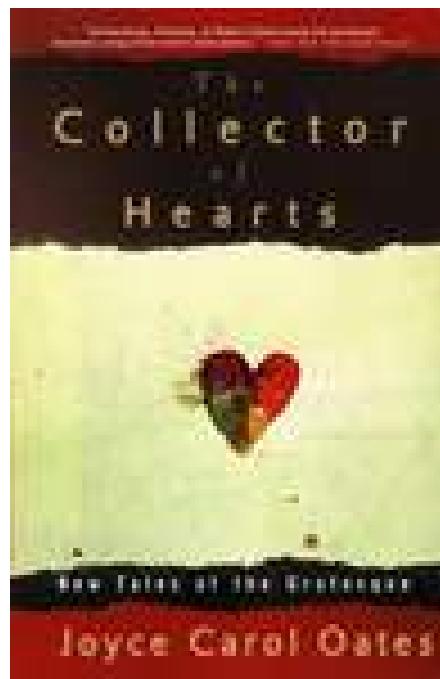




The Collector of Hearts: New Tales of the Grotesque

Joyce Carol Oates

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The Collector of Hearts: New Tales of the Grotesque Joyce Carol Oates

In these twenty-five gothic horror tales from the master of the short story, Joyce Carol Oates explores the waking nightmares of life with eyes wide-open, facing what the bravest of us fear the most. From the Kafkaesque "Scars" to a ballad like tale of erotic obsession in "The Crossing, " to the mother-daughter bond given a fatal twist in "Death Mother" the stories in The Collector of Hearts illuminate the mysteries of the human experience -- both intellectual and visceral. It is a stunning and richly diverse anthology of mood and menace -- haunting, elegiac, and compulsively readable.

The Collector of Hearts: New Tales of the Grotesque Details

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Author : Joyce Carol Oates

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From Reader Review The Collector of Hearts: New Tales of the Grotesque for online ebook

Darian Danilevich says

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Allison says

these are stories which turn every day life into something that isn't quite horror, but more macabre. There's literacy to these stories, her characters and settings are well drawn out. Most of the people in these stories are relatable, people we'd see everyday.

Henrietta says

Unreal. These stories are a tour of shocking and truly chilling themes. Incredibly well written.

Grace says

I basically love everything Oates writes, and this is worth a look. Some of the stories are downright disturbing, and as usual, Oates delivers her unique voice and style to these horrific tales.

Erin says

A bit of a mixed bag for me. Favorites were:

Labor Day

The Collector of Hearts

The Affliction

The Crossing

Shadows of the Evening

Sarah says

Joyce Carol Oates's collection is horrific, but you won't find any zombies, vampires, or even serial killers here. Rather, she highlights the horror of everyday life and relationships – from mental illness to the breakdown of relationships between parents and children, from repressed memories the psychological insanity, her book is that much more powerful and scarier because most of these stories could (and probably do) really happen. Of course, there were supernatural elements to many of the stories. My only complaint about this book is that some of the story seemed incomplete – Oates is a writer who leaves a lot up to the reader. Her stories inspire a great deal of thought and reflection, like all good literary fiction should.

Among my favorite stories was one simply called ---- [blank] about a little girls trip to her rich uncles and the horror she encountered. there is a young woman who arrives from abroad to care for her elderly aunt in the early 1900s, and who has a surreal run-in with a mysterious Singer. Perhaps my favorite story was the one where two former lovers meet again in a strange, sorted hotel room where they are forced to repeat their adulterous actions. Another good story was the story of a woman in a coma and her devoted husband. One story that was good but seemed very incomplete was the story of a mother whose daughter, a sullen and withdrawn girl of about 11, puts together a grotesque puppet and uses it to tease the children in the neighborhood. The story was compelling but it ended very suddenly with no resolution. This is common in the stories in this book, there is often no resolution to the strange and surreal events that happen.

Dani Peloquin says

Collector of Hearts is another short story collection that centers around grotesque characters and plots. Despite the similarity with themes in Haunted, Collector of the Hearts pales in comparison. In fact, it seems as if Oates has ripped herself off with this collection by using almost the exact same techniques as she did in her previous collection (such as numbering certain segments and arranging the stories in three parts). Similar to Haunted, the stories in Collector of Hearts are almost entirely about family relationships that become violent with physically or sexually. However, they are far more weird and border on being science fiction.

I finished the collection but it took a great deal of motivation! I found some of the tales to be terrifying, but not in a "spooky ghost story". Instead, it was terrifying in a "how could someone think of anything this sick and twisted" way. Perhaps the best word to describe this collection is disturbing.

www.iamliteraryaddicted.blogspot.com

Justin Drown says

Joyce Carol Oates is in my top three favorite authors. I LOVE reading one star reviews of her work as they are always people who expected something light hearted and with left struck with horror. JCO is a literary writer that doesn't pull punches and this collection of short stories isn't any exception. If I had to list the stories that really resonated with me it would be The Affliction, Intensive, Valentine, Schroeder's Stepfather, and The Omen.

