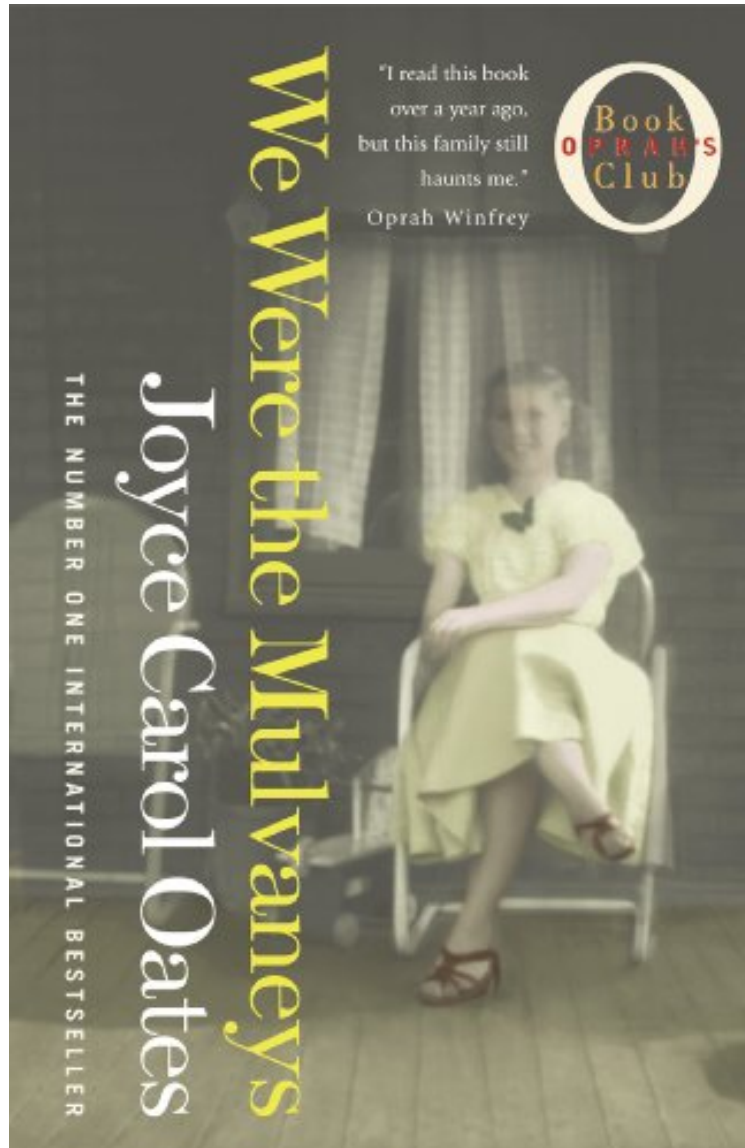


(Free) We Were the Mulvaneys

We Were the Mulvaneys

Von Joyce Carol Oates

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Von Joyce Carol Oates : We Were the Mulvaneys before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We Were the Mulvaneys:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Slow Motion Family Disintegration and Quick ReconnectionVon Donald MitchellThe Mulvaneys were living the American dream . . . until their perfect daughter, Marianne, was brutally raped while drunk on Prom night. No one in the family is able to deal with the reality, and their inability to cope drives a splintering wedge into the family and into each of

their lives. You can see the collapse coming, like the inevitable deflation of a large balloon after a tiny hole develops, but Ms. Oates wants to take you through every last possible humiliation before allowing healing and reconciliation to occur. Interestingly, Ms. Oates chose to date this novel into a time when rape was still not spoken about much in public . . . and premarital loss of female virginity was viewed as a moral lapse (even when caused by rape). The events would have different consequences today. She also doesn't focus that much on the rape, so this isn't a book about how a family can recover from such a trauma. Rather, she appears to have chosen as her theme that we need to be more open and communicative with one another. The family's collapse is due to their inability to face facts, help one another and move on. In that sense, the theme of this book is very much like the theme of Ms. Oates's more recent book, *The Tattooed Girl*. We Were the Mulvaney's will appeal most to those who enjoy reading about the intimate details of family life, fun with pets and the pleasures of hobbies, gardening and outdoor life. Ms. Oates brings much enthusiasm to her portrayals of everyday events and thoughts that will ring true in their details. This book needed a strong editorial hand, but didn't get it. It's about three times longer than it needs to be to capture the story that Ms. Oates tells. She makes a big point of having the youngest child, Judd, narrate the story . . . but everyone else narrates parts of the story that are larger than Judd's narration. The Judd narration seems tacked on rather than helpful. She would have done better to have had someone further removed be the narrator and play a bigger role. Ms. Oates also telegraphs her story . . . and you just have to keep reading page after page as she plays it out in constantly repeating detail around the same themes. To me, Marianne is by far the most interesting and sympathetic character. I would have enjoyed reading a book that developed her story much more than this one did. She struggles with the normal feelings of guilt associated with being a victim while trying to follow the right Christian path of forgiving those who sin against her. Her path is a long and hard one, and Ms. Oates decides to skip the essential moments when she is healed. At a time when many families are living economically fragile existences, this story will resonate with some as Mike Senior's reactions to the rape cause him to destroy his business. Other than that, there is little reason to read this book. If you want to learn more about how a person and a family should recover from rape, try a nonfiction book on that subject. As I finished this book, I realized that we cannot tell and show others too often how much we love them. 1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a truly gifted and legendary author Von scabbI have just finished reading "We Were the Mulvaney's" by Joyce Carol Oates. Once again, Oates has astonished and moved me as a reader. I was washing my Sunday night supper dishes after finishing the book and found myself staring out the window, into the blackness of night, and reflecting on where this family may have gone all wrong. What suffering was endured! Yet, one must remember - a horrific incident, causing tragedy to a seemingly idyllic family was brought upon them by themselves. Because they were the 'Mulvaney's', they could not bear to bring themselves to understand the true meaning of "family", so intent on public appearance and the forever dreaded - "what will people think?". They were cowards, all of them, in their disloyalty and then dismissal of their only sister, poor Marianne. I tried to understand what could possibly motivate their cold behavior to one another, Corrine's cold reproach to her only beautiful daughter. After all the hype devoted to what a happy and loving family the Mulvaney's were, how indulgent, what a terrific facade, how great was their acting talents! I believe this is what the author may have been attempting to invoke in readers. Did you place yourself in any of their positions? And if so, how did you fair? This book is well written to the point where one feels anger, resentment, sadness, and then exultation, and ultimately, happiness, however disconcerting. A book of many emotions, able to move one's feelings, until the very end. I ponder how others must feel, about themselves and their own families, after reading this family saga. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I think it's a parody Von Sherry Chandler This book has lots of enticing parallels to Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*: three brothers in distress over the fall from innocence of a beloved sister. Mule Mulvaney the athlete is nicely parallel to Jason Compson the tough businessman, Patrick Mulvaney the scientist gone off to Cornell to Quenton Compson the sensitive son gone off to Harvard. Is it possible that our narrator Judd is also parallel to the youngest Compson son Benjy, the idiot by whom the tale of sound and fury is initially told? It's tempting to think so. Because then he would be an untrustworthy narrator and I wouldn't have to believe what he tells us about these people. When reading Joyce Carol Oates, I always have the feeling that she must have her tongue way in her cheek. She's pulling our legs but keeping a very straight face. Look at the ending here: Mom's hair has become silver glinting like mica - a crown. Patrick the bitter bookworm turned terrorist is now a perfect California boy with a great arm for slow pitch softball. Wounded and wild Marianne has been domesticated by the Horse Whisperer - who proposes while euthanizing her beloved old cat. And of course, like Christ, Daddy has died for all our sins and we can all be the perfect Mulvaney's again. Surely this can't be serious.

