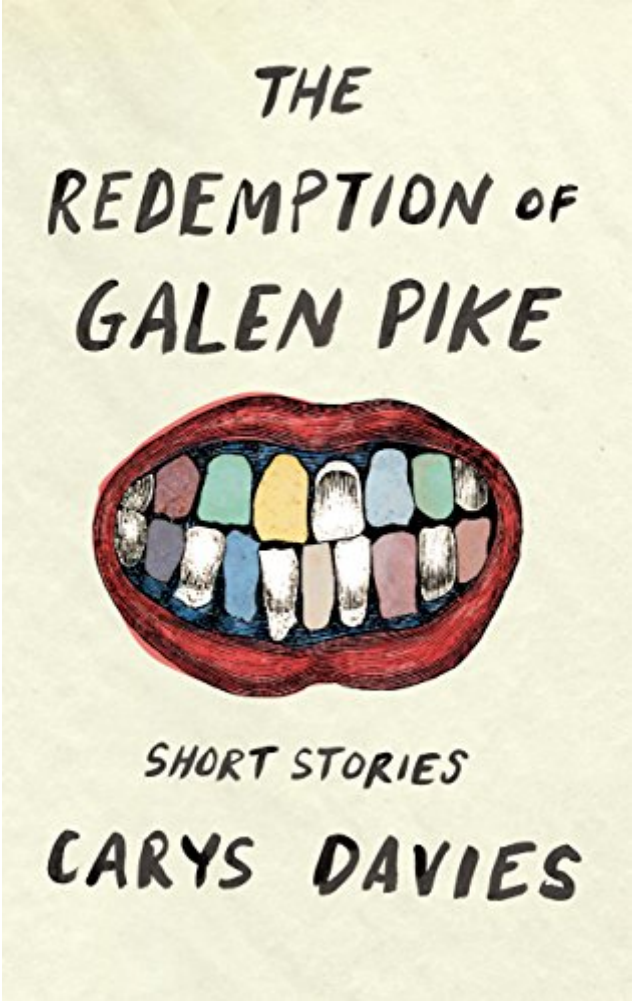
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The Redemption Of Galen Pike



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Synopsis

From remote Australian settlements to the snows of Siberia, from Colorado to Cumbria, restless teenagers, middle-aged civil servants, and Quaker spinsters traverse expanses of solitude to reveal the secrets of the human heart. Spare, precise, and charged with a prickly wit, the stories in Carys Davies’s sparkling second collection remind us how little we know of the lives of others.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A superb collection of short stories, that I highly recommend. There is a twist to many of the stories. The first "The Quiet" ranks with the best that I have read. The title story "The Redemption of Galen Pike" also is excellent, and should deeply satisfy the liberal thinkers of the time.

Carys is an excellent writer. Great stories - highly recommended!

Once in a long while a short story collection comes out of the blue and smites you so hard you canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t help but fall completely under its spell. The Redemption of Galen Pike is one

such precious find. Carys Davies displays surprising range and depth, and each story is unique in setting and characters, and they are all as engaging as they are shocking. In the first story, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The QuietÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, a young beautiful wife who moves to a quiet and isolated part of a rural community receives unwanted attention from a lonely misshapen neighbour, and the reader feels the danger lurking ever nearer as her husband leaves for town and his buggy comes round to her door, but it does not go quite the way we anticipate.In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The CoatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, what looks like hopeless denial turns to something else when an abandoned wife, Evangelina, hangs on to her husbandÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s coat. In a short concise statement, Davies manages to not only convey EvangelinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s blind belief, and thus evoke pathos for her, she also manages to vividly allude to her environs effectively:
ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Evangelina was the only person who didn't believe that the emptiness out in the bay, the mist, and the water creeping soundlessly back and forth beneath the moon, in and out over the sands, were the silence of a man who was doing his best to disappearÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•.And this is not a one-off instance in the collection. In whichever story there, Davies always consistently weaves in just the right diction, and uses metaphors consistent with the setting of that story universe. For example, in the title story, pious do-gooder Patience Haig faces opposition in setting up a home for unmarried mothers in the conservative Piper City, and her brother Walter teases her about her judgement of the mayor having ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“no light of GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•. She retorts: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Doubtless it is there in some dark silk-lined pocket of his embroidered waistcoat but if it is he keeps it well hiddenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, that is totally in keeping with the religiosity of Patience and the dress-style of that specific time and place.Interspersed within the collection are also mini pieces, which are more like micro-fiction, but even in their brevity, Davies manages to engage and shock. What I had thought was a humorous piece took off on a totally different direction in a space of a few paragraphs and left me reeling with the inadequacy of my initial reaction way after i finished the last sentence of that piece.Completely enjoyable. This collection promises greater things to come from a promising author.

IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m fascinated by good short stories and many of the ones in The Redemption of Galen Pike are very good, one or two bordering on great in the manner of Paul Bowles, Flannery OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Connor, or Elizabeth McCracken. While the settings of the stories vary widely, most of the primary characters are located in the same place: lonely people, living in the empty chasms of unknowingness between people, the spaces between. Some are trying to bridge the abyss, others are resigned to their solitude and sorrow. The prose is deceptively simple while

managing to contain depths and shadows and layer after layer of meaning and surprise ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • there are many twists, unexpected gasp-making and/or tear-inducing reveals.Piece of advice: YouÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll want to read them all, right away. DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t. It takes away from the impact. They should be savored and spread out, because reading them together gives them a sense of sameness they donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t really deserve nor benefit from. And if you MUST read them all at once in the first go-round, then go back and read them again, slowly, one a week or so, when youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve time to savor the language and the emotional construction.

Good group of stories.

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