

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of
Eat, Pray, Love

ELIZABETH
GILBERT



"A wonderful first novel about life, love, and lobster fishing...
high entertainment." —*USA Today*

Stern Men by Elizabeth Gilbert

Elizabeth Gilbert

the glorious first novel approximately life, love, and lobster fishing (USA Today) from the number one bestselling author In 2000, Elizabeth Gilbert's *Stern Men* debuted to exceptional severe attention. Now, Penguin is publishing a brand new variation of Gilbert's clever and captivating novel for the thousands of readers who wolfed *Eat, Pray, Love* and stay hungry for more. Off the coast of Maine, Ruth Thomas is born right into a feud fought for generations through teams of neighborhood lobstermen over fishing rights for the waters that lie among their respective islands. At eighteen, she has lower back from boarding school smart as a whip, feisty, and irredeemably unromantic determined to throw over her schooling and subscribe to the strict men working the lobster boats. Gilbert totally captures the yankee spirit via an unforgettable heroine who's destined for greatness and loved despite herself.

It seems Annie Proulx went too some distance in "The Transport News." you do not have to head all of the way to Newfoundland to discover irresistibly quirky humans residing off the chilly sea. Elizabeth Gilbert came across them in Maine. In "Stern Men," her first novel, Gilbert describes the contentious battles among lobstermen dwelling on Castle Niles and Courne Haven, virtually exact islands 20 miles off the coast. Those are areas inhabited through quiet males who hold an important claw. As Gilbert wittily indicates before everything of every chapter, their lives mirror the prickly, hard-bodied lives in their catch. Their paintings is setting apart and fiercely competitive. There aren't any fences within the ocean, no criminal technique to mark one's lobster "fields" other than by means of culture and intimidation. "Every lobster one guy catches," Gilbert notes, "is a lobster one other guy has lost. it's a suggest business, and it makes for suggest men. As humans, after all, we develop into what we seek." Despite the wry comedy of this novel, it does not try and conceal the scars of human cruelty. For generations, the 2 islands have fallen into periodic "lobster wars" that decimate their business, destroying boats, traps, and lives. But underneath a fierce-looking exoskeleton, those hard-drinking, foul-mouthed characters are strangely sweet. you simply need to understand how to deal with them. Gilbert does. And eventually, so does her heroine, Ruth Thomas. She's a smart, aimless younger girl who is again to Castle Niles after a pricey private-school schooling that makes her a misfit during this little global of misfits. Ruth is not definite what to do on an island that employs in simple terms men. *Stern Men* girls right here more often than not turn into moms or alcoholics (or both), yet neither of these professions strikes pursuits her. She'd wish to paintings as a sternman for her father, the island's such a lot winning lobsterman, yet he will not pay *Stern Men* attention of it. Ruth's bizarre relatives historical past conspires together with her personal immaturity to maintain her at the island in a kingdom of agitated suspension. Her grandmother and mom spent their lives operating as digital slaves for the Ellises, a prosperous dynasty that stripped the island of its granite and Ruth's kinfolk of its dignity. The Ellises are actually right down to a number of historical individuals - hysterically defined in all their self-absorption - yet they are nonetheless attempting to exert their influence. made up our minds to withstand them and their controlling generosity, Ruth turns down their provide of faculty school to hang around the island, alternately involved and frustrated along with her father and his quarrelsome friends. She spends her days speaking to Mrs. Pommeroy, her candy foster mom who helps

herself by way of slicing the hair of all people at the island. Mrs. Pommeroy had regularly was hoping Ruth might marry one among her seven boys, yet her boys are extra quite a few than desirable. Ruth's different significant other Stern Men is outdated Senator Simon Adams, the island's archaeological authority who used to be by no means a senator nor an archaeological authority. He desires of placing his selection of artifacts (junk) right into a museum of average history. yet his higher problem is delivering employment for certainly one of Mrs. Pommeroy's mentally challenged sons. His most up-to-date quest issues the tusks of a circus elephant that died in a shipwreck 138 years ago. Ruth and the senator spend weeks staring at younger Webster trudge in the course of the dust apartments searching for such treasures. This is all humorous for us, yet it really is no existence for a wise younger woman, and Ruth is aware it. in the course of her boredom and despair, she spots Owey Wishnell, the quiet nephew of a filthy rich minister from the opposite island. imagine "Romeo and Juliet" with a Maine drawl and a miles happier ending. It seems ya can get thah from heah. "Stern Men" continues a tough stability among romance and tragedy, the comedian and the grotesque. Gilbert demonstrates a candy take care of those wounded, quirky characters with all their foibles and limitations. She's fairly delicate to the best way they speak or, extra commonly, sulk. If there is whatever to whinge approximately in "Stern Men," it is clustered on the end. Why, in one of these delightfully unique story, are we served up a clich intercourse scene that reads like whatever from the genuine confessions column of a men's magazine? (Gilbert used to be a author for GQ while she wrote this novel.) Second, and maybe extra disappointing, the main immense personality improvement occurs off-stage in the course of a five-year hole among the top of the tale and a quick epilogue that we could us understand how splendidly every little thing grew to become out as soon Stern Men as all people begun behaving better. Having certain those people's stagnant lives so effectively, Gilbert turns out unwilling to explain their molting method through the the most important phase. But those are minor lawsuits a few ebook that is excellent for summer time examining and deep adequate to crack the present knowledge that pageant is the top nation of being. underneath the waves of wit and romance, "Stern Men" is a wealthy meal. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2000/0720/p1...>

Stern Men

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