Kurzbeschreibung The unforgettable story of the rise, fall and ultimate redemption of an American family. The Mulvaney's are seemingly blessed by everything that makes life sweet. They live together in the picture-perfect High Point Farm, just outside the community of Mt Ephraim, New York, where they are respected and liked by everybody. Yet something happens on Valentine's Day 1976. An incident involving Marianne Mulvaney, the pretty

sixteen-year-old daughter, is hushed up in the town and never discussed within the family. The impact of this event reverberates throughout the lives of the characters. As told by Judd, years later, in an attempt to make sense of his own past reveals the unspoken truths of that night that rends the fabric of the family life with tragic consequences. In *We Were the Mulvaney's*, Joyce Carol Oates, the highly acclaimed author of *Blonde*, masterfully weaves an unforgettable story of the rise, fall and ultimate redemption of an American family..deA happy family, the Mulvaney's. After decades of marriage, Mom and Dad are still in love--and the proud parents of a brood of youngsters that includes a star athlete, a class valedictorian, and a popular cheerleader. Home is an idyllic place called High Point Farm. And the bonds of attachment within this all-American clan do seem both deep and unconditional: "Mom paused again, drawing in her breath sharply, her eyes suffused with a special lustre, gazing upon her family one by one, with what crazy unbounded love she gazed upon us, and at such a moment my heart would contract as if this woman who was my mother had slipped her fingers inside my rib cage to contain it, as you might hold a wild, thrashing bird to comfort it." But as we all know, Eden can't last forever. And in the hands of Joyce Carol Oates, who's chronicled just about every variety of familial dysfunction, you know the fall from grace is going to be a doozy. By the time all is said and done, a rape occurs, a daughter is exiled, much alcohol is consumed, and the farm is lost. Even to recount these events in retrospect is a trial for the Mulvaney offspring, one of whom declares: "When I say this is a hard reckoning I mean it's been like squeezing thick drops of blood from my veins." In the hands of a lesser writer, this could be the stuff of a bad television movie. But this is Oates's 26th novel, and by now she knows her material and her craft to perfection. *We Were the Mulvaney's* is populated with such richly observed and complex characters that we can't help but care about them, even as we wait for disaster to strike them down. --Anita Urquhart.co.uk

Joyce Carol Oates' *We Were the Mulvaney's* is the story of a happy family. After decades of marriage, Mum and Dad are still in love--and the proud parents of a brood of youngsters, which includes a star athlete, a class valedictorian and a popular cheerleader. Home is an idyllic place called High Point Farm, and the bonds of attachment within this all-American clan do seem deep and unconditional: Mom paused again, drawing in her breath sharply, her eyes suffused with a special lustre, gazing upon her family one by one, with what crazy unbounded love she gazed upon us, and at such a moment my heart would contract as if this woman who was my mother had slipped her fingers inside my rib cage to contain it, as you might hold a wild, thrashing bird to comfort it. But as we all know, Eden can't last forever. And in the hands of Joyce Carol Oates, who's chronicled just about every variety of familial dysfunction, you know the fall from grace is going to be memorable. By the time all is said and done, a rape occurs, a daughter is exiled, much alcohol is consumed and the farm is lost. Even to recount these events in retrospect is a trial for the Mulvaney offspring, one of whom declares: "When I say this is a hard reckoning I mean it's been like squeezing thick drops of blood from my veins." In the hands of a lesser writer, this could be the stuff of a bad made-for-tv film but this is Oates' 26th novel, and by now she knows her material and her craft to perfection. *We Were the Mulvaney's* is populated with such richly observed and complex characters that you can't help but care about them, even as you wait for disaster to strike them down. --Anita Urquhart,
.com