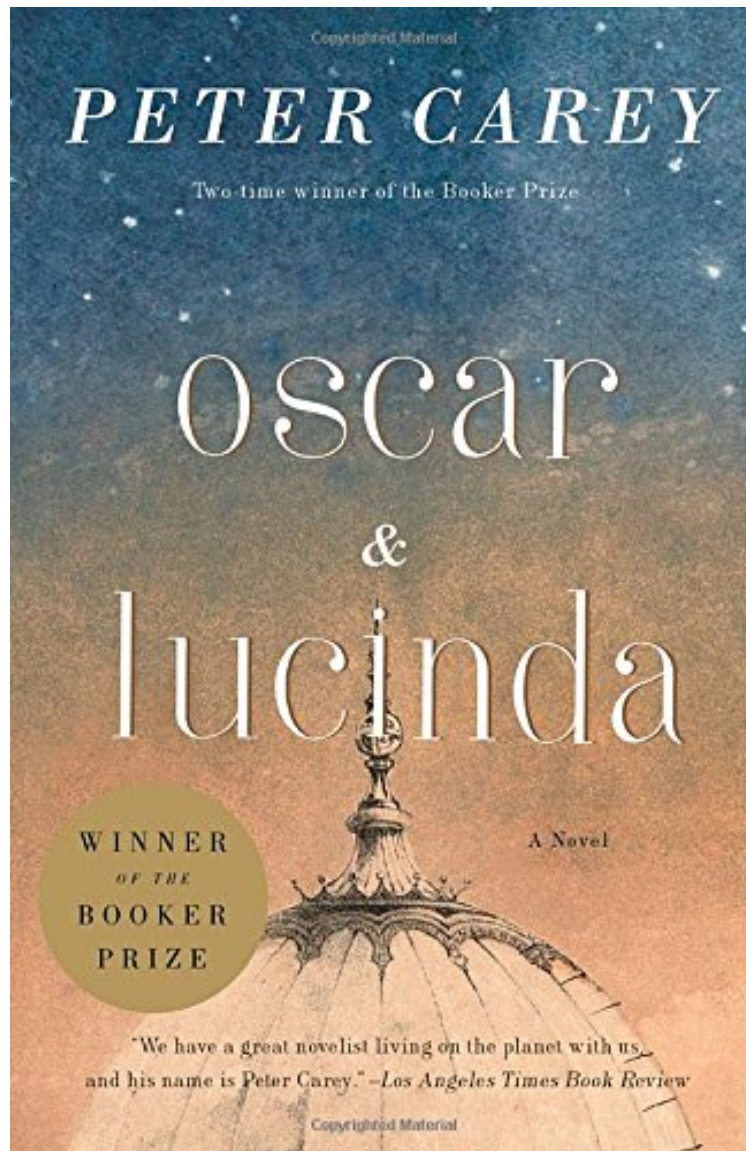


[Library ebook] Oscar and Lucinda

Oscar and Lucinda

Peter Carey

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Peter Carey : Oscar and Lucinda before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oscar and Lucinda:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Oscar Lucinda by Peter Carey By scott89119 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perfect in every way By Katieq 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. frustrating By rosa 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.

The Booker Prize-winning novel--now a major motion picture from Fox Searchlight Pictures. This sweeping, irrepressibly inventive novel, is a romance, but a romance of the sort that could only take place in 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.

.com 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. We have a great novelist living on the planet with us, and his name is Peter Carey. Los Angeles Times Book The stuff of shimmering transparent fantasy, held together by the struts of 19th-century history and the millions of painstaking details. Time A kind of rollercoaster ride . . . The reader emerges . . . gasping, blinking, reshaped in a hundred ways, conscious that the world is never going to look the same again. The Washington Post Book World Carey luxuriates in language . . . [Oscar Lucinda is] a brilliant success. San Francisco Chronicle It is Thomas Wolfe one is reminded of most when reading Peter Carey . . . they share that magnificent vitality, that ebullient delight in character, detail and language that turns a novel into an important book. The New York Times Book [Oscar Lucinda] is very, very hard to put down. There are many pleasures to be had here, chief among them the authors gift for telling fascinating, entertaining stories . . . Like the characters of Charles Dickens and Honor de Balzac, Mr. Careys creations are real in the simplest human sense. Washington Times A commanding writer with laser eye for detail and luxuriant narrative gifts. Wall Street Journal Peter Carey is to Sydney what Joyce was to Dublin . . . an absolute master of language and storytelling. Thomas Kenally Carey can write. He is funny, humane, and profound. The Literary (London) The well of talent from which Peter Carey draws his tales produces work as sweet and refreshing as a mineral spring . . . Carey nears the summit occupied by Borges and Pynchon and a very few others. Harlan Ellison [Carey] works a literary territory all his own, combining elements of absurdism, black humor,

social satire and old-fashioned family saga . . . a pleasure. Miami Herald
From the eBook edition.
From the Inside Flap
The Booker Prize-winning novel--now a major motion picture from Fox Searchlight Pictures. This sweeping, irrepressibly inventive novel, is a romance, but a romance of the sort that could only take place in 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.