



Sexy

By Joyce Carol Oates

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It was in November, a Thursday after swim practice. The thing with Mr. Tracy, Darren's English teacher.

The thing was how Darren would think of it, afterward.

The thing that was vague and not-named.

The thing that hadn't happened, anyway.

Darren Flynn has the perfect life -- until that day in November.

After that day, after what happened (did it happen?), life is different. Darren is different. Nothing is as it was — before. His friends, his family, even the people who are supposed to be in charge are no longer who Darren thought they were. Who can he trust, now?

This compelling, masterfully written novel by acclaimed author Joyce Carol Oates explores one teenager's search for identity