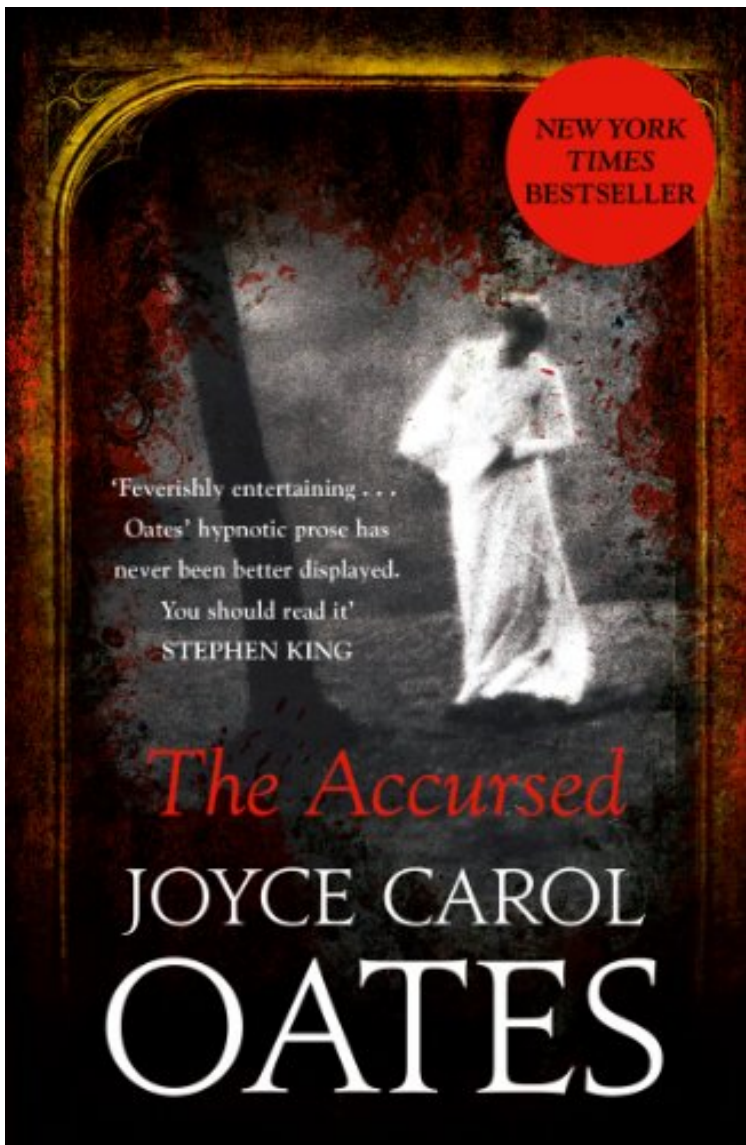


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# The Accursed



*Par Joyce Carol Oates  
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**Par Joyce Carol Oates : The Accursed** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Accursed:

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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurThis eerie tale of psychological horror sees the real inhabitants of turn-of-the-century Princeton fall under the influence of a supernatural power.New Jersey, 1905: soon-to-be commander-in-chief Woodrow Wilson is president of Princeton University. On a nearby farm, Socialist author Upton Sinclair, enjoying the success of his novel *The Jungle*, has taken up residence with his family. This is a quiet, bookish community elite, intellectual and indisputably privileged.But when a savage lynching in a nearby town is hushed up, a horrifying chain of events is initiated until it becomes apparent that the families of Princeton have been beset by a powerful curse. The Devil has come to this little town and not a soul will be spared.The Accursed marks new territory for the masterful Joyce Carol Oates narrated with her

unmistakable psychological insight, it combines beautifully transporting historical detail with chilling fantastical elements to stunning effect. Revue de presse Joyce Carol Oates has written what may be the world's finest postmodern Gothic novel: *E.L. Doctorow's Ragtime* set in Dracula's castle. Its dense, challenging, problematic, horrifying, funny, prolix and full of crazy people. You should read it... Oates' hypnotic prose has never been better displayed. (Stephen King, *New York Times Book (Cover)*) Spectacular. . . With its vast scope, its mingling of comic and tragic tones, its omnivorous gorging on American literature, and especially its complex reflection on the major themes of our history, *The Accursed* is the kind of outrageous masterpiece only Joyce Carol Oates could create. (Ron Charles, *Washington Post*) A brilliant Gothic mystery that has the punch of historical fiction. Currents of race, class and academic intrigue swirl under the surface, but it's the demonic curse that propels the action... Oates casts a powerful spell. You'll close *The Accursed* and want to start it all over again. (People (4 Stars)) *The Accursed* is a unique, vast multilayered narrative; a genre bending beast of a book, utterly startling from start to finish, compulsive and engaging, the writing crackling with energy and wit. This is an elaborately conceived work. (New York of Books) [*The Accursed*] is in addition to being a thrilling tale in the best gothic tradition, a lesson in master craftsmanship... The story sprawls, reaches, demands, tears, and shrieks in homage to the traditional gothic, yet with fresh, surprising twists and turns... Oates has given us a brilliantly crafted work. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) Carefully and densely plotted, chockablock with twists and turns and fleeting characters, her novel offers a satisfying modern rejoinder to the best of M.R. James and perhaps even Henry James. (Kirkus (starred review)) Oates' atmospheric prose beautifully captures the flavor of gothic fiction. . . . In Oates' hands, this supernatural tale becomes a meditation on the perils of parochial thinking. It demands we think - with monsters - about our failure to face the darkest truths about ourselves and the choices we've made. (NPR) A lush, arch, and blistering fusion of historical fact, supernatural mystery, and devilish social commentary... A diabolically enthralling and subversive literary mash-up. (Booklist (starred review)) A smart and relentlessly absorbing read. (Library Journal) Joyce Carol Oates is at her gothic best an astonishing fever dream of a novel. (Los Angeles Times) For those who enjoy total immersion in this kind of historical fiction, *The Accursed* is good fun, as mesmerizing as a demon and as addictive as a patent cure. (Boston Globe) A fascinating novel in which historical truth and imagination collide to create an unsettling vision of America as it entered the 20th century. (Columbus Dispatch) *The Accursed* blends history, horror, fantasy and black comedy into a trippy literary brew. For fans of Oates' gothic works, this is a heady draught indeed. (Dallas Morning News) Regular readers of Oates will be familiar with the game. . . after [new readers make] their way through *The Accursed*, no one will find it easy to forget. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) Joyce Carol Oates is at the top of her game in her glorious new novel, *THE ACCURSED* - a long, lush account of perhaps-preternatural happenings in Princeton, N.J., a century ago. (Buffalo News) This latest effort looks like a belated candidate for the Great Oates Novel. . . . *The Accursed* is a big, mad, colourful romp, respectful of the literary traditions in which it participates, leavened with a piquant humour. (Financial Times) *The Accursed* is very much in the American gothic tradition of Charles Brockden Brown, Hawthorne, Poe, and Faulkner. (New York of Books) In this new novel Oates has achieved a nearly flawless combination of postmodernism, gothic horror, traditional narrative, politically engaged literature, historical novel, and popular bestseller - a heady and enjoyable mix. (Harvard Online) Presentation de l'auteur This eerie tale of psychological horror sees the real inhabitants of turn-of-the-century Princeton fall under the influence of a supernatural power. New Jersey, 1905: soon-to-be commander-in-chief Woodrow Wilson is president of Princeton University. On a nearby farm, Socialist author Upton Sinclair, enjoying the success of his novel *The Jungle*, has taken up residence with his family. This is a quiet, bookish community elite, intellectual and indisputably privileged. But when a savage lynching in a nearby town is hushed up, a horrifying chain of events is initiated until it becomes apparent that the families of Princeton have been beset by a powerful curse. The Devil has come to this little town and not a soul will be spared. *The Accursed* marks new territory for the masterful Joyce Carol Oates narrated with her unmistakable psychological insight, it combines beautifully transporting historical detail with chilling fantastical elements to stunning effect.