

A Man of Genius

Lynn Rosen

Una Publications (Apr 11, 2016)

Softcover \$14.95 (246pp)

978-0-9970738-1-2

In this haunting, gothic-esque novel of suspense, Samuel Grafton-Hall is a brilliant, revered architect—and a murderer. Successful and accomplished, he nonetheless views his genius as a gift that puts him above petty nuisances like moral codes, and *A Man of Genius* unfolds by watching how he navigates this journey of ego, pride, and hubris, unraveling the world around him in the process.

The story opens as Mr. Dolinger, Grafton-Hall's lawyer and executor, tries to piece together a mystery based on a strange clue in the architect's will. The novel touches not only on questions of morality, but on questions of perception, memory, and reliability. Prose moves lightly: just as in any great gothic classic, secrets are revealed slowly, through expressions, dialogue, and hints that build to a final crescendo over the course of the novel. Rosen's writing is sharp, descriptive, and effortless, further adding to the atmosphere of dread and fascination with her compelling main character.

A Man of Genius is a haunting portrait of a narcissistic man and the ripple effects that his actions have on the world and relationships around him. Rosen does not present Samuel Grafton-Hall as a caricature—he is a fully rounded, complex, and even mysterious being whose choices and actions remain compelling, even as Rosen delves deep into the darkness possible within the human heart.

STEPHANIE BUCKLIN (Summer 2016)

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