

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 Mulvaneys and Blonde, she has written numerous works of fiction as well as poetry, essays, criticism, and plays.

目录:

[Expensive People_下载链接1](#)

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妒麻木。人们带着空洞的笑意关照彼此，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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