



We So Seldom Look on Love

By Barbara Gowdy

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Now in paperback, this masterfully crafted story collection by the author of the internationally best-selling novel *Mister Sandman* is a haunting book that is certain to both disturb and entertain. With a particular focus on obsession and the abnormal, *We So Seldom Look On Love* explores life at its quirky extremes, pushing past limits of convention into lives that are fantastic and heartbreakingly real. Whether writing about the dilemma of a two-headed man who attempts to expunge his own pain, the shock of a woman who discovers she has married a transsexual, the erotic delusions of a woman who repeatedly exposes her body to an unknown voyeur, or the bizarre predilections of a female necrophile (a story made into the acclaimed motion picture, "Kissed"), Gowdy convinces us with incisive detail, only to disarm us with black humor.

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We So Seldom Look on Love By Barbara Gowdy Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

From the author of the blockbuster *Mister Sandman* comes a gathering of unusual characters captured in the outrageous and humorous situations for which Barbara Gowdy has become famous. Teasing the taboos, Gowdy creates a marriage dialogue between a woman and her transsexual fiancé, who she thought was a man, and litigation between Samuel and Simon who share the same two-headed body. She peoples her stories with Siamese twins, a necrophile, and a pathetically lonely exhibitionist. And she brilliantly illustrates how uncomfortably close a connection comedy has to human suffering. The title story has been adapted into a movie called "*Kissed*."

From Publishers Weekly

These eight short stories employ both satire and morbid humor to explore the lives of emotionally and physically abnormal characters. Among the protagonists: a pathetically goofy hyperactive child in foster care; Siamese twins equipped with two pairs of legs, two sets of female genitalia and one active libido; a little girl who creates chants to shrink the head of her hydrocephalic playmate; a young woman, unable to find satisfaction in her marriage, who poses nude in front of her living room window to excite the voyeur who lives across the way; and the two necrophiliacs of the title story, which takes its name from a Frank O'Hara poem. While their behavior is sometimes macabre, these people show extraordinary gutsiness, refusing to allow their abnormalities to diminish their capacities for life and love in whatever form it takes. Canadian novelist Gowdy (*Falling Angels*) writes with a bite that grants her characters earthy courage without allowing them to lapse into self-pity. Her daring high-wire act may not appeal to everyone, but her stories are not easily forgotten.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A debut collection from Canadian novelist Gowdy (*Through the Green Valley*, 1988) limns--with dark humor and wry compassion--the lives of those on the margins of normality. The stories here all share a common theme, echoed in the title--which comes from a poem, "Necrophilia," by Frank O'Hara, that suggests "it is better that someone loves them": "them" being the dead, the physically and psychologically impaired. The title piece, narrated by a female necrophiliac and hearse driver who's been obsessed with the dead since childhood, makes her obsession no less palatable but, in the context, understandable: "I have found no replacement for the torrid serenity of a cadaver, absorbing their energy, blazing it back out. Since that energy came from the act of life alchemizing into death, there's a possibility it was alchemical itself." In "Body and Soul"--about Aunt Bea, a religious, elderly widow who provides a loving home for a brain-damaged little girl, abandoned by her mother--Gowdy accomplishes the rare feat of making goodness a compelling reality that is neither mawkish nor dull. In "Sylvie," a young woman born with a set of extra hips and limbs is taken from the freak show where she works by a wealthy young doctor who's fallen in love with her--but she fears that after the surgery he suggests, she'll "become somebody else." Other tales detail the anguish of a "Two-headed Man"; the reactions of a woman who finds she's married a transsexual ("Flesh of My Flesh"); and the experience of a young mother who's lost her child in a grotesque accident ("Lizards"). Gowdy skillfully walks a fine line between sensationalism and sentimentality to give life and love to the feared and forgotten. An impressive accomplishment. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Daniels:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled We So Seldom Look on Love. Try to stumble through book We So Seldom Look on Love as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you experience alone and beside those of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Susan Spiegel:

We So Seldom Look on Love can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing We So Seldom Look on Love yet doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

Theresa Braun:

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