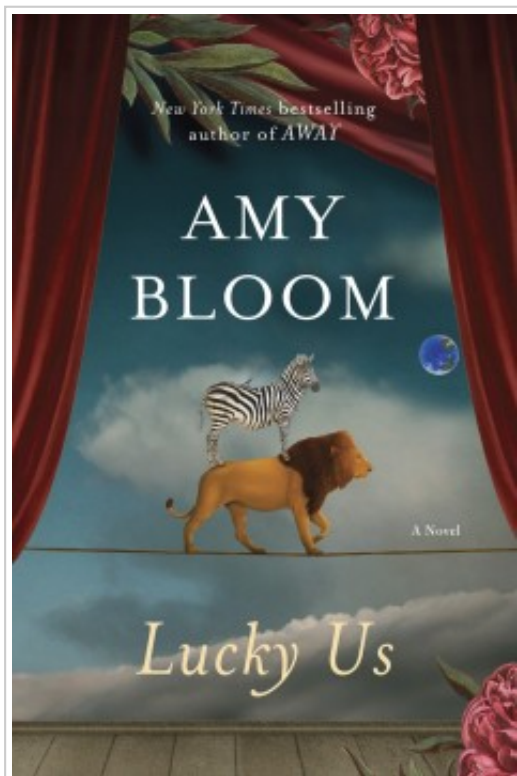


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Lucky Us

by Amy Bloom

Price: \$26.00(Hardcover)

Published: July 29, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND O: THE OPRAH MAGAZINE

“My father’s wife died. My mother said we should drive down to his place and see what might be in it for us.”

So begins this remarkable novel by Amy Bloom, whose critically acclaimed *Away* was called “a literary triumph” (*The New York Times*). *Lucky Us* is a brilliantly written, deeply moving, fantastically funny novel of love, heartbreak, and luck.

Disappointed by their families, Iris, the hopeful star and Eva the sidekick, journey through 1940s America in search of fame and fortune. Iris’s ambitions take the pair across the America of Reinvention in a stolen station wagon, from small-town Ohio to an unexpected and sensuous Hollywood, and to the jazz clubs and...

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What We Say

I finished it weeks ago, but I'm still thinking about the characters in Amy Bloom's very funny and involving new novel "Lucky Us." It may stumble just a tad at the finale, but that doesn't prevent me from recognizing these are some great and vivid characters I won't soon forget. It starts simply, sort of. Our heroine is Eva, a practical young girl of the 1930s (practically the only practical one in her family, as it turns out). Her mom takes Eva to first the child's father when his wife dies. Huh? Turns out Eva's mom is the other woman. Before you know it, the little girl has been dumped on her dad's doorstep, introduced to the half-sister she never knew she had and watching her mom's car take off for parts unknown. Rather blithe about the whole event, Eva's dad is trumped by her determined sister Iris. The two of them scrimp and save money (the hard part is not earning money but keeping it away from their larcenous father) and then abscond to Hollywood, where Iris is set (not unreasonably) on becoming a movie star. Sapphic romance and vicious gossip columnists shatter that dream and the family reunites as servants to the nouveau riche on the east coast, with their dad transforming from a philandering teacher into a surprisingly effective butler. And on it goes with dizzying speed, from World War II and sultry jazz singers to doomed romances and more. A side story about Americans of German descent being repatriated to Germany doesn't quite hold the attention -- though it has a purpose. But this is at times a wickedly amusing and always page-turning tale. Iris and Eva and their unflappable father are three indelible characters. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"Lucky Us is a remarkable accomplishment. One waits a long time for a novel of this scope and dimension, replete with surgically drawn characters, a mix of comedy and tragedy that borders on the miraculous, and sentences that should be in a sentence museum. Amy Bloom is a treasure." —**Michael Cunningham**

"These two things about Amy Bloom's surprise-filled Lucky Us are indisputable: It opens with a terrific hook and closes with an image of exquisite resolution. . . . She writes sharp, sparsely beautiful scenes that excitingly defy expectation, and part of the pleasure of reading her is simply keeping up with her. You won't know where Lucky Us is headed until, suddenly, it's there. . . . The book's opening lines, destined to be quoted in many a classroom for their perfection, are: 'My father's wife died. My mother said we should drive down to his place and see what might be in it for us.' . . . [It's] a short, vibrant book about all kinds of people creating all kinds of serial, improvisatory lives. Changes occur because characters fall in and out of love, trouble and, yes, luck. And even when the bad luck is devastating, they dust themselves off and inventively..."

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