

## D. H. Lawrence

David Herbert Lawrence (Bert to his friends) was born in 1885 at Eastwood, near Nottingham, England. The highly intuitive Lawrence died in 1930, but not before he produced some fairly impressive writing. However, Mark Twain once wrote that Mississippi River pilots become so skilled in reading the language of the river they fail to appreciate its beauty and poetry, and so it was with Lawrence. Following an adequate education (the son of a coal miner, he never attended England's finer schools), Lawrence became a teacher. After a few troubled love affairs he married Frieda von Richthofen, a distant relative of the 'Red Baron' and the daughter of a Prussian landowner. It was then that he began to write.

Many of his stories appear recondite, however. They're difficult to fathom, and are a series of bank shots, working the sides and corners rather than going directly for their objective. Nevertheless, they all have something to say. In *Sons and Lovers*, for instance, Lawrence describes a Nottinghamshire mining community as he centers on the relationship between a boy and his mother—a ubiquitous presence with great ambitions for her gifted son. Their powerful bond excludes the father, a poorly educated miner. In *Lady Chatterley's Lover* Lawrence describes the carnal wonders that exist between Lady Constance Chatterley and her husband's educated groundskeeper. It's a candid account of the sexual bond that can occur between a man and a woman. (The novel, which borders on high-brow porn, was quite popular in college.)

Lawrence exudes originality, and writes not so much ahead of his time as outside the box. And he doesn't hesitate to take on key issues; for example, the debate between 'nature versus nurture,' whether we come into the world with certain traits and talents embedded in place, or if we're molded by our culture and environment. But he also makes you feel like you're a couch-reclining patient of Sigmund Freud, and insists that women possess an evil, dominating will. In truth, he didn't have a proper reverence for the male gender either. (Bertrand Russell once commented that Lawrence had such a thorough hatred of *all mankind* that he thought both sides were right in World War I.)

Lawrence states his contradictory convictions in a bewildering array of ideas, and seems to think that he can clarify eternal truths, yet has difficulty putting into words what our unconscious really wants. But seeking intuition doesn't exclude intelligence, and Lawrence was highly intelligent. Bottom line: all his stories are perceptively written, and many contain penetrating self-criticism.

Essay by Bill Lounsbury

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## OPEN HOUSE & SNAP SHOT DAY

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 4 pm

One Book – One Community Announcement

Free Coffee & Cake



### & at 2 pm, Cooking ... with Grandma

In addition, at 2 p.m., we'll be hosting Grandma Millie and several of her grandchildren as they share their favorite recipes and demonstrate their cooking skills in making Greek Baklava. Enjoy coffee and prepackaged samples.

Mille Lindell is the author of *Cooking Around the World with Grandma*. The book follows Grandma Millie and her grandchildren as they explore cooking and share feasts from around the world during weekly summer visits. Includes easy-to-follow recipes and interesting facts about each country sure to please the young chef!

### Book Reviews: Two Alternative Histories

*A Short Stay in Hell* (2012) by Steven Peck

Imagine dying and going to Hell and realizing ... Christianity, Judaism and Islam do not exist and the one TRUE religion has always been and always will be Zoroastrianism. ... Even Hell is not quite the way you imagined it, with the fire and brimstone and all that. Yes, it's true. Now you may be there a long time, in hell, no doubt about it. But it's entirely possible (according to the demon who let you in) to get out someday and get to Heaven if you are able to complete the task set out for you. But completing that task is going to be a lot tougher than you thought.

– Zak Sherman

*The Years of Rice and Salt* (2002) by Kim Stanley Robinson

This book imagines a world where history changed when the Black Death plague killed 99% of Europe's population, instead of just a third. Spanning hundreds of years from 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, the story weaves real historical figures like Tamerlane with future peoples that include an Americas populated only by indigenous peoples, who must form a league to resist Chinese and Muslim invaders.

– The Editor

### News in the 'Hood

Sturdi Products (who make carriers and other products for the traveling pet) is building their world headquarters in the old warehouse in Manchester. Meet them at [www.sturdiproducts.com](http://www.sturdiproducts.com)