



JOYCE CAROL OATES

THE
CORN
MAIDEN

and Other Nightmares

The Corn Maiden And Other Nightmares Joyce Carol Oates

Joyce Carol Oates



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The Corn Maiden Joyce Carol Oates, 2011-12-06 Seven masterfully told stories of suspense and nightmarish drama from the National Book Award winning author of *Them* *The Guardian* With the novella and six stories collected here Joyce Carol Oates reaffirms her singular reputation for portraying the dark complexities of the human psyche The title novella tells the story of Marissa an eleven year old girl with hair the color of corn silk When she suddenly disappears mounting evidence points to a local substitute teacher Meanwhile an older girl from Melissa s school is giddy with her power to cause so much havoc unnoticed And she intends to use that power to enact a terrifying ritual called *The Corn Maiden* In *Helping Hands* published here for the first time a widow meets an Iraq War veteran in a dingy charity shop having no idea where the peculiar encounter is about to lead In *Fossil Figures* a pair of twins an artist and a congressman never outgrow an ugly sibling rivalry And in *A Hole in the Head* a plastic surgeon gives in to an unusual and dangerous request Together these seven tales offer a virtuoso performance of probing unsettling intelligent storytelling from one of the world s greatest writers of suspense *The Guardian* The seven stories in this stellar collection from the prolific Oates may prompt the reader to turn on all the lights or jump at imagined noises This volume burnishes her reputation as a master of psychological dread Publishers Weekly starred review For horror stories to be truly horrific the reader has to care Oates feels this deeply in her writing and delivers with style *The Independent* Further confirmation of a unique writer s restless preternatural brilliance *The Guardian*

The Corn Maiden and Other Nightmares Joyce Carol Oates, 2014-05-10 A chilling volume of stories and novellas by Joyce Carol Oates one of the world s greatest and most prolific writers **The Corn Maiden** Joyce Carol Oates, 2022-04-14 From the towering imagination of literary icon Joyce Carol Oates comes an unbearably taut tale combining folklore adolescent insecurity and blood sacrifice and six other nightmarish stories Twice nominated for the Nobel Prize Joyce Carol Oates presents an unbearably taut and terrifying tale combining the fury of folklore and adolescent insecurity Marissa is an innocent girl with hair the colour of corn silk She does not hold others in strange thrall as some young women do she obeys her parents she does not stay late after school lingering on her walk through the swaying heads of maize She is the perfect sacrifice *The Corn Maiden* is a novella followed by six other nightmares Daddy Love Joyce Carol Oates, 2013-01-08 From the author of *Bellefleur* A psychologically incisive glimpse into the mind of a deranged predator and the boy he abducts to be his son Booklist Robbie Whitcomb is five years old when he s taken from his mother in a mall parking lot In her attempt to chase the kidnapper she s left badly injured and permanently disfigured Such are the methods of the man who calls himself *Daddy Love* a man known to the rest of the world as charismatic preacher Chester Cash For the next six years Robbie is to be Daddy s son That means doing whatever Daddy says and giving him whatever he wants Soon Robbie learns to accept his new name Gideon He also learns that he is not the first of *Daddy Love* s sons And that each of the others after reaching a certain

age was never seen again As Robbie s mother recovers from her wounds her life and marriage are a daily struggle But as years go by she maintains a flicker of hope that her son is still alive Meanwhile Robbie approaches the bittersweet age with no illusions about his fate But somewhere within this tortured child lies a spark of rebellion And he knows all too well what survival requires After all these years Joyce Carol Oates can still give me the creeps Marilyn Stasio The New York Times Book Review A lean and disturbing tale that reverberates after its ending The Columbus Dispatch Oates makes us squirm as she forces us to see some of the action through Love s twisted and warped perspective Kirkus Reviews This unsettling tale showcases Oates s masterful storytelling Publishers Weekly

High Crime Area Joyce Carol Oates,2014-04-01 Eight stories from the author of A Book of American Martyrs that display her mastery of imagery and stream of consciousness Kirkus Reviews Joyce Carol Oates is an unparalleled investigator of human personality In these eight stories she deftly tests the bonds between damaged individuals brother and sister teacher and student two lonesome strangers on a subway in the beautiful bracing prose that has become her signature In the title story a white aspiring professor in Detroit tries to shake a black male shadow during the summer of the city s 1967 race riots In The Rescuer a promising graduate student detours to inner city Trenton New Jersey to save her brother from a downward spiral only to find herself entranced by his dangerous new world Meanwhile a young woman prowls the New York City subways in search of her perfect man in Lorelei In each of these short stories Oates portrays a desperate confrontation with the demons inside us Sometimes it s the human who wins and sometimes it s the demon Oates offers unexpected glimmers of redemption amid the grotesquerie degradation and exploitation that fill this collection s eight tales Publishers Weekly

