



Booklist review of *Badlands*

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By: Donna Seaman

The Dakota Badlands Porter so powerfully conjures is a place where wounds don't heal. Its haunting pain and its sorrow is as evident in the despair of Indian reservations as it is in the harshly wrinkled earth itself. The presence of the dead is palpable, and it is their voices that call the poignant characters of this lyrical, unsettling drama to action. Adam, a New York lawyer, has come to the Badlands to help the magnetic, complex Henry Blackfoot protect the threatened burial sites of his Sioux ancestors. Adam's English lover narrates, and she is an arrestingly poetic observer who is transformed by her experiences in this most American of settings. Blunt yet sensitive, she struggles to understand the spirit of the Badlands and her conflicting feelings for Adam, Blackfoot, and Blackfoot's children. Porter's lambent prose offers crystalline insights into how the personal subsumes the political, why love is an act of modulation, how desire can be chic and despair a comfort, and how the past is inescapable. A deeply affecting story of revelation and its repercussions.

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