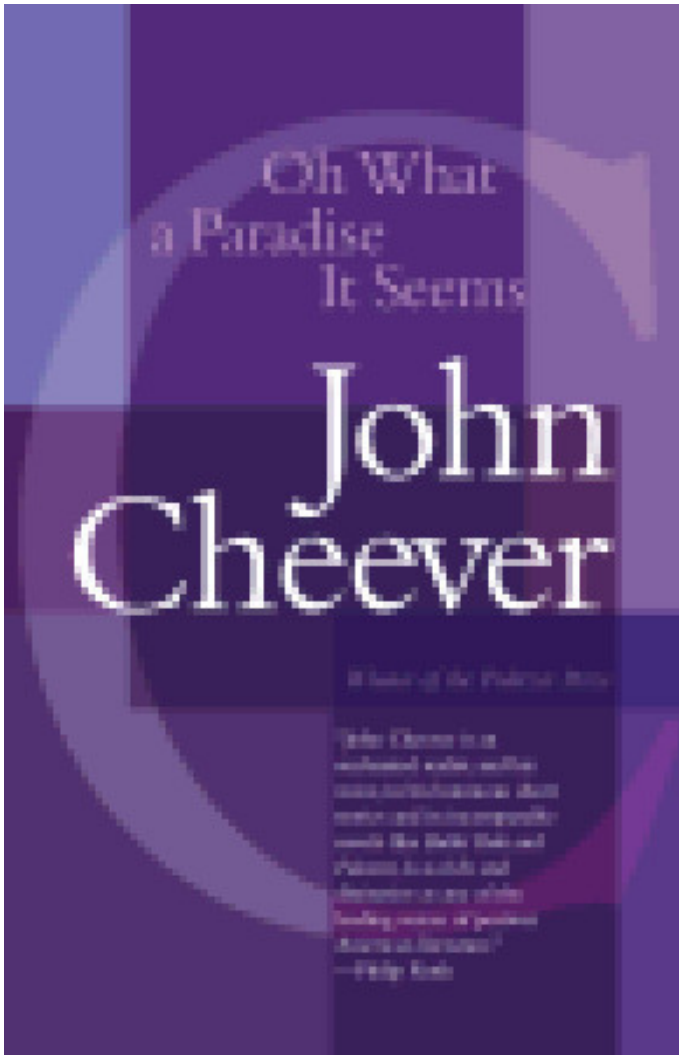

John Cheever

Oh What a Paradise It Seems



Title: Oh What a Paradise It Seems

Author: John Cheever

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Description

John Cheever's last novel is a fable set in a village so idyllic it has no fast-food outlet and having as its protagonist an old man, Lemuel Sears, who still has it in him to fall wildly in love with strangers of both sexes. But Sears's paradise is threatened; the pond he loves is being fouled by unscrupulous polluters. In Cheever's accomplished hands the battle between an elderly romantic and the monstrous aspects of late-twentieth-century civilization becomes something ribald, poignant, and ineffably joyful.

Insightful reviews

Beth: This novella has everything I like about Cheever--lovely clarity of language, a knowingness about people's inner lives and yearnings, and a slight sense of the absurd. I also liked the unexpected environmental message. Hurray for the Cheever revival!

Barbara: Ein seltsames Büchlein: viel mehr Personen und Inhalt, als man ob der Kürze vermuten würde, und während des Lesens nicht spektakulär. Aber kaum ist die letzte Seite gelesen, beginnt die innere Rückschau auf das Gelesene und ein Staunen beginnt. Was trotz der wenigen Worte alles mitgeteilt, beim Leser eingepflanzt wurde. Dass es nicht nur mir so ging, zeigt auch Peter Handkes Nachwort. - Zur Wiedervorlage, dann im Original, in ein paar Jahren?

Claire Fuller: I wasn't sure if this novella was meant to be funny, but I certainly laughed out loud at many parts, especially the ribald sections - and there are many. It's an odd little book, nicely absurd (sometimes reminding me of a milder Brautigan), with lots of little vignettes in which the characters are only slightly linked by the environmental destruction of a local pond. It seemed much more dated than 1982 however - especially with its depiction of women.

Recommended to read in one single swallow.

Jeremy Scheuer: First style of Cheever. A strange, eerie tale and an outdated voice. His final novel--novella rather. constitution of the tale is interesting, following characters towards a confluence on the end. There is, however, an absence of personality improvement for my taste. yet appealing writing.

Marti: Very brief and extremely pointless. no longer AWFUL, no, yet not more than mildly amusing. He used to be able to even more than this. Reads extra like a tossed-off workout in silliness.

Dan: "This is a narrative to be learned in mattress in an outdated apartment on a wet night." So starts Cheever's 1982 fable. the tale is set in an idyllic village ("it offered no speedy foodstuff franchises of any sort"), with huge mansions that "had no longer been reconstructed to function nursing homes for that huge inhabitants of comatose and the demise who have been saved alive, unconscionably, via trailblazing scientific invention." The village comprises an both idyllic pond, on which the hero, an older guy named Lemuel Sears, enjoys ice skating. The pond turns

into threatened while a crooked flesh presser is of the same opinion to allow it turn into a dump. everyone is murdered. Lemuel takes up the cause, falls in love with a woman, then with a guy (kind of), sees a psychiatrist, and at last saves the pond with the aid of a beleaguered housewife. Cheever brushes off the extra advanced plot twists as for "another tale", and after analyzing the fantasy i used to be left with a a few hope, wish that small paradises exist and individual can paintings to offer them the semblance of permanence, a minimum of as a lot phantasm as that individual has of the permanence in their personal life. Oscar Wilde wrote: "The artist can exhibit everything. proposal and language are to the artist tools of an art." Cheever's writing makes advanced innovations and emotions clear, as if revealing the world's guarded secrets. Getting misplaced within the paintings is itself a paradise. On laptop memory: "with its supernatural command of proof and its supernatural loss of discernment" On a NYC workplace building: "They have been at the nether flooring of a nether construction in a nether neighborhood, and while he entered where he observed not anything that used to be no longer unusual by way of portability."

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