Evil Eye Joyce Carol Oates,2013-09-03 A quartet of shrewd and unnerving novellas about toxic entanglements from the National Book Award winning author Booklist Joyce Carol Oates is one of the most prominent writers of her generation and she is fearless when exploring the most disturbing corners of human nature In Evil Eye Oates offers four chilling tales about love so powerful that people might die or kill for it In the title story we meet Mariana the young fourth wife of a prominent intellectual When her husband s first wife comes to visit Mariana learns a terrible secret that threatens her marriage and sanity In So Near Any Times Always shy teenager Lizbeth meets Desmond a charming older boy who offers the first spark of romance Yet as their relationship blossoms Lizbeth realizes that a menacing soul lies beneath Desmond s perfect facade In The Execution spoiled college student Bart Hansen has planned the perfect crime to get back at his condescending parents What he didn t plan on was the resilience of his mother s love even in the face of death And in The Flatbed childhood trauma has prevented Cecelia from enjoying physical intimacy with a man But when she meets the love of her life Cecelia must confront the demon who stole her innocence long ago With the razor sharp prose that has made Joyce Carol Oates a living legend Evil Eye shows love as sporadically magical mysterious and murderous A dazzling disturbing tour de force of Gothic suspense four odd compelling ingeniously narrated tales that gain in power and resonance when read in conjunction with each other The Boston Globe Exquisitely suspenseful

The relationships between the damaged sometimes monstrous individuals who people these pages will keep the reader riveted Publishers Weekly starred review *The Doll-Master* Joyce Carol Oates,2016-05-03 This Bram Stoker Award winning collection is certain to stick in your mind long after you've turned the last page St Louis Post Dispatch Includes Big Momma a finalist for the International Thriller Writers Award for Best Short Story Here are six of Joyce Carol Oates's most frightening and deeply disturbing short stories Pittsburgh Post Gazette In the titular story a boy becomes obsessed with his cousin's doll after her tragic death As he grows older he begins to collect found dolls from surrounding neighborhoods each with its own sinister significance In Gun Accident a teenage girl is delighted to house sit for her favorite teacher until an intruder forces his way inside changing more than one life forever The collection closes with the taut tale of a mystery bookstore owner whose designs on a rare bookshop in scenic New Hampshire devolve into a menacing game with real life consequences At the heart of each story is a predator prey relationship and what makes them so terrifying is that most of us can easily picture ourselves as the prey at least at some time during our lives Minneapolis Star Tribune Everything she writes in whatever genre has an air of dread because she deals in vulnerabilities and inevitabilities in the desperate needs that drive people to their fates A sense of helplessness is the essence of horror and Oates conveys that feeling as well as any writer around Terrence Rafferty The New York Times Book Review One of the stranger parts of the human condition may be our deep fascination and at times troubling exploration of the darker aspects of our nature No other author explores the ugly and at times blazingly unapologetic underbelly of these impulses quite like Joyce Carol Oates in *The Doll Master* Pittsburgh Post Gazette In her new collection Oates relishes moments of gothic melodrama while rooting them firmly in grindingly ordinary American lives The Guardian Oates convincingly demonstrates her mastery of the macabre with this superlative story collection This devil's half dozen of dread and suspense is a must read Publishers Weekly starred review **Night-Gaunts** Joyce Carol Oates,2018-06-05 Dark brilliant fiction from the New York Times bestselling author Oates's spookiness is visceral psychologically involving and socially astute Booklist In the title story of her taut new fiction collection Joyce Carol Oates writes Life was not of the surface like the glossy skin of an apple but deep inside the fruit where seeds are harbored There is no writer more capable of picking out those seeds and exposing all their secret tastes and poisons than Oates herself as demonstrated in these six stories One tale opens with a woman naked except for her high heeled shoes seated in front of the window in an apartment she cannot on her own afford In this exquisitely tense narrative reimagining of Edward Hopper's *Eleven A M 1926* the reader enters the minds of both the woman and her married lover each consumed by alternating thoughts of disgust and arousal as he rushes amorously murderously to her door In *The Long Legged Girl* an aging jealous wife crafts an unusual game of Russian roulette involving a pair of Wedgwood teacups a strong Bengal brew and a lethal concoction of medicine Who will drink from the wrong cup the wife or the dance student she believes to be her husband's latest conquest In *The Sign of the Beast* when a former Sunday school teacher's corpse turns up the blighted adolescent she

had by turns petted and ridiculed confesses to her murder but is he really responsible And another young outsider Horace Phineas Love Jr is haunted by apparitions at the very edge of the spectrum of visibility after the death of his tortured father in *Night Gaunts* a fantastic ode to H P Lovecraft Consummately well written stylistically dashing forthrightly nightmarish

