

REVIEW

The Coriolis Effect is a thought-provoking and entertaining read. While the book is longer than 400 pages, it is easy to enjoy in a relatively short time. The author, mercifully, does not attempt to overwhelm the reader with an indulgent quantity of prosaic complexity when direct, highly readable sentences will do the job. I always appreciate authors who spare attempts to impress with their diction and instead stay focused on the task at hand. In this case, the task at hand is to tell a multi-faceted tale about a man searching for his place in life, an endeavor complicated by his complex and unsatisfying relationship with his father. Alongside and within this narrative, a mystery tale unfolds revolving around such modern themes as drug-related violence, corruption, and international smuggling.

The author cut out a difficult task for himself, attempting to frame the difficulties around resolving a strained father-son relationship within a larger tale of crime and deceit. While the task could not have been easy, he manages to succeed. A rare and decidedly pro-male theme runs throughout the father-son portion of the narrative juxtaposed with the disaffection and conflicts between the two protagonists. While at times it can feel as if the author has taken the issue up as its own matter, it would be a disservice to the truth of modern men's internal lives to pretend that the kind of thoughts involving men's issues the principal protagonist entertains are not in fact expressed modern men's thoughts. For some people, this may be seen as a distraction or at worst as some kind of propaganda, but the reader should have no doubts that the thoughts that cross the character's mind do have expression in the real world. What is surprising is that such internal dialogue does not already have a place in modern fiction's bookshelf.

While the drama builds up to resolutions, these are met in unexpected ways. Not wanting to spoil the narrative's conclusion, I will close by saying that even the most jaded reader of contemporary crime and/or dramatic novels will not be disappointed at how the book ends. My only caveat is this: Suspension of disbelief is advised, as the tale can sometimes take on an almost surreal feel. But the beauty of fiction is that it can take license with reality, adding and subtracting in ways that promote the storyline and avoid tiring the reader with the petty distractions of actual life. Enjoy this carefully-thought out and timely piece of writing.