



The Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove

By Christopher Moore
ISBN: 9780060735456

Introduction

The town psychiatrist has decided to switch everybody in Pine Cove, California, from their usual antidepressants to placebos, so naturally == well, to be accurate, artificially == business is booming at the local blues bar. Trouble is, those lonely slide-guitar notes have also attracted a colossal sea beast named Steve with a, shall we say, thing for explosive oil tanker trucks.

Suddenly morose Pine Cove turns libidinous, is hit by a mysterious crime wave, and a beleaguered constable has to fight off his own gonzo appetites to find out what's wrong and what, if anything, to do about it.

Topics for Discussion

1. In *Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove*, more than a third of the people in town are taking antidepressants, and many of those who aren't have their own medicine for melancholy. Does anything ring true about this? Do you think Dr. Val Riordan's decision to take her patients off of antidepressants was correct? Are we too eager to engineer our moods by the use of drugs?
2. Both Mavis Sand, the bartender, and Catfish Jefferson the blues singer, talk about the value of sadness. Is there a real value to sadness in human experience? Are the blues an expression, a celebration, or a cure for sadness?
3. Molly Michon is a has-been, Theo Crowe is a never was-which is harder to be? What does the author seem to be saying about expectations by his portrayal of these two characters?
4. Steve, the sea monster, seems to appeal to that part of the human mind that is left over from the reptiles. Do you believe that we have evolved past being ruled by our instincts, or is our culture just a means to obtain our basic desires? What do you think the religious feelings in Steve's followers in the cave say about our animal nature?
5. Estelle has used her art to escape from the sadness of the death of her husband and her frustration as a teacher. What is it about the old blues singer that attracts her? Does romance have an age limit?

About the author

Christopher Moore is the author of *Fluke*, *Lamb*, *Practical Demonkeeping*, *Coyote Blue*, *Bloodsucking Fiends*, *Island of the Sequined Love Nun*, and *The Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove*.