Kirkus Reviews **Little Bird of Heaven** Joyce Carol Oates,2009-09-15 *Little Bird of Heaven* by Joyce Carol Oates is a riveting story of love violently lost and found in late 20th century America In this novel Oates returns to the Buffalo New York region to brilliantly explore the dangerous intersections of romance and eroticism guilt and obsession desire and murder *Little Bird of Heaven* a soaring work by the New York Times bestselling author and a nominee for the 2009 Man Booker Prize one of the world s most prestigious literary awards is as powerful and unforgettable as Joyce Carol Oates s previous acclaimed novels *The Gravedigger s Daughter* and *We Were the Mulvaneys* *A Widow's Story* Joyce Carol Oates,2011-02-15 Unlike anything Joyce Carol Oates has written before *A Widow s Story* is the universally acclaimed author s poignant intimate memoir about the unexpected death of Raymond Smith her husband of forty six years and its wrenching surprising aftermath A recent recipient of National Book Critics Circle Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award Oates whose novels *Blonde* *The Gravedigger s Daughter* *Little Bird of Heaven* etc rank among the very finest in contemporary American fiction offers an achingly personal story of love and loss *A Widow s Story* is a literary memoir on a par with *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion and Calvin Trillin s *About Alice* *Jack of Spades* Joyce Carol Oates,2015-05-05 An exquisite psychologically complex thriller about opposing forces within the mind of one ambitious writer and the delicate line between genius and madness Andrew J Rush has achieved the kind of critical and commercial success most authors only dream about He has a top agent and publisher in New York and his twenty eight mystery novels have sold millions of copies Only Stephen King one of the few mystery writers whose fame exceeds his own is capable of inspiring a twinge of envy in Rush But Rush is hiding a dark secret Under the pseudonym *Jack of Spades* he pens another string of novels noir thrillers that are violent lurid and masochistic These are novels that the upstanding Rush wouldn t be caught reading let alone writing When his daughter comes across a *Jack of Spades* novel he has carelessly left out she picks it up and begins to ask questions Meanwhile Rush receives a court summons in the mail explaining that a local woman has accused him of plagiarizing her own self published fiction Before long Rush s reputation career and family life all come under threat and in his mind he begins to hear the taunting voice of the *Jack of Spades* Sleek and suspenseful Readers are sure to be gripped and unsettled by Oates s depiction of a seemingly mild mannered character whose psychopathology simmers frighteningly close to the surface Publishers Weekly starred review Just when you think you ve got her all figured out Joyce Carol Oates sneaks up behind and confounds you yet again She does it with a wicked flourish in *Jack of Spades* *The New York Times Book Review* [The Falls](#) Joyce Carol Oates,2009-10-13 It is 1950 and after a disastrous honeymoon night Ariaah Erskine s young husband throws himself into the roaring waters of Niagara Falls Ariaah the Widow Bride of the Falls begins a relentless seven day vigil in the

mist waiting for his body to be found At her side is confirmed bachelor and pillar of the community Dirk Burnaby who is unexpectedly drawn to her What follows is a passionate love affair marriage and family a seemingly perfect existence But tragedy soon takes over their lives poisoning their halcyon years with distrust greed and murder Set against the mythic historic backdrop of Niagara Falls in the mid twentieth century this haunting exploration of the American family in crisis is a stunning achievement from one of the great artistic forces of our time The Nation This P S edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book including author interviews recommended reading and more Black Girl/White Girl Joyce Carol Oates,2009-10-13 Fifteen years ago in 1975 Genna Hewett Meade s college roommate died a mysterious violent terrible death Minette Swift had been a fiercely individualistic scholarship student an assertive even prickly personality and one of the few black girls at an exclusive women s liberal arts college near Philadelphia By contrast Genna was a quiet self effacing teenager from a privileged upper class home self consciously struggling to make amends for her own elite upbringing When partway through their freshman year Minette suddenly fell victim to an increasing torrent of racist harassment and vicious slurs from within the apparent safety of their tolerant enlightened campus Genna felt it her duty to protect her roommate at all costs Now as Genna reconstructs the months weeks and hours leading up to Minette s tragic death she is also forced to confront her own identity within the social framework of that time Her father was a prominent civil defense lawyer whose radical politics including defending anti war terrorists wanted by the FBI would deeply affect his daughter s outlook on life and later challenge her deepest beliefs about social obligation in a morally gray world Black Girl White Girl is a searing double portrait of black and white of race and civil rights in post Vietnam America captured by one of the most important literary voices of our time **Pursuit** Joyce Carol Oates,2019-09-27 From the 1 New York Times bestselling author a compelling domestic horror story of a new bride haunted by childhood nightmares Kirkus Reviews Less than twenty four hours after exchanging vows with her new husband Willem Abby steps out into traffic As his wife lies in her hospital bed sleeping in fits and starts Willem tries to determine whether this was an absentminded accident or a premeditated plunge and he quickly discovers a mysterious set of clues about what his wife might be hiding Why for example is there a rash like red mark circling her wrist What does she dream about that causes her to wake from the sound of her own screams Slowly Abby begins to open up to her husband revealing to him what she has never shared with anyone before a story of a terrified mother a jealous drug addled father a daughter s terrifying captivity and the demons behind her terrible recurring dreams of wandering through a field ridden with human skulls and bones From a recipient of a National Book Award and three Bram Stoker Awards this suspenseful twisting tale named one of the scariest books of the year by Kirkus Reviews is a fast paced examination of the destructive and restorative nature of obsessive love Booklist I'll Take You There Joyce Carol Oates,2003 In her bewitching 30th novel Oates returns again to neurotic female post adolescence With deftly cast philosophical meditations on love death identity the body this is a portrait of a woman surprised to discover strength in

simply enduring **Haunted** Joyce Carol Oates,1994 One of American s foremost authors ventures into dark uncharted territories of the human psyche in a collection of stories that rival the work of Edgar Allan Poe Oates is the 1994 recipient of the Bram Stoker Award for Lifetime Achievement given by the Horror Writers of America **Cardiff, by the Sea** Joyce Carol Oates,2020-10-06 Four brand new novellas by the 1 New York Times bestselling National Book Award winning grand mistress of ghoulishness Publishers Weekly An academic in Pennsylvania discovers a terrifying trauma from her past after inheriting a house in Cardiff Maine from someone she has never heard of A pubescent girl overcome with loneliness befriends a feral cat that becomes her protector from the increasingly aggressive males that surround her A brilliant but shy college sophomore is distraught to discover that she s pregnant and the professor who takes her under his wing may not have innocent intentions And a woman who marries into a family shattered by tragedy finds herself haunted by her predecessor s voice an inexplicably befouled well and a compulsive attraction to a garage that took two lives In these psychologically daring chillingly suspenseful pieces the author of *We Were the Mulvaney*s and *Blonde* writes about women facing threats past and present once again cementing her reputation for great intelligence and dead on imaginative powers Los Angeles Times Book Review **Beasts** Joyce Carol Oates,2004 A bright talented junior at Catamount College in the druggy 1970s Gillian Brauer strives to realise more than a poet s craft in her workshop with the charismatic anti establishment professor Andre Harrow For Gillian has fallen in love with Harrow with his aesthetic sensibility and bohemian lifestyle with his secluded cottage with the mystique of his imposing russet haired French 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 mesmerised Gillian enters the rarefied world of the Harrows She is special even though she knows her classmates have preceded her here She is helpless She is powerful And she will learn in full the meaning of Dorcas provocative motto **I Am No One You Know** Joyce Carol Oates,2009-10-13 *I Am No One You Know* contains nineteen startling stories that bear witness to the remarkably varied lives of Americans of our time In *Fire* a troubled young wife discovers a rare radiant happiness in an adulterous relationship In *Curly Red* a girl makes a decision to reveal a family secret and changes her life irrevocably In *The Girl with the Blackened Eye* selected for *The Best American Mystery Stories 2001* a girl pushed to an even greater extreme of courage and desperation manages to survive her abduction by a serial killer And in *Three Girls* two adventuresome NYU undergraduates seal their secret love by following and protecting Marilyn Monroe in disguise at Strand Used Books on a snowy evening in 1956 These vividly rendered portraits of women men and children testify to Oates s compassion for the mysterious and luminous resources of the human spirit *The Museum of Dr. Moses* Joyce Carol Oates,2008 In these and other stories bestselling author Oates explores with bloodcurdling insight the ties that bind or worse

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