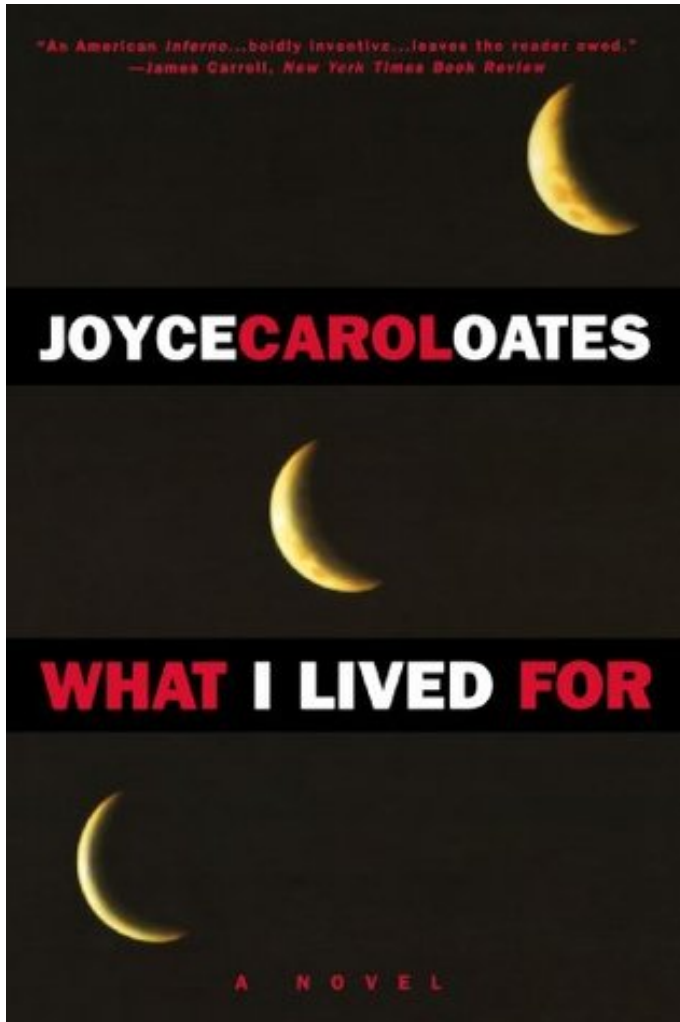

Joyce Carol Oates

What I Lived For



Title: What I Lived For

Author: Joyce Carol Oates

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Description

At forty-two, Jerome Corcoran - "Corky" to his friends and associates - is by all appearances a successful real estate developer and broker, a city councilman with a promising future in local politics, a genuine ladies' man, and all-around great guy. His big house, fifteen-hundred-dollar suits, and the ridiculously large tips he hands out all over town reassure him that he's put plenty of distance between himself and the family history (which includes a murdered father and raving mad mother) he'd rather forget. Corky may think that his inauspicious beginnings on Irish Hill, one of Union City's shabbier neighborhoods, are now far behind him, but over the course of Memorial Day Weekend 1992, that precious illusion, along with several others, will be completely shattered. In the long list of Corky's women, only one looms larger for him than his own appetites and self-interest: Thalia, his rebellious, radicalized step-daughter from his failed marriage. It is she who will become the agent of his undoing as a complex drama of corruption, blackmail, and political scandal climaxes in an act of explosive violence.

Insightful reviews

Melanie: So I have this way of reading where I read for awhile normally then I start to flip around the book especially if I am hoping it gets better. It didn't. Not going to bother finishing. Stopping on 207. It is just more of the same crap from my flipping around maybe that's the point but I find it a little shallow and dead.

Paul Bryant: Nobody wants to speak up for this book but I will. It's a huge breathless painful headlong dangerous full-pelt rush, all 600 pages of it. So accurate about the awfulness of the male mind that many pages were for me excruciating reading. It's horribly compelling. Quite brilliant. So naturally I thought I was a JCO fan, but then I read *Zombie*, which was kinda not such a good idea. Then I went for "them". Couldn't be bothered with that. Then I tried "*We Were the Mulvaney's*" - that seemed like it might be on to something, but then...wasn't. So I'm still looking for the other really great JCO novel. I know she's got one somewhere.

Surymae: Spunto interessante e sempre attuale, ma un po' sprecato da Joyce Carol Oates, che diluisce la già esile trama con numerosi momenti morti e scene di sesso molto simili tra loro. Sarebbe potuto durare la metà delle pagine e non avrebbe perso un'oncia della sua potenza, anzi ne sarebbe uscito un romanzo ancora più prorompente.

Rita: Oates believes in formative years having the major in your character and behavior, as she indicates during this ebook with flashbacks to Corky's childhood. understanding this could hinder us from considering Oates is asserting ALL males are like this one. at the one hand I didn't are looking to positioned the e-book down, however I knew I mustn't learn it earlier than bedtime. stored discovering myself hoping Corky might swap not less than a little, get no less than a bit extra sensible. Rooting for him, in different words. Excruciating to determine the difficulty he retains getting himself into, but Oates persuades us that he can do no other. Set in Buffalo new york [under an invented name]. Quote from book: "The something a man's afraid of is a handsome lady giggling at him. [Marilee was] too shrewdpermanent for that, bold occupation lady cautious in her dealings with influential men...[Such a tender girl has] obtained

just one particularly negotiable asset and that's her reputation. Smart, stable at her job, good-looking, attractive – all that's assumed. yet her recognition for being loyal, trustworthy, respectful to special males – that's her genuine ticket." 232 Goodbooks readers I agree with: "... the best books i've got ever read, however it isn't really for the faint of heart. ... Joyce Carol Oates at her best, ... tells the tale of a hard-drinking younger Irishman who loves 'em and leaves 'em. This booklet isn't awkward or sappy. She nails it, because the protagonist nails each person he sees. simply JCO could make you return to love a man like this, yet you do." "The writing type is stream-of-consciousness, here-and-there-and-then-back-here again" Paul: " it is a large breathless painful headlong harmful full-pelt rush, all six hundred pages of it. So exact concerning the awfulness of the male brain that many pages have been for me excruciating reading."

Loripdx: I renewed this booklet on the library the utmost variety of occasions permitted--and then as soon as more!--and nonetheless no dice. I simply couldn't get adequate within the tale to trouble completing it. it's not relevant how solid others say a booklet is...if i am not diggin' it, i am simply now not diggin' it! Oh, well.

Cindy: I simply entire this book. i have never learn Oates in decades and forgot how darkish she gets. Her writing is so remarkable (of coarse) that I received sucked in and went the complete method down with Corky. i assume this makes me ponder a very unexamined life, in that Corky simply acts and not reflects. On anything! He has lots of inner discussion yet none of it truly is self-reflective. And he does a few relatively undesirable stuff. Like try and seduce his stepdaughter. Ugh. yet its JCO, so of coarse she went there. nice writing a few relatively crappy human being. dwelling contained in the head of Corky Corcoran for a memorial day weekend....I wager thats why I nearly gave this in basic terms stars. i used to be relieved while it used to be over, and that i may perhaps get the hell out of this protagonists head. cannot say i'm going to omit him.....

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