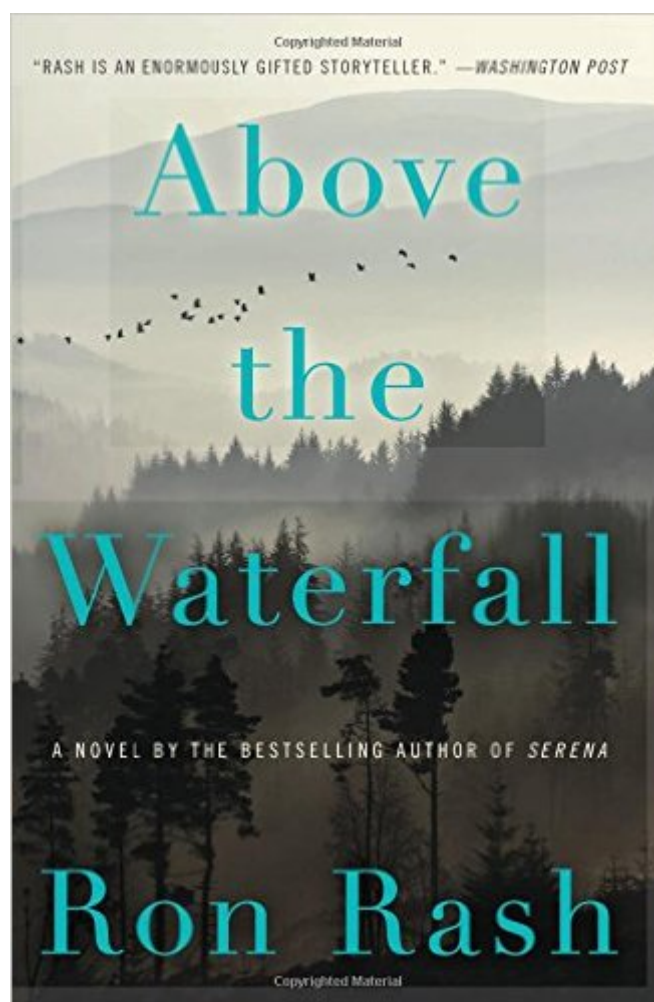


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Above The Waterfall: A Novel



Synopsis

In this poetic and haunting tale set in contemporary Appalachia, New York Times bestselling author Ron Rash illuminates lives shaped by violence and a powerful connection to the land. Les, a long-time sheriff just three-weeks from retirement, contends with the ravages of crystal meth and his own duplicity in his small Appalachian town. Becky, a park ranger with a harrowing past, finds solace amid the lyrical beauty of this patch of North Carolina. Enduring the mistakes and tragedies that have indelibly marked them, they are drawn together by a reverence for the natural world. When an irascible elderly local is accused of poisoning a trout stream, Les and Becky are plunged into deep and dangerous waters, forced to navigate currents of disillusionment and betrayal that will force them to question themselves and test their tentative bond—and threaten to carry them over the edge. Echoing the heartbreaking beauty of William Faulkner and the spiritual isolation of Carson McCullers, *Above the Waterfall* demonstrates once again the prodigious talent of a gorgeous, brutal writer • (Richard Price) hailed as one of the great American authors at work today • (Janet Maslin, New York Times).

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Ecco; Reprint edition (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062349325

ISBN-13: 978-0062349323

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (127 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,447 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #193 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Gothic #5609 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary #12489 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States

Customer Reviews

Above the Waterfall by Ron Rash is a very highly recommended novel set in a small Appalachian town about two lonely people struggling to live with their haunted pasts. It is an eloquently written, poetic novel that is both a tribute to the healing power of nature and a mystery. Becky is a park ranger at Locust Creek Park who finds solace in the beauty of the North Carolina mountains. Becky carries many scars from her childhood when she survived a school shooting, and in her recent past

when she believed in the wrong man. She finds comfort and peace in nature and needs the natural world to survive. She references heavily the Victorian poet Gerard Manley Hopkins who found beauty in nature as well as the cave paintings of Lascaux. Les is a sheriff on the verge of retirement. He is having a cabin built where he plans to retire and paint. He just has a few things to clear up before he goes, like another meth bust (and you never know how things can go wrong with meth-heads) and the truth behind the tension between Gerald Blackwelder, an irascible old farmer, and a new fishing resort. Les has some regrets in his past too that he is trying to deal with, as well as a debt that has never been repaid. The novel alternates between the voices of Les and Becky. They are both wounded souls who take strength from observing and being in nature. They are also close friends and are able to speak about their past with each other. They seemingly want to have a closer relationship with each other, and have taken steps in that direction, but they are still reticent to make any real commitment. While both voices propel the story forward, Becky's chapters are poetic and lyrical while Les's are written in a more traditional manner.

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