



Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194)

By Deszö Kosztolányi

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Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194) By Deszö Kosztolányi

A great masterpiece never before available in English, *Kornél Esti* is the wild final book by a Hungarian genius.

Crazy, funny and gorgeously dark, *Kornél Esti* sets into rollicking action a series of adventures about a man and his wicked doppelgänger, who breathes every forbidden idea of his childhood into his ear, and then reappears decades later.

Part Gogol, part Chekhov, and all brilliance, Kosztolányi in his final book serves up his most magical, radical, and intoxicating work. Here is a novel which inquires: What if your id (loyally keeping your name) decides to strike out on its own, cuts a disreputable swath through the world, and then sends home to you all its unpaid bills and ruined maidens? And then: What if you and your alter ego decide to write a book together?

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Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194) By Deszö Kosztolányi Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A collaboration between an unnamed narrator and his wild prankster of a friend, this collection of vignettes follows the adventures of the sometimes poet Kornél Esti from a Budapest coffee shop to his unlikely interactions with a Bulgarian train guard and other charmers, mostly of the early-20th-century, ink-stained variety. Esti, "a half-baked literary freak," is smart, funny, and exciting, apparently everything the narrator is not—"I paid dearly for our friendship," the narrator says. Kosztolányi (1885–1936) skillfully draws the narrator's admiration and envy of Esti, leaving the reader feeling the same sense of wonder for the ersatz hero that our increasingly invisible storyteller has. One can't help being charmed by the duo, one with "determined eccentricity" and the other with begrudging admiration, and Adams's clean translation, with helpful footnotes, makes this nearly 80-year-old novel feel almost modern and easily entertaining. (Feb.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Originally published in 1933 and identified as a novel, Hungarian author Kosztolányi's tale is actually a collection of linked stories, each chapter a first-person, picaresque narrative and a wicked allegory, full of pungent comedy, occasionally at the reader's expense. It has a simple premise: as all children do, a boy meets id, and boy and id reek havoc. They part, the maturing young man increasingly mortified by this doppelganger. Time passes. Past 40 and nostalgic, the man finds his bohemian "friend," and they agree to write something together. Bernard Adams garnered a PEN Translation Fund award for this first English version of Kosztolányi's last book. In uncluttered prose he captures the unreliable narrator's arch tone. Even the most famous Homeric epithet gets a vicious twist: "Dawn, rosy-fingered, with dirty nails." Not for everyone in the same way that Kafka and Borges leave some readers cold, Kornél Esti is kin to the work of those great souls. Like their best writing, this extraordinary book might change a reader's life. --Michael Autrey

Review

"Each of these stories displays a mastery of texture, nuance, and pacing that is absolutely first rate."

- **Christopher Byrd**, *The Daily Beast*

"Kosztolányi was a ringleader in the 20th-century flowering of Hungarian literature, a poet who reformed the language, and a fiction writer of world class."

- *The Guardian*

"One of the most important and glittering writers of a Hungarian golden age, Kosztolányi is multicolored and ineffable, like a rainbow. At the end of his life, the virtuoso Kornél Esti appears."

- **Peter Esterházy**

"If anyone ever truly wanted to write the history of the Hungarian people, the author would certainly take that Dantean first sentence of Kosztolányi's *Kornél Esti* as the work's epigraph: in a word, the most wondrous first sentence ever written in the Hungarian language."

- **László Krasznahorkai**

"A tender comedy tinged with the absurdity of life, the thrill of sociability, and the imminence of death, which I guess is exactly the kind of book I like."

- **Chad Harbach**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Orlando Bush:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or read a book allowed Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have different opinion?

Kim Bogdan:

The reason why? Because this Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194) is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have got such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Melissa Parra:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194) your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get just before. The Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194) giving you a different experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful facts for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Christopher Barry:

That publication can make you to feel relax. This book Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194) was bright colored and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Kornel Esti (Ndp; 1194) has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until youngsters. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and think that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading which.

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