

Expensive People

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著者:Joyce Carol Oates

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Joyce Carol Oates' s Wonderland Quartet comprises four remarkable novels that explore social class in America and the inner lives of young Americans. In *Expensive People*, Oates takes a provocative and suspenseful look at the roiling secrets of America' s affluent suburbs. Set in the late 1960s, this first-person confession is narrated by Richard Everett, a precocious and obese boy who sees himself as a minor character in the alarming drama unfolding around him.

Fascinated by yet alienated from his attractive, self-absorbed parents and the privileged world they inhabit, Richard incisively analyzes his own mismanaged childhood, his pretentious private schooling, his “successful-executive” father, and his elusive mother. In an act of defiance and desperation, eleven-year-old Richard strikes out in a way that presages the violence of ever-younger Americans in the turbulent decades to come.

A National Book Award finalist, *Expensive People* is a stunning combination of social satire and gothic horror. “You cannot put this novel away after you have opened it,” said *The Detroit News*. “This is that kind of book—hypnotic, fascinating, and electrifying.”

Expensive People is the second novel in the Wonderland Quartet. The books that complete this acclaimed series, *A Garden of Earthly Delights*, *them*, and *Wonderland*, are also available from the Modern Library.

作者介绍:

Joyce Carol Oates is the Roger S. Berlind Professor in the Humanities at Princeton University. The bestselling author of the novels *We Were the Mulvaney*s and *Blonde*, she has written numerous works of fiction as well as poetry, essays, criticism, and plays.

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标签

美国文学

American.Literature

英文原版

小说

评论

they are not rich people; they are expensive people

俄狄浦斯情结与弑母主题在小说中都不鲜见，但将之结合在一起的作品不多。一场十一岁男孩薛定谔的谋杀，从题材上足够吸引眼球了，但奥茨并没将重心放在情节上。没有什么情节可言，华丽精致优雅宁静的乡村生活只是表象，其下涌动着悲惨阴郁愤怒嫉恨麻木。人们带着空白的笑意关照彼此，目中无人。本作主题是讽刺美国社会伪善，但也触及到母权力量和女性主义范畴。不被造物主接纳的生命，就像失去信仰的有神论者，在灵魂的荒岛上漂流。

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书评

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