

Anna's world surreal

cont'd from p. 10

To Anna the question is not whether one should participate in the madness (that is already decided), but what form that participation will take; is one to be an individual or a collective criminal? It is little wonder that Anna feels powerless in the face of such a nightmarish world vision.

In many ways *Anna's World* is an extension of Blais' other novels,

many of which deal with alienation, victimization, and the fear that lies beneath everyday existence. She makes real events surreal or nightmarish by channeling them through individual perception, attaching the appropriate subjective, personal concerns in the process.

While the novel is essentially a story of adolescent despair, and confused intellectual hysteria, its analysis of the previous generation places the whole experience in perspective,

legitimizing the very real observations of Anna and Michelle with concrete comparisons from their parents' generation. Anna's mother Raymonde, her father Peter, Michelle's mother Guislaine, and her lesbian sister Lilliane are all victims of the same nameless confusion, Lilliane's problems complicated by her sexuality, the parents' by their own destructive complacency.

Anna's World is more than peripherally concerned with the sixties

generation, exploring the psychological reasons behind the gradual assimilation of teenaged radicals into the mainstream of Western capitalism. Anna and Michelle's dilemma is made all the more intimidating in light of their parents' failure; putting them side by side, as Blais does here, the two groups provide a powerful composite study of moral paralysis.

—KEVIN CONNOLLY

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- Send a letter to Eaton's telling them what you have done. Their address is Eaton's Centre, 220 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 2H1.

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Issued by the Canadian Labour Congress on behalf of 1500 striking Eaton's workers, members of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

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