I chose to start my Halloween reading off with some Gothic horror and I wasn't disappointed in my choice. Oates always comes through for me.

5/5

Jim says

I've got to stop reading Oates. The subtitle on this one - New Tales of the Grotesque - should have been enough to leave it on the library shelf. She's good at describing feelings or actions so bizarre that they don't occur to most people, and life is a bit too short to spend time reading about them. As an aside - at the back of the book under a title of "Acknowledgments" each story is listed with the magazine that originally printed it. Many of those sources I'd never heard of and a kind of wonder passed through my mind about whether she might use an agent to peddle what she's written. She has written so much that it seems improbable that she also spends time mailing things again and again to out-of-the-main-stream magazines.

Dennis Mitton says

Forgive me but I have just discovered Joyce Carol Oates. More specifically I've just read the short story Black Rectangle and think it is the most darkly disturbing story I've ever read. No blood. No knives. No shrieks. Just a child visiting her cousin's family for the first time and an ever present looming feeling of foreboding and darkness that oozes from word. And that is just one story of a couple dozen.

I've always known that Oates is a reader's writer- how could anyone sell that many books and not be able to tell a story? I did not know that she is a writer's writer as well. Every story in Collector is masterful. She tricks you with the simplicity and ease of her prose but the stories are deep and disturbing. She explores what should be kind and benevolent but becomes twisted and frightening.

The book is a truly wonderful read and if you read one story you I'll want to read them all. And it will be time tremendously well spent. Can't wait to get on with the rest of her books.

Four stars.

Apryl Lewis says

The stories that I did read from this collection were good, but overall just not enough to keep my interest.

Even the short story "The Collector of Hearts" was not the best short story I read out of the collection, which was surprising to say the least. I may pick this book up in the future and go back to where I left off, mainly because I hate leaving books unfinished out of respect for the author. I'm giving the book 2 stars because the collection still intrigued me and makes me open to reading more of Joyce Carol Oates' works.

Ethan says

I thoroughly enjoyed The Collector of Hearts, I found it to be quite an enjoyable read. As for its subtitle, "Tales of the Grotesque", I can certainly attest to it being true. Many of the stories are quite disgusting in a very nice way, and made my stomach churn with every page I read. The many plots that inhabit the short story all revolve around seemingly average people who all have some kind of traumatic problem or issue that they have experienced or will experience within the text, and they all seem fairly realistic, and feel as if they could be real events. Overall the tones of the stories stayed very consistent, all keeping that same sense of mystery and terror that inhabits the Thriller genre. The settings themselves were often fairly believable, however one of my main issues with the book lies in settings. Often the settings are mentioned fairly briefly and not expanded on to a very deep degree, and while I could still imagine the places the characters inhabited, I felt that for some stories it felt somewhat skimmed over and more emphasis was placed on the characters. If I were to recommend this book, I think it would be best suited for young adults or above, due to the word choice sometimes being above the realm of younger readers, and the stories and themes being too mature for anyone too young to pick up on or fully understand. Overall this book was a great read and I look forward to reading more books written by Joyce Carol Oates soon.

Jaksen says

Love this book but I love this author, too. I've read so much by Oates that I feel like I'm in her skin - okay I only wish I had her literary talents, too. This collection has a Gothic feel, though some of the stories were originally published in an assortment of magazines and anthologies, including Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine.

I especially loved the story 'Scars' and 'Evening Shadows.' With Oates you can feel totally immersed in a tale and have a sense where it's going, then 'bang,' the rug is pulled out from under your feet. It's not so much she has twist endings - as surprise endings, or as I never saw that coming. Some stories just end. As though she closed the door quietly in your face: "I'm done with this one, good reader, and no, no candy for you tonight."

Love her. Love this collection. I borrowed this from the library; I need to own it.

Amy Moritz says

Joyce Carol Oates is from Lockport. I grew up in Lockport. She's a writer. I always wanted to be a writer and while I put words together for a living most days I would not consider what I'm doing writing. But let that self deprecation sit for another time.

I picked up this collection of short stories at a book sale at a winery in Niagara County known for its ghost stories. I felt that was appropriate to mention.

I took my time reading this collection, taking in a story every few days. It took me a while to get into the rhythm of the stories, few of which had any resolution, leaving much of the piece to the mind of the reader. For the first few stories I thought I just wasn't smart enough to get it. I still probably am not smart enough and am missing TONS of nuance and literary device but the deeper I got into the work the more confidence I got to engage in it. I think it was the first story in part two, the title just a dark rectangle, that first let me going, "Oh wait! Oh what the hell?"

I also enjoyed "The Crossing" very much and it's two-sided portrayal of death. (OK, that could be a spoiler, so that's why I checked the spoiler button on this review."

Life is strange. Life is fleeting. Life is a narrative we construct for ourselves. Oh, and sometimes it's just plain messed up.

Banushka says

bence üç buçuk y?ld?z.

oates'in amerikan ta?ras?n? oldukça garip bir biçimde anlatmas? için okunur ama en iyi kitaplar?ndan de?il bence.
