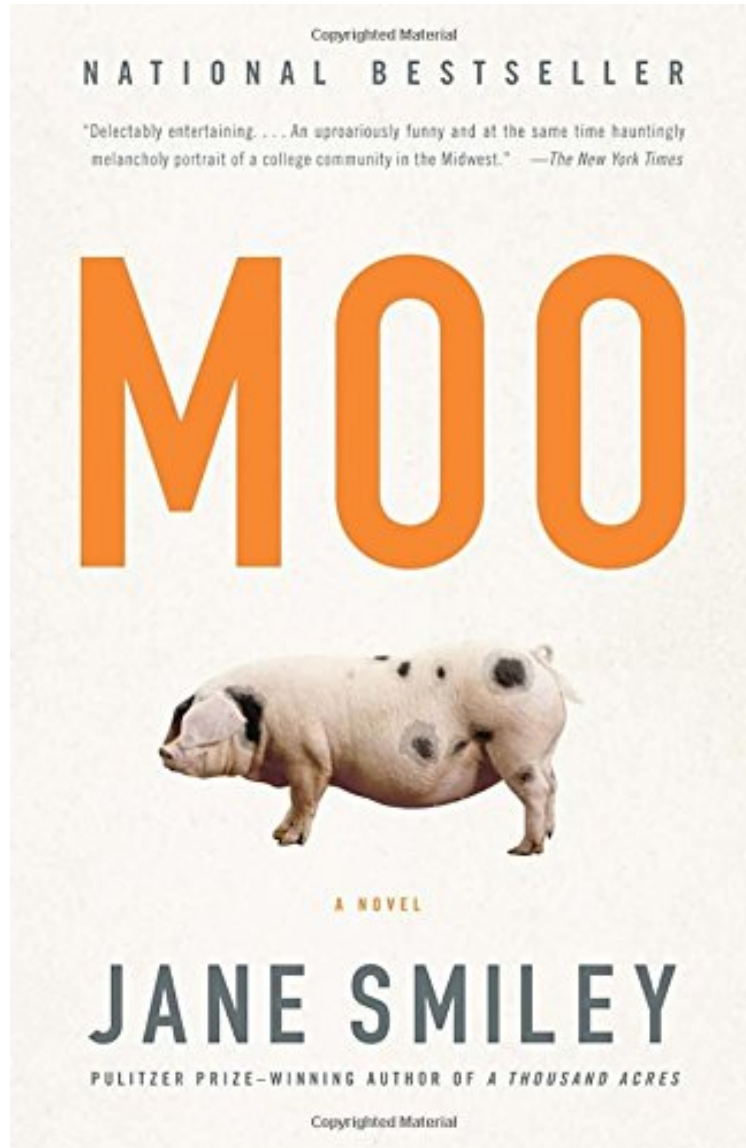


Moo

Jane Smiley

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Jane Smiley : Moo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moo:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. GET BIG OR GET OUT By Suzanne This is a harsh look at an agricultural Midwestern University amazingly named "Moo." The dull, sad lives of the people who populate the campus are caricatures of people some of us have known in our own experiences going to college in the Midwest. There are too many characters to get to really know them, allowing them all to come off as silly rather than

amusing. The plot skips around from one to the other, and given Jane Smiley's long protracted sentences, the whole story is an effort to follow. The experiment with the captive Landrace boar named "Earl Butz" (whose point of view we also see) is the only misfortune that earned my sympathy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Utterly predictable, full of walking stereotypes, and full of characters you hate from the get-go. By FCVoxBoiI was actually angry when I finished it--both because the story progressed like a stone falling to ground (utterly, completely, painfully predictable) and because every character made every decision not out of internal logic but because the "plot" demanded they do so. Every character introduced is a single note, no one grows, learns, or changes, and you can tell what's going to happen in the first few chapters. I absolutely hated everything about this book. Well, that's not fair--I didn't notice any spelling or grammatical errors. Everything else, though, was garbage. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Moo woos. By Bob Brink Haven't finished the book yet, but the writing is superb. I am an author myself, and find it easy to appraise writing quality. This is my second book by Jane Smiley -- the first was A Thousand Acres -- and she is showing again, in her characterizations, consummate insights into human behavior that often is portrayed as humorous, rather than deplorable. The effect is more forgiving than condemning.

In this darkly satirical send-up of academia and the Midwest, we are introduced to Moo University, a distinguished institution devoted to the study of agriculture. Amid cow pastures and waving fields of grain, Moo's campus churns with devious plots, mischievous intrigue, lusty liaisons, and academic one-upmanship. Chairman X of the Horticulture Department harbors a secret fantasy to kill the dean; Mrs. Walker, the provost's right hand and campus information queen, knows where all the bodies are buried; Timothy Monahan, associate professor of English, advocates eavesdropping for his creative writing assignments; and Bob Carlson, a sophomore, feeds and maintains his only friend: a hog named Earl Butz. Wonderfully written and masterfully plotted, Moo gives us a wickedly funny slice of life.