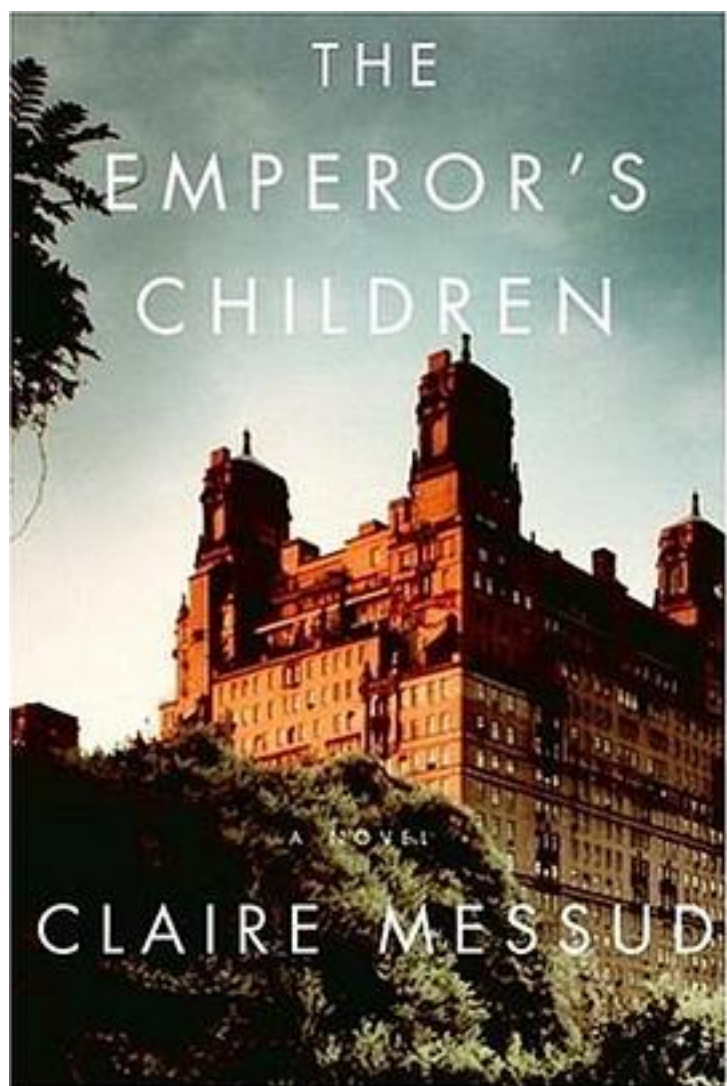


The Emperor's Children



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著者:Claire Messud

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From a writer “of near-miraculous perfection” (The New York Times Book Review) and “a literary intelligence far surpassing most other writers of her generation” (San Francisco Chronicle), *The Emperor’s Children* is a dazzling, masterful novel about the intersections in the lives of three friends, now on the cusp of their thirties, making their way—and not—in New York City.

There is beautiful, sophisticated Marina Thwaite—an “It” girl finishing her first book; the daughter of Murray Thwaite, celebrated intellectual and journalist—and her two closest friends from Brown, Danielle, a quietly appealing television producer, and Julius, a cash-strapped freelance critic. The delicious complications that arise among them become dangerous when Murray’s nephew, Frederick “Bootie” Tubb, an idealistic college dropout determined to make his mark, comes to town. As the skies darken, it is Bootie’s unexpected decisions—and their stunning, heartbreaking outcome—that will change each of their lives forever.

A richly drawn, brilliantly observed novel of fate and fortune—of innocence and experience, seduction and self-invention; of ambition, including literary ambition; of glamour, disaster, and promise—*The Emperor’s Children* is a tour de force that brings to life a city, a generation, and the way we live in this moment.</p>

作者介绍:

梅萨德是生于1966年的美国新锐女作家，其父是阿尔及利亚移民，母为加拿大人，因此其第三部小说《皇帝的儿女》有资格入围今年英国布克奖的大名单（此奖一向将美国作家排除在外）。

小说写一男两女三个年近30的文艺青年，来到纽约的传媒界打拼(这样的孩子我们见过不少，出身名校，聪明，高傲，有着无与伦比的品味和满脑子的幻想，自认为是文化精英，能干出一番大事业)

但各自遇到从生活到情爱的种种问题，玛丽娜、丹尼尔和朱丽叶是布朗大学的同窗好友，她们满怀抱负迈出校门，一心要挤入美国上流文化阶层，然而年近三十，依然一事无成，丹尼尔还是个默默无闻的纪录片制作人，朱丽叶是毫无经济保障的自由撰稿人，玛丽娜仍然和父母住在一起，手头的一篇小说完成之日遥遥无期。她们不约而同地发现，性交易才是达到目的的捷径。直至“9·11”事件爆发，一切均大为改观。“国王”指的是其中一女的记者父亲，一位“无冕之王”。

本书锁定的背景是9·11以后的曼哈顿文化圈，作者通过入木三分的刻画，使我们对这个特殊的群体有了感性的认识。

一部相当睿智、观察敏锐的世态喜剧，背景是2001年曼哈顿的文化圈，作者对特权阶层既不留情面，又心怀怜悯。三位毕业于著名学府的大学生，都已年届而立，自欺欺人地把自己的朋友和家人想象得特别有文化，以为凭着直率他们可以撼动世界，结果却一事无成。

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书评

这本书，陪伴了我将近半年，陪我消磨了几十次等待飞机的闲暇时光，陪我，一起旅行过了一个又一个国度。至于内容，还没有成熟的想法。但值得一看。

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