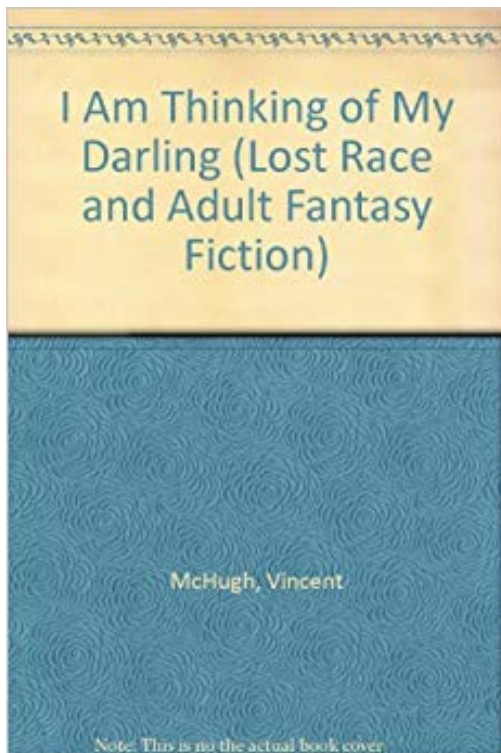


## **I Am Thinking of My Darling (Lost Race and Adult Fantasy Fiction) by R. Reginald, Douglas Melville, Vincent McHugh**



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## **Reviews of the I Am Thinking of My Darling (Lost Race and Adult Fantasy Fiction) by R. Reginald, Douglas Melville, Vincent McHugh**

Arihelm

...so praised Lawrence Ferlinghetti of "I am Thinking of My Darling", adding "to read it is a little like having a 1940's New York City taxicab in your living room." Why this book hasn't become a popular classic is a mystery to me.

In his 1943 novel, McHugh draws a vivid portrait of sophisticated, urbane city unraveled by a mysterious disease. This epidemic attacks inhibitions: Friends, co-workers, even strangers drop spontaneously hug, celebrate, leave their jobs to pursue long-abandoned fantasies, and have guilt-free and always-safe sex. It's like "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers" in reverse--instead of

producing automatons, the intruder recovers your humanity, releases the repressed id, and generally induces a madcap euphoria.

So, what's the problem? If you're protagonist Jim Rowan (a minor planning commissioner soon to become Mayor after the latter runs off to a model train convention), the problems are potentially enormous--maybe the trains don't have to run on time, but they do have to run. As do the hospitals, police department, fire stations, transportations systems, and other essential human services. It also doesn't help when your spouse catches the virus and runs amok in the city.

Part of the genius here is McHugh's mixing of the silly and the sexy with the practical and scientific. There are intelligent discussions of psychiatry, epidemiology, city planning, and philosophy placed with discretion amidst the delirium. And, although it inhabits a particular American past, the book's slightly cautionary hedonism has an admirable egalitarian stance: Men and women share in the equal employment of desire.

This would have made a great movie, with the potential to rival the most intelligent of the screwball comedies. So as you read it, I suggest you imagine your own "movie," casting Jimmy Stewart or Fonda or Grant; Lauren Bacall or Eve Arden, Rosalind Russell or Jean Harlow. Set it in the New York of the Ritz, the Colony, and Sardi's, fill it with the sassy repartee of Bogart and Bacall--or Nick and Nora Charles-- and please, film it in sharp, shimmering black and white: Because they don't make books--or movies--like this anymore!

Gathris

This novel is the basis for the wonderful 1968 movie, 'WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT FEELING GOOD?', starring Mary Tyler Moore and George Peppard. In the movie, the "happiness virus" is carried by a Mexican Toucan bird. Other adaptations, (such as setting the story in 1968, and making the main characters, not the mayor and his wife, but a hippie and his girlfriend), may make the movie a bit different from the book.....but not much! I SO WISH THIS MOVIE HAD BEEN PUT OUT ON DVD.....OR WILL BE! In the meantime, READ THE BOOK! Happiness IS possible! (Just KEEP saying that....and you just might 'catch' the 'happiness virus'.....even right now!)

HAPPINESS LIVES! : )

Mavivasa

This was a cute idea (precursor of the zombie) but it was not very good.

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