross "Once again Pascal Garnier authors a very dark and gripping French middle class tragedy that as always provides insight into the downside of human relationships." Midwest Book "He slowly peels back the layers of an individual's character and shows that no one is easily known." Booksie's Blog "Garnier is convincing in his portrayal of how two seemingly-normal, somewhat functional people combine and fuse into murderous, toxic, self-destructive isolation." Swiftly Tilting Planet/His Futile Preoccupations "... a grim and oddly funny entertainment for readers." The Canadian National Post – April 30, 2015 "Garnier is one of the few French writers interested in the same human landscapes that, mutatis mutandis, interested Raymond Carver in the United States..." The Arts Fuse