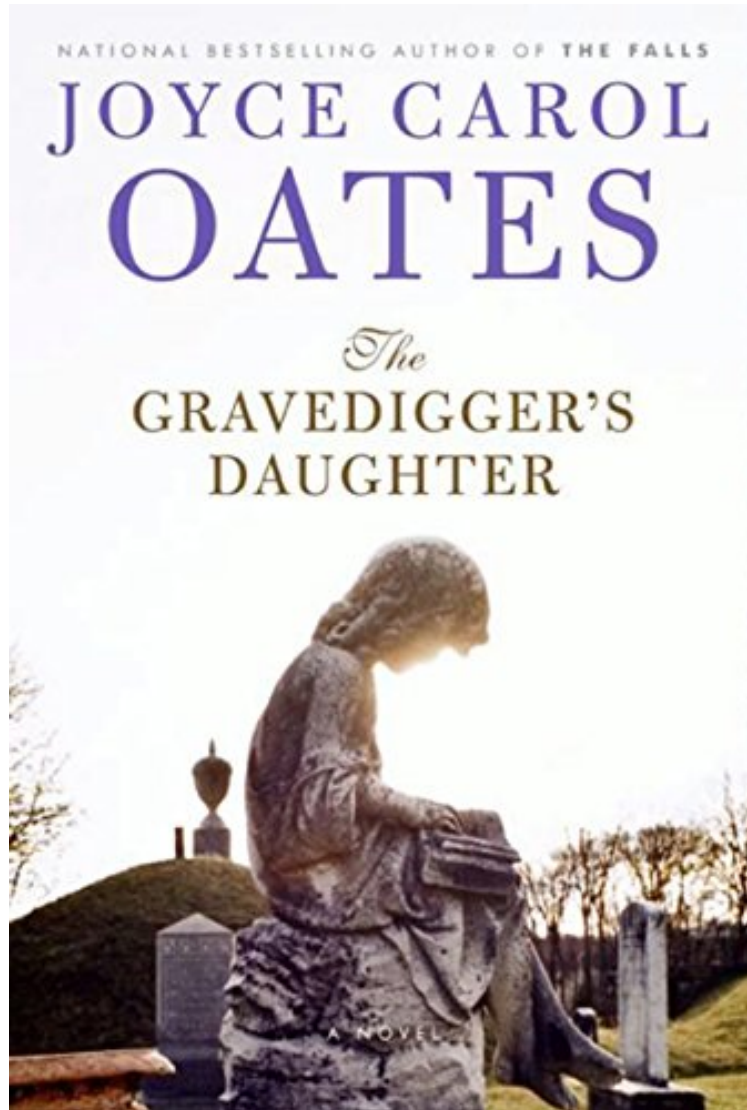


(Mobile ebook) The Gravedigger's Daughter: A Novel (P.S.)

The Gravedigger's Daughter: A Novel (P.S.)

Von Joyce Carol Oates
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Von Joyce Carol Oates : The Gravedigger's Daughter: A Novel (P.S.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gravedigger's Daughter: A Novel (P.S.):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Gripping, Emotionally Wrenching Look at How Women Accommodate Men to SurviveVon Donald MitchellThe Gravedigger's Daughter is the most compelling novel I've read in decades. My emotions were so wrapped up in this book that I could hear the sounds in the story's background, smell the surroundings, feel the clothing, and taste the food and drinks. I doubt if I'll ever read fiction that will move me as much as this book did.The Gravedigger's

Daughter is the story of Rebecca Schwart's life described in terms of how she accommodated men to gain physical security: her father, her employers, men who made passes, her first lover, her son, her future father-in-law, and her eventual husband. Without accommodating those men, she would not have survived. As it was, survival was not always easy. Ultimately, there was an enormous price to pay: She left little room in her day to be herself. Instead, life unfolded as a continual drama in which she had to play set roles or be treated in horrible ways. Worse still, the men wanted to convince her that their way of thinking was the only way . . . and some of their mantras stuck. At another level, the book explores the question of whether humans are spiritual creatures or simply predators that feed off one another at their convenience. The book suggests that the spiritual realm has a limited reach, if it does exist. Another dimension of *The Gravedigger's Daughter* is a consideration of how genes and environment play a role in shaping our choices and our preferences. This aspect of the book is best portrayed through considering how the lives of three generations played out. Finally, the book has a profoundly dark look at the lasting damage that evil actions create. Throughout this book, Nazi racism continues to create harm. Beyond those themes, Joyce Carol Oates has a positive view -- life is precious and worthy of nurturing. The book's epilogue is a masterpiece. Long-separated cousins grope slowly toward one another in a series of letters that you won't soon forget. It's a marvelous expression of the alienation that separates us from each other. Let me briefly describe the story. As I do, let me caution you against reading reviews that go into very many details. It would be very easy to spoil this story for you. The book begins with a prologue in which Rebecca Schwart addresses her feelings about her father ten years after his death. Chapter 1 of Chautauqua Falls, New York switches to 1959 with Rebecca walking home from her factory job while being trailed by a man in a panama hat who makes her feel uneasy. In Chapter 2, you meet Rebecca's son, Niles Jr. (Niley). In Chapter 3, there's a telephone call from Niles Tignor, Niley's father. Niles is away a lot and Rebecca is most anxious for him to return. From there, the book retreats in time to 1936 in Milburn, New York, just after Rebecca was born. Her parents and two brothers had just escaped from Nazi Germany, and her father had taken on the job of caretaker for the township's cemetery, work that includes digging graves. This is quite a change for a man who was once a teacher. His weak English skills limit his choices along with the Depression economy. This is no land of milk and honey for the Schwart family. The job includes free housing, in a hovel that's served by a graveyard-contaminated well. But hope rises when part of her mother's family later attempts to escape from Germany as well. The story takes you through all of Rebecca's life, with a special emphasis on her early family life, her work, her first lover, her son, and her eventual husband. Bravo, Ms. Oates!

5 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. the way it's written... Von So many books, so little time! I'm sorry, I didn't get past page 20. I just didn't like the way the book was written, I felt bored and agitated at the same time. The sentences are really short and kind of provocative and it's just not fluent in reading. Maybe the plot is really good (that's why I bought the book because the summary was good), but I just couldn't put up with how it was written. A little example (for everyone who doesn't get annoyed by it - go ahead and buy it, I'm sure the story is good) "And now this. This guy! Sent him a mean look over her shoulder, not to be encouraged. No one she knew? Didn't look like he belonged here. In Chautauqua Falls, men followed her sometimes. At least, with their eyes. Most times Rebecca tried not to notice. She's lived with brothers, she knew "men". She wasn't the shy fearful little-girl type. She was strong, fleshy. Wanting to think she could take care of herself. But this afternoon felt different, somehow. One of those wan warm sepia-tinted days. A day to make you feel like crying, Christ knew why. Not that Rebecca Tignor cried. Never." And so on.

Kurzbeschreibung Fleeing Nazi Germany in 1936, the Schwarts immigrate to a small town in upstate New York. Here the father a former high school teacher is demeaned by the only job he can get: gravedigger and cemetery caretaker. When local prejudice and the family's own emotional frailty give rise to an unthinkable tragedy, the gravedigger's daughter, Rebecca heads out into America. Embarking upon an extraordinary odyssey of erotic risk and ingenious self-invention, she seeks renewal, redemption, and peace on the road to a bittersweet and distinctly American triumph. Pressestimmen 'Every single Oates novel I've read has added to my conviction that she is a genius.' Julie Myerson, *Independent on Sunday* 'One of the female frontrunners for the title of Great American Novelist.' Maggie Gee, *Sunday Times* 'A writer of extraordinary strengths! she has dealt consistently with what is probably the great American theme -- the quest for the creation of self! Her great subject, naturally, is love.' Ian Sansom, *Guardian* 'Unlike anything else she has ever written! A very strong and readable novel; the rivalry between the two sisters is especially well observed' Edmund White, *Books of the Year, Times Literary Supplement* 'Her prose is peerless and her ability to make you think as she re-invents genres is unique. Few writers move so effortlessly from the gothic tale to the psychological thriller to the epic family saga to the lyrical novella. Even fewer authors can so compellingly and entertainingly tell a story.' Jackie McGlone, *Scotland on Sunday* 'Novelists such as John Updike, Philip Roth, Tom Wolfe and Norman Mailer slug it out for the title of the Great American Novelist. But maybe they're wrong. Maybe, just maybe, the Great American Novelist is a woman.' *The Herald*

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