

The Nickel Boys



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著者:Colson Whitehead

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As the Civil Rights movement begins to reach the black enclave of Frenchtown in segregated Tallahassee, Elwood Curtis takes the words of Dr. Martin Luther King to heart: He is "as good as anyone." Abandoned by his parents, but kept on the straight and narrow by his grandmother, Elwood is about to enroll in the local black college. But for a black boy in the Jim Crow South of the early 1960s, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy the future. Elwood is sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, whose mission statement says it provides "physical, intellectual and moral training" so the delinquent boys in their charge can become "honorable and honest men."

In reality, the Nickel Academy is a grotesque chamber of horrors where the sadistic staff beats and sexually abuses the students, corrupt officials and locals steal food and supplies, and any boy who resists is likely to disappear "out back." Stunned to find himself in such a vicious environment, Elwood tries to hold onto Dr. King's ringing assertion "Throw us in jail and we will still love you." His friend Turner thinks Elwood is worse than naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble.

The tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. Formed in the crucible of the evils Jim Crow wrought, the boys' fates will be determined by what they endured at the Nickel Academy.

Based on the real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for one hundred and eleven years and warped the lives of thousands of children, The Nickel Boys is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers.

作者介绍:

I'm the author of the novels Zone One; Sag Harbor; The Intuitionist, a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway award; John Henry Days, which won the Young Lions Fiction Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and Apex Hides the Hurt, winner of the PEN Oakland Award. I've also written a book of essays about my home town, The Colossus of New York, and a non-fiction account of the 2011 World Series of Poker called The Noble Hustle. A recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a MacArthur Fellowship, I live in New York City.

My latest book, The Underground Railroad, is an Oprah's Book Club pick.

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2019阅读

闲时翻阅

虐待

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感化院

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评论

/200318: "You said don't take anyone with you," Elwood said. "On the run."
"You're dumb, and I'm stupid," Turner said.
好故事与肤色无关，短评里的几位可以轻描淡写地打发，我自愧不如。

Goodreads 4.3... 这两年书榜上 黑命贵&女命贵主题作品 评价都虚高...

读完地下铁路之后标记了这本，但一直没听，前段时间有编辑来问要不要翻，这才买来听。白头的故事怎么说呢。。。跟我的生活经历差别比较大（性别、族群、对时代背景的了解 etc.）所以不大能引起共鸣，有点可惜。

非常压抑，把人性最难受的心情和经历都写尽了。看似薄薄一本，实际上很不简单。

作者中规中矩的一部作品吧 没有当年读underground railroad那么震惊
结尾从微微震惊到唏嘘到心酸” we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and
one day we will win our freedom”

2-/5 Whitehead's writing is charmless and does nothing to deliver this story.
Unfinished.

压抑的现实

基于现实但写得并不特别touching

有点太悲伤，没看完。

one of the best fiction I had read.

The Nickel Boy and The Underground Railroad are about out, about getting away from
the yoke, or hell of discrimination, inequality and horror. There are five ways to get out
of the Nickel, but few left alive. The ending of the Nickel boy overwhelmed me so much
that I couldn't even utter any words. Are we seeing the light at the end of the tunnel?

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书评

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