

The Sisters Brothers Review by Margie

The Sisters Brothers is a darkly comic, outrageously inventive novel that offers readers a decidedly off-centre view of the Wild, Wild West. *The Sisters Brothers* was inspired by a Time–Life book on the California Gold Rush which de Witt found at a yard sale.

Eli and Charlie Sisters are two brothers who are guns for hire in Gold Rush Days of California. At the centre of the book is Eli, the narrator and softer of the two assassins. We learn early that Eli's heart has never really hardened to killing and the soul of the book lies here. Eli is an increasingly sensitive man in an insensitive world.

"My very centre was beginning to expand as it always did before violence, a toppled pot of black ink covering the frame of my mind, its contents ceaseless, unaccountably limitless".

Eli has a reflective soul as portrayed by his relationship with his broken down one-eyed horse, Tub in his heartfelt statement.

"What a life it is for mans' animals, what a trial of pain and senselessness"

Other memorable lines from the book,

"He is not bad, I don't think. Perhaps he is simply too lazy to be good."

"You are afraid of hell. But that's all religion is, really. Fear of a place we'd rather not be, and where there's no such a thing as suicide to steal us away."

The writing style is minimalistic, clear, straightforward and compelling.

The Sisters Brothers was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2011, and was the winner of the Governor General's Literary Awards held for the Canada Council of Arts and was awarded the best Fiction of Canadian Booksellers Association.

Director Jacques Audiard will direct the movie adaptation of this weird, funny, and touching Western novel.

The Sisters Brothers (2011), was shortlisted for the 2011 Man Booker Prize, the 2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the 2011 Governor General's Award for English language fiction. He was one of two Canadian writers, alongside Esi Edugyan, to make all four award lists in 2011. On the 1st November 2011, he was announced as the winner of the Rogers Prize, and on 15th November 2011, he was announced as the winner of Canada's 2011 Governor General's Award for English language fiction.

Other books by the author are,

Ablutions: Notes for a novel (2009).

Undermajordomo Minor (2015).