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Title: Muriel Spark: The Finishing School

Author(s): Nora Foster Stovel.

Source: International Fiction Review.

Document Type: Book review

Article Preview:

Muriel Spark The Finishing School London: Viking, 2004. Pp. 156. 12.99 [pounds sterling] The latest offering by distinguished British writer Muriel Spark--author of such renowned novels as Memento Mori, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, The Mandelbaum Gate, The Driver's Seat, Loitering with Intent, Reality and Dreams, and Aiding and Abetting--is her most metafictional novel to date. The Finishing School, fatuously named Campus Sunrise, is a movable feast. Directed by Rowland Mahler and his wife, Nina Parker, the school has eight pupils in all--a truly motley crew consisting of Princess Tilly, Joan Archer, Lionel Haas, Mary Foot, Lisa Orlando, Pansy Leghorn, Opal Gross, and Pallas Kapelas, daughter of a rich Greek criminal--currently ensconced in the French town of Ouchy. Rowland, while still an Oxford undergraduate, wrote a play for the National Theatre which was a "young-person success" (54), but, unfortunately, "you couldn't give away" (54) his subsequent efforts. Now he runs College Sunrise, where he teaches creative writing classes and attempts, with increasing difficulty, to write his novel. Nina does organizational work and teaches her...

Source Citation (MLA 8 th Edition)

Stovel, Nora Foster. "Muriel Spark: The Finishing School." *International Fiction Review*, vol. 33, no. 1-2, 2006, p. 117+. *Academic OneFile*, Accessed 23 July 2018.

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