2010

On "The Elephant Hills Lodge"

Peter Rock

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss72/28

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
"On "The Elephant Hills Lodge"

Peter Rock
2010 Montana Prize in Fiction Judge

"The Elephant Hills Lodge" is a story of great subtlety and complication. As our narrator takes us deeper into a foreign land (Africa), cultural differences that could be over-emphasized serve as the background from which amazing characters emerge. This is storytelling that keeps its focus on the personal and allows many mysteries to arise from its context. More than anything, the relationships it chooses to investigate—between our narrator and the girl, Grace, and with the two native women, and the mysterious German man also staying at the lodge—are so restrained and so unfamiliar (no love affair, no exotic celebration, no ethnic epiphany) that they take us in directions that have to be appreciated, that can’t be anticipated. I can’t remember a narrator who generated paranoia and sympathy in such equal measures.