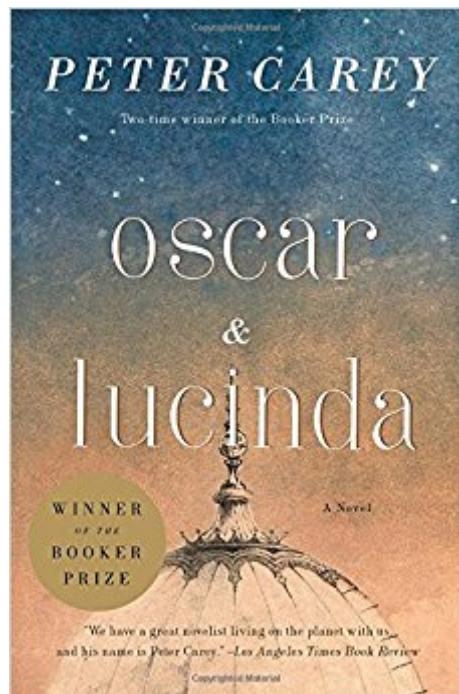


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Oscar And Lucinda



Synopsis

The Booker Prize-winning novel--now a major motion picture from Fox SearchlightÂ Â Pictures. This sweeping, irrepressibly inventive novel, is a romance, but a romance of the sort that could only take place inÂ Â nineteenth-century Australia. For only on that sprawling continent--a haven for misfits of both the animal and human kingdoms--could a nervous Anglican minister who gambles on the instructions of the Divine become allied with a teenaged heiress who buys a glassworks to help liberate her sex. And only the prodigious imagination of Peter Carey could implicate Oscar and Lucinda in a narrative of love and commerce, religion and colonialism, that culminates in a half-mad expedition to transport a glass church across the Outback.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oscar Hopkins is a high-strung preacher's kid with hydrophobia and noisy knees. Lucinda Leplastrier is a frizzy-haired heiress who impulsively buys a glass factory with the inheritance forced on her by a well-intentioned adviser. In the early parts of this lushly written book, author Peter Carey renders the seminal turning points in his protagonists' childhoods as exquisite 19th-century set pieces. Young Oscar, denied the heavenly fruit of a Christmas pudding by his cruelly stern father, forever renounces his father's religion in favor of the Anglican Church. "Dear God," Oscar prays, "if it be Thy will that Thy people eat pudding, smite him!" Lucinda's childhood trauma involves a beautiful doll bought by her struggling mother with savings from the jam jar; in a misguided attempt to tame the doll's unruly curls, young Lucinda mutilates her treasure beyond repair. Neither of these coming-of-age stories quite explains how the grownup Oscar and Lucinda each develop a guilty

passion for gambling. Oscar plays the horses while at school, and Lucinda, now an orphaned heiress, finds comfort in a game of cards with an odd collection of acquaintances. When the two finally meet, on board a ship bound for New South Wales, they are bound by their affinity for risk, their loneliness, and their awkwardly blossoming (but unexpressed) mutual affection. Their final high-stakes folly--transporting a crystal palace of a church across (literally) godforsaken terrain--strains plausibility, and events turn ghastly as Oscar plays out his bid for Lucinda's heart. Yet even the unconvincing plot turns are made up for by Carey's rich prose and the tale's unpredictable outcome. Although love proves to be the ultimate gamble for Oscar and Lucinda, the story never strays too far from the terrible possibility that even the most thunderstruck lovers can remain isolated in parallel lives.

"If *Illywhacker* astounded us with its imaginative richness, this latest Carey novel does so again, with a masterly sureness of touch added. It's a story, in a sense the story, of mid-19th century England and Australia, narrated by a man of our time, and therefore permeated with modern consciousness," stated PW. The novel won the Booker Prize. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oscar & Lucinda is a book that is in love with itself, and I say that with respect. Its infatuation comes from its inventive, beautiful ability with language, its peculiar take on the world and its themes, and how it shapes and moves its two titular characters as they struggle to find themselves and each other. Plot-wise, the story is about a conflicted man and a conflicted woman who slowly fall in love, and who make a bet to construct a glass church and transport it downriver in New South Wales. However, here it is entirely secondary, and oftentimes just gets in the way of Carey's prodigious gifts of description and characterization. This is a book that is all about the difficulty in getting to know people due to society's rigid strictures and the pain that causes all parties involved. However, there is just as much wonder about the odd beauties of life and its abilities to organically change the spirit; its balance is truly impressive. It's also carefully written with a gorgeous sense of language that is both fresh and rare in modern fiction. Emotions run deep here, but the book never becomes maudlin. This is my first book of Carey's, but he's already made me a fan for life. A beautiful, beautiful book.

This is such a wonderful wonderful story. Unconventional characters and writing style. You feel for the characters. For example I felt very sorry for Oscar and I know I should have felt equally sorry for

Lucinda are found I could not. Maybe because they had such different characters and personalities. The book takes you places you least expect and is really a mental vision of Sydney and how tough it was even though the focus remained on Oscar and Lucinda. Not a book to pass up. Sure to entertain and capture your imagination.

Although I found the two main characters fascinating, I found it irritating to read pages and pages about a myriad of minor characters who didn't have any roll whatsoever in the development of the story. Carey makes hyper realistic descriptions of everybody and one page later they are lost forever. However there are characters I want to know more about, about their circumstances and fate, including Lucinda herself, and they are just left behind as if there were not important either. At the end I have a feeling of frustration rather than amazement at the final development of the story.

I just didn't love it. Found it hard to get into and really didn't live up to the hype.

A first rate description of people's weaknesses , society's judgement, and lost love. The complexities of human misconception is reminiscent of Charles Dickens.

Any book that can simultaneously make it difficult to like but impossible not to love most of the characters is as good as it comes.

Having read all of his books within the space of a week last year, the truest thing I can say now is that his writing style is addictive. Carey chooses strange and varied stories to tell. The character development in Oscar and Lucinda made it my favorite.

I've just read that book for a second time. It is absolutely delightful.

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