



Hornito: My Lie Life

Mike Albo

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Juxtaposing a trip to his childhood home -- where he has retreated to try to make some sense of his hectic existence in New York City -- with memories of growing up gay in seventies suburbia, Albo creates "Mike Albo." This character's memories are from a fictitious life that's outrageous, hilarious, and embarrassingly real. From a typical suburban childhood to his perpetual search for true love, Albo evokes a poignant, nostalgic past and a vibrant, energetic present. By turns vulnerable and jaded, flamboyant and obsessive, *Hornito* is full of subversive humor and outrageous irony.

Hornito: My Lie Life Details

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Author : Mike Albo

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From Reader Review Hornito: My Lie Life for online ebook

Brannon Boswell says

Im still not sure if this was a real memoir or a fake one. If it was fake, it was way too boring.

Edward O'Neill says

I'm deep in the middle of this one.

Basically author Mike Albo alternates between the preteen proto-gay years of a character named "Mike Albo" and "Albo"'s New York City 'adult' existence--full of loneliness, horniness, psychological dysfunction, psycho babble, brand worship, false friends, false starts, fleeting alliances, fashion faux pas's.

Albo has a keen eye and ear for cultural detritus and phony chit-chat. You know exactly the type of TV show/apparel/person he's talking about. It's painful send-up and honest self-assessment at the same time.

Is there a plot, an arc? I haven't seen it yet.

But so far, it's delicious in its pain, honesty and nastiness.

Stephanie Card says

I chose this book as part of a 30 Days of Pride Book Review project. This is that review :

“They must make A-200 smell nostalgic so that when you use it your grandparents float around you like ghosts, and you feel even more dirty as you rid yourself of crabs,” thinks our life-wearied protagonist, Mike Albo, as he hides in the bathroom of his childhood home, at 28, surreptitiously ridding himself of the crabs that have been plaguing his genitals on the entire bus ride home from New York City, where his life is a mess of his own creating.

This book is a wild ride of self-deprecating humor, awkwardness, sexual awakening, neuroticism, pathos and ennui... all pasted together in a sort of nostalgic trip down memory lane from growing up gay in 70s suburbia to becoming the sort of adult who thinks, “Oh if you only knew what was ahead of you,” at teenagers on busses.

I LOVE this man's narrative voice!

I laughed out loud so many times while reading this novel! It was like listening to a vibrant recounting of an embarrassing story told by a well loved friend. I chuckled and smiled through his awkwardness and felt deeply for him at the same time. I never felt like the story dragged or was dull. He just came across as such an actively engaging narrator.

I felt close to Mike Albo by the end...by the time we'd come full circle in his "quest for true love" from childhood longing, teenage lust, adult sexual miscalculations and back to where we met, in his childhood home where he is currently recovering from the crabs of shame, the victim of making the same choices over and over again and still finding himself surprised by the results. He is just so perfectly flawed, funny, human, and tragic... The kind of character I just want to be friends with, despite their many many faults.

The only negative thing that jumped out at me was that the first-person present-tense narrative could be jarring when the narrative shifts suddenly and fluidly through time from points in Albo's youth to points just a few months prior and back to where the story began...but after getting used to it, I decided that it made a kind of sense. As he is reliving those moments in his mind they are currently happening. He is right there living them again. Time is sort of elastic in this novel, which adds to the nostalgic quality. His youth is presented more as an amalgamation of experiences that sort of become the moments he chooses to share, rather than a straight forward timeline from point A to Z. It gives the narrative a sort of dreamy realism. Time in memories can be sort of elastic.

So, do I recommend this book? That would be a resounding, "yes!" This book brought me so much joy. Read it! Do yourself a favor.

Time to put it on the project scales.

So... this book doesn't really make much of an impression on my Queer Counterculture Visibility scale, which I invented to quantify how much each book I read for this project shed a light of representation on less visible members of the community. Mike Albo is a white gay boy from Suburbia. But there is rather a large cast of acquaintances and sexual partners, a grab bag variety, so for whatever that much representation is worth... I'll rate it

1 out of 5 stars

I'm not even sure how to rate this on my Genre Expectation scale.... What even is the genre of this novel? I checked to see how the Library of Congress categorized it and it said Gay Youth--fiction and Suburban Life--fiction... which is just... _ (?) _ /

If there was a genre specifically for darkly-comic fictionalized memoirs, then this book and "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," would be the gold standard for it. I'm rating it:

5 out of 5 stars

Because it's my scale and I can use it however I like.

Brandon Will says

Such a command for precise, vivid language that pulls you in, amuses you, takes you on a ride, then moments sneak up where what's running beneath it all showcases itself, amazing moments of humor infusing shame and loneliness, and it's all just a really perfect combination.

Does interesting things with form, too.

Patrick Tobin says

It was fun. All the material about the character's childhood is hysterically, cringe-inducingly accurate.

Giselle says

Not much happens in this book, but it was funny and seemed realistic.

Cecil says

A quirky tale that contrasts the complexities in life that come with growing up gay.

Jolie G. says

Mar 22, 2010

Brandon says

Funny.

Kyle Potter says

I read fifty pages. I couldn't discern why I was supposed to find any of the characters interesting. The narrator's voice was amusing enough, but the material wasn't.

Cisco says

It was an ok read, and I had a difficult time keeping track of all the names/characters. In addition, alternating between past and present was confusing.

Randy says

a sad "love" story if you can call it that - hopefully the real life sequel found love. was hard to keep track of

all the names and at times the jumping back and forth to the "present" and past. reading about the youth era brought back my own memories of those times (music, movies, tv).
