

Beasts



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A young woman tumbles into a nightmare of deadly desire in a superb novella of suspense from National Book Award winner Joyce Carol Oates. Art and arson, the poetry of D. H. Lawrence and pulp pornography, hero-worship and sexual debasement, totems and taboos--out of narrative elements like these one of the most adroit voices in American fiction devises a startling, suspenseful tale that turns the sunny idyll of New England college campus life into a lurid nightmare. A bright, talented junior at Catamount College in the druggy 1970s, Gillian Brauer strives to realize more than a poet's craft in her workshop with the charismatic, rebellious professor Andre Harrow. For Gillian has fallen in love--with Harrow, with his aesthetic sensibility, with his bohemian cottage on Brierly Lane, with the mystique of his majestic, russet-haired wife, Dorcas. A sculptress, Dorcas has outraged the campus and alumnae with the crude, primitive, larger than life-sized wooden totems that she has exhibited under the motto We are beasts and this is our consolation. As if mesmerized, Gillian enters the rarefied world of the Harrows. She surrenders to their cassoulets, Quaaludes, and intimacies. She is special, even though she knows her classmates Marisa and Sybil and the exotic Dominique have preceded her here. She is helpless. And she will learn in full the meaning of that motto.

作者介绍:

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