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# The Mount: A Novel

By Carol Emshwiller



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- \* Philip K. Dick Award Winner
- \* Best of the Year: *Locus*, *Village Voice*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Book Magazine*
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Charley is an athlete. He wants to grow up to be the fastest runner in the world, like his father. He wants to be painted crossing the finishing line, in his racing silks, with a medal around his neck. Charley lives in a stable. He isn't a runner, he's a mount. He belongs to a Hoot: The Hoots are alien invaders. Charley hasn't seen his mother for years, and his father is hiding out in the mountains somewhere, with the other Free Humans. The Hoots own the world, but the humans want it back. Charley knows how to be a good mount, but now he's going to have to learn how to be a human being.

"I've been a fan of Carol Emshwiller's since the wonderful *Carmen Dog*. *The Mount* is a terrific novel, at once an adventure story and a meditation on the psychology of freedom and slavery. It's literally haunting (days after finishing it, I still think about all the terrible poetry of the Hoot/Sam relationship) and hypnotic. I'm honored to have gotten an early look at it."

—Glen David Gold

"Carol Emshwiller's *The Mount* is a wicked book. Like Harlan Ellison's darkest visions, Emshwiller writes in a voice that reminds us of the golden season when speculative fiction was daring and unsettling. Dystopian, weird, comedic as if the Marquis de Sade had joined Monty Python, and ultimately scary, *The Mount* takes us deep into another reality. Our world suddenly seems wrought with terrible ironies and a severe kind of beauty. When we are the mounts, who—or what—is riding us?

—Luis Alberto Urrea

"We are all Mounts and so should read this book like an instruction manual that could help save our lives. That it is also a beautiful funny novel is the usual bonus you get by reading Carol Emshwiller. She always writes them that way."

—Kim Stanley Robinson

"This novel is like a tesseract, I started it and thought, ah, I see what she's doing. But then the dimensions unfolded and somehow it ended up being about so much more."

—Maureen F. McHugh

"*The Mount* is so extraordinary as to be unpraisable by a mortal such as I. I had to keep putting it down because it was so disturbing then picking it up because it was so amazing. A postmodernist would call it *The Eros of Hegemony*, but I'm no postmodernist. Nearly every sentence is simultaneously hilarious, prophetic, and disturbing. This person needs to be really, really famous."

—Paul Ingram, *Prairie Lights Bookstore*

"Brilliantly conceived and painfully acute in its delineation of the complex relationships between masters and slaves, pets and owners, the served and the serving, this poetic, funny and above all humane novel deserves to be read and cherished as a fundamental fable for our material-minded times."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Adult/High School - This veteran science-fiction writer is known for original plots and characters, and her latest novel does not disappoint, offering an extraordinary, utterly alien, and thoroughly convincing culture set in the not-too-distant future. Emshwiller brings readers immediately into the action, gradually revealing the takeover of Earth by the Hoots, otherworldly beings with superior intelligence and technology. Humans have become the Hoots' "mounts," and, in the case of the superior Seattle bloodline, valuable racing stock. Most mounts are well off, as the Hoots constantly remind them, and treated kindly by affectionate owners who use punishment poles as rarely as possible. No one agrees more than principal narrator Charley, a privileged young Seattle whose rider-in-training will someday rule the world. The adolescent mount's dream is of bringing honor to his beloved Little Master by becoming a great champion like Beauty, his sire, whose portrait decorates many Hoot walls. When Charley learns that his father now leads the renegade bands called Wilds, he and Little Master flee. This complex and compelling blend of tantalizing themes offers numerous possibilities for speculation and discussion, whether among friends or in the classroom."

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"Emshwiller's prose is beautiful"

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"*The Mount* is a brilliant book. But be warned: It takes root in the mind and unleashes aftershocks at inopportune moments."

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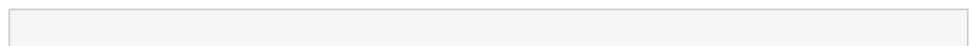
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—*Rambles*

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Carol is a MacDowell Colony Fellow and has been awarded an NEA grant, a New York State Creative Artists Public Service grant, a New York State



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### **The Mount: A Novel By Carol Emshwiller Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Like Emshwiller's startlingly perceptive short fiction and her previous novel, *Carmen Dog* (1990), where women begin to degenerate into animals and animals start evolving upward into womanhood, this novel turns our supposed certainties into beautiful and terrible insights. Writing in skeletal prose from the adolescent point of view of Charley, a boy who dreams of becoming a famous racer (ridden by his alien Little Master, the reptilian? avian? marsupial? Future-Ruler-of-Us-All), Emshwiller picks up human history several generations after a successful Hoot invasion has turned most of humanity into "mounts," bred for speed and beauty and trained with whips and savage bits to do their masters' will. In the mountains, though, a few wild humans lurk, led by Charley's father, plotting to rise up against the Hoots and take back the world they lost. Glimpses of arresting sorrow meld here with teenage dreams and hopes and anguish, shaped subtly with a poet's sure touch into finely crafted characterizations of human-as-not-quite-animal, Hoot-as-not-quite-monster, coming together through heartbreak and abandonment of previously hard-held prejudices. Brilliantly conceived and painfully acute in its delineation of the complex relationships between masters and slaves, pets and owners, the served and the serving, this poetic, funny and above all humane novel deserves to be read and cherished as a fundamental fable for our material-minded times.

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From [Booklist](#)

A rider is talking to its mount, a human. The rider (the one who gives a ride) belongs to an alien race, the hoots, that landed human generations ago. Now the hoots keep humans as mounts, breeding them much as humans once bred horses. The very best mounts are imprinted as infants and train with their riders from childhood. Charley, one of the best, is destined to be the mount of The-future-supreme-ruler-of-us-all. When he is about 12, Wilds--renegade humans-- come from the mountains on a raid and kill the hoots. Charley saves his Little Master, though, and becomes the only Wild with a hoot. Mount and rider learn a lot about freedom from the Wilds, and when the humans are ready to fight the rest of the hoots, the solution to a crisis is the unexpected result of Charley and the Little Master's relationship and their understanding of the truth about hoots and their mounts. A memorable alien-invasion scenario, a wild adventure, and a reflection on the dynamics of freedom and slavery. *Regina Schroeder*

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Review

Brilliantly conceived and painfully acute . . . (Publishers Weekly, starred review)

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## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Barbara Tucker:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what your own problem? How about your time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have free time? What



did you do? Every individual has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question due to the fact just their can do that. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this specific The Mount: A Novel to read.

**Chad Foster:**

The actual book The Mount: A Novel will bring one to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book you just read, this book very acceptable to you. The book The Mount: A Novel is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

**Maurice Neely:**

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**Mary Tobin:**

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