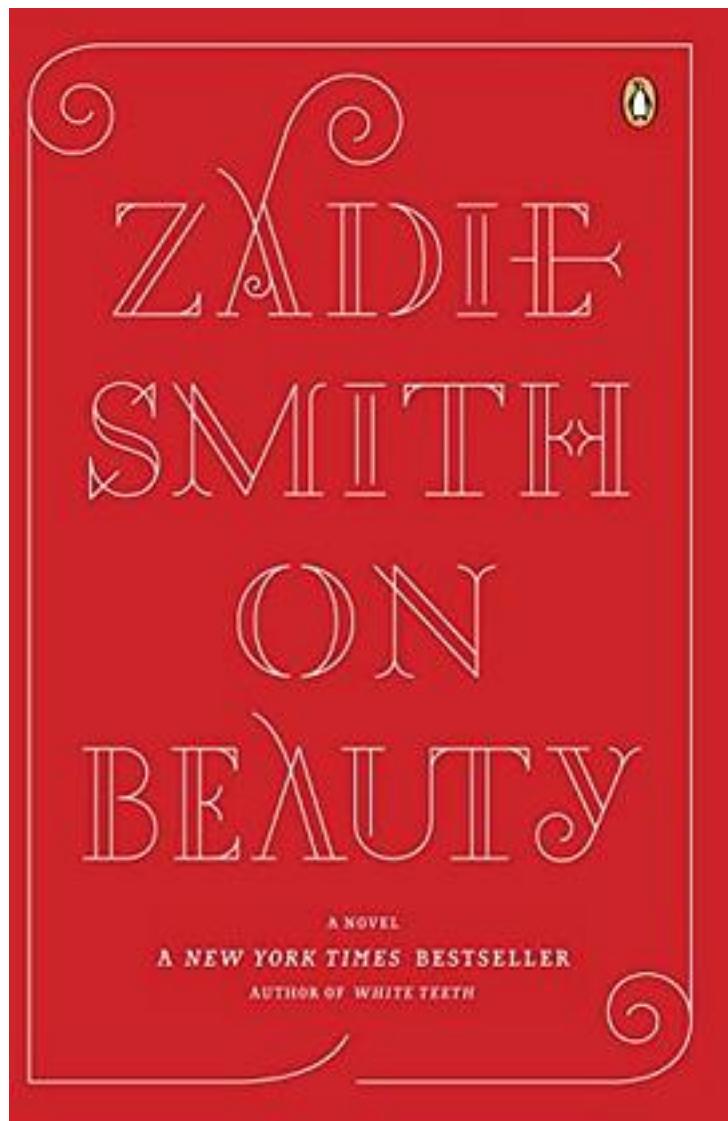


# On Beauty



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著者:Zadie Smith

出版者:Penguin Canada

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装帧:Paperback

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From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Truly human, fully ourselves, beautiful," muses a character in Smith's third novel, an intrepid attempt to explore the sad stuff of adult life, 21st century-style: adultery, identity crises and emotional suffocation, interracial and intraracial global conflicts and religious zealotry. Like Smith's smash debut, *White Teeth* (2000), this work gathers narrative steam from the clash between two radically different families, with a plot that explicitly parallels *Howards End*. A failed romance between the evangelical son of the messy, liberal Belseys; Howard is Anglo-WASP and Kiki African-American; and the gorgeous daughter of the staid, conservative, Anglo-Caribbean Kipps leads to a soulful, transatlantic understanding between the families' matriarchs, Kiki and Carlene, even as their respective husbands, the art professors Howard and Monty, amass matériel for the culture wars at a fictional Massachusetts university. Meanwhile, Howard and Kiki must deal with Howard's extramarital affair, as their other son, Levi, moves from religion to politics. Everyone theorizes about art, and everyone searches for connections, sexual and otherwise. A very simple but very funny joke; that Howard, a Rembrandt scholar, hates Rembrandt; allows Smith to discourse majestically on some of the master's finest paintings. The articulate portrait of daughter Zora depicts the struggle to incorporate intellectual values into action. The elaborate Forster homage, as well as a too-neat alignment between characters, concerns and foils, threaten Smith's insightful probing of what makes life complicated (and beautiful), but those insights eventually add up. "There is such a shelter in each other," Carlene tells Kiki; it's a take on Forster's "Only Connect;," but one that finds new substance here.

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作者介绍:

Winner of the ORANGE PRIZE FOR FICTION 2006

shortlisted for the MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2005

"Wonderfully funny, An outstanding novelist with a powerful understanding both of what the brain knows and what love knows"

--- the Observer

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标签

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评论

A bit too much like Howards End.....

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书评

英国女作家扎笛·史密斯 (Zadie Smith) 的小说《论美》 (On beauty) 是近几年来我迫不及待想要阅读的唯一一本文学作品。在《世界文学》2007年第5期上读到其节译后，我就决心一定要弄到原文全本，而且我也已经相信，这位作家将是我今后忠实追看的对象。《论美》出版于2005年， ...

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虽然直到第286页，扎迪·史密斯才通过一本偶然找到的《看得见风景的房间》首次提及福斯特，但其实从小说的第一句话开始，史密斯就已经在向福斯特致敬了。“我们还是从杰尔姆写给他父亲的电子邮件开始吧”，小说如是开头；而福斯特在《霍华德庄园》里的版本是，“我们还是从海...

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btr的五颗星推荐当然要拿来看看。

翻译真是糟糕，还有许多莫名其妙的黑体字，不过“《关于美》超越了翻译”，这点在我读过五分之二也开始认同起来，不动声色的讽刺多精彩啊。

黑人女主人公姬姬的形象总叫我眼前浮现出奥巴马夫人的样子，那巨大的……臀部。  
封面上遐想连篇的素...

似乎是去年夏天的某日从view那儿接过那本厚实的On

Beauty...一下子就已被这本小说的架势给吓住了，当时就立马给view同志打好招呼，基本上，俺最快一年之后还给你吧，做好思想准备。。。。

后来，在看完了那本狗屎一样的The

Proposal以后，俺终于开始攻读这本砖头一样的美丽小说。...

Zadie

Smith本来可以写的温和些，但因为心中的愤怒，文字多刺，也便少了许多厚实，别看她文字这么多，书又这么厚。但书确实很好。

还好，感觉翻译问题不大，读的满顺利的，只有少许别扭之处。我一直要求自己不要轻易因为翻译问题错过一本好书。另外，作者好年轻啊。

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