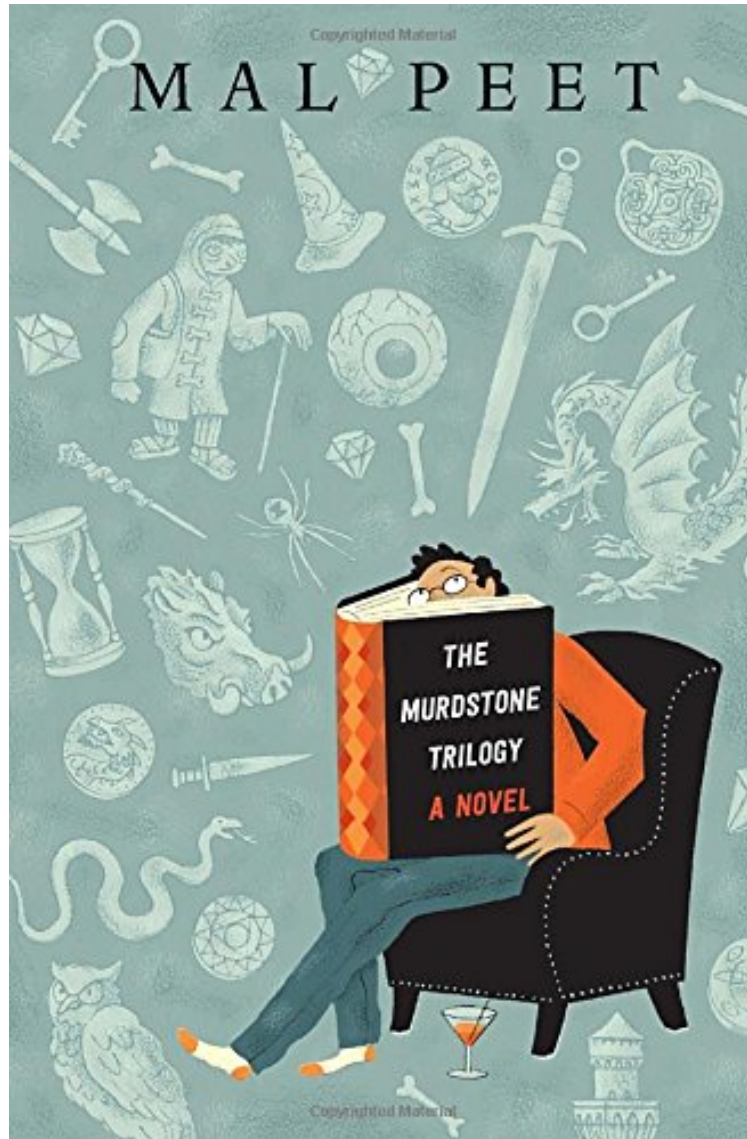


The Murdstone Trilogy

Mal Peet

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#1587624 in Books 2015-09-22 2015-09-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .94 x 5.811, 1.25 #File Name: 0763681849320 pages | File size: 36.Mb

Mal Peet : The Murdstone Trilogy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Murdstone Trilogy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great send up of the fantasie genre and a great readBy jazzycarThis is a great book, but probably not for everyone. If you have read and liked other work by Peet then you will probably like this too. The story revolves around a formerly successful writer of sensitive stories for boys who is pushed to write a "fantasie" novel because they are the only things that are selling. He finds it impossible to start until

he falls drunkenly asleep at the local stone circle and "dreams" a full story, with all the requisite elements of high fantasy. The book is a huge success and he then finds himself in the position of needing to write 2 more books, because everyone wants a trilogy. The problem is that the story isn't really his, and he can't just sit down and write the rest of it, for reasons that I won't go into because it would spoil the story. The author has a lovely time sending up fantasy fiction and the publishing industry, while his protagonist becomes slowly more unhinged over time. As with other books of Peet's that I have read, I found the ending a bit abrupt and unsatisfying, but it didn't stop me from thinking that this was one of the best things I have read all year. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Confusion Reigns By Customer The humor and language are excellent. The story for me degenerates as it goes through the trilogy. Is it a writer's descent into madness? An elaborate send-up of fantasy fiction? A plot that got lost along the way? I finally disconnected from all the characters and plowed on through to the end so that I finished, although by the end the whole exercise felt like a trick, a show put on for entertainment that signified nothing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pretty Good Fun! By Federico If you like fantasy novels, this one was a lot of fun because it regularly poked fun at the genre. The publishing world with its pressures contrasted with the fantasy realm in a delightful back and forth. and that little fellow who wrote the novels was totally charming, my favorite.

How hard can it be to write a fantasy trilogy? From Carnegie Medalist Mal Peet comes an outrageously funny black comedy about an impoverished literary writer who makes a pact with the devil. Award-winning YA author Philip Murdstone is in trouble. His star has waned. The world is leaving him behind. His agent, the ruthless Minerva Cinch, convinces him that his only hope is to write a sword-and-sorcery blockbuster. Unfortunately, Philip allergic to the faintest trace of Tolkien is utterly unsuited to the task. In a dark hour, a dwarfish stranger comes to his rescue. But the deal he makes with Pocket Wellfair turns out to have Faustian consequences. The Murdstone Trilogy is a richly dark comedy described by one U.K. reviewer as "totally insane in the best way possible."

The novel was published for adults in the U.K., and its easy to see why: there isn't a teenage character in sight, and the concerns about career, reputation, parochialism, and looming bankruptcy are all adult, too. Regardless, Peet's book is enormous fun, especially for those familiar with the literary conventions it skewers, and it's a brilliant valedictory for the author, who died in March. Publishers Weekly (starred review) Carnegie Medalist Peet (Tamar, 2007) has written a hilarious satire of the fantasy genre with alcohol-laced overtones of Terry Pratchett and William Goldman's *The Princess Bride*. Blending worlds, wit, and literary allusions with unique narrative voices, Peet's take on fantasy and the writing process will attract adults and teens alike. Darkly comic and a joy to read. Booklist (starred review) The Murdstone Trilogy... is brilliant. Richly drawn characters ground the story, even at its wildest, and older teens steeped in the fantasy traditions of what Minerva describes as "Dwarves. Beards. Time and dimension shifts.... You know." will revel in this wonderfully witty, upside-down take on the genre. Shelf Awareness (starred review) This book, released in the UK in 2014, will be relished by American readers whose taste for stunning verbal finesse outweighs any tendency to outrage over carnal humor, cultural indelicacies, or lack of respect for the fantasy genre as such, making it a meaty feast for knowing teens who can laugh at what they love and hoot at naughty jokes they aren't supposed to admit are funny. An angry edge of authorial disgruntlement over the state of publishing only serves to sharpen the wit as Peet literally and figuratively scours the shire of the fantasy genre while reminding readers of what artful literary language should sound like. Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review) A deliriously freewheeling send-up of the publishing industry and the current sword-and-sorcery craze results. But there's a vein of real feeling. "The world is the stories we tell of it," one of the fantasy beings says to Philip. They should all be as lively and entertaining as this one. The Wall Street Journal The Murdstone Trilogy has just about every ingredient I try to avoid in my reading: magick with a K, sword slashing sorcerers, minions aplenty and dwarfs. So how can I love this book more than anything I've read in ages? Because when Mal Peet gets his hands on an idea he can out-plot the furthest-fetched of fantasizers, out-skewer the most sardonic of satirists, and just generally work his writerly magic, with a plain old C. And he does it all in one book instead of three. It's a big-hearted romp of a rant. Read it. Even if you hate Tolkien. Even if you love Tolkien. It really is that brilliant. Tim Wynne-Jones, author of *Blink Caution* and *The Emperor of Any Place* An award-winning author whose young-adult novels have gone out of fashion makes a Faustian bargain with a Hobbit-like creature in this broad, darkly hilarious sendup of high fantasy and publishing... Bitter and frothy as a pint of stout, this formula-thwarting satire will intoxicate fantasy fans with strong stomachs. Kirkus s Peet lampoons the fantasy genre in this stand-alone novel. Sharply drawn characters propel the plot as it builds to an unexpected finish... This title is highly recommended to a select audience of mature readers interested in the darker comedies of life. VOYA This is one of the few fantasy send-ups that matches the genius of Diana Wynne Jones's masterpiece *Dark Lord of Derkholm* and the hilarious companion, *A Travelers Guide to Fantasy Land*... Few adult fantasy readers are familiar with the late Carnegie Medal-winning YA author Peet (Tamar), but this work should gain him a mature audience. His clear appreciation and knowledge of the genre, plus adult language, make this clever story best for adults and those well versed in fantasy. Library Journal About the Author Mal Peet (1947-2015) is the acclaimed author of the Carnegie Medal-winning novel *Tamar* as well as the Boston Globe Horn Book Honor Book *Life: An*

Exploded Diagram and three Paul Faustino novels: Keeper, The Penalty, and Exposure, a winner of the Guardian Childrens Fiction Prize. He is also the co-author of Cloud Tea Monkeys, Mysterious Traveler, and Night Sky Dragons, all of which he wrote with his wife, Elspeth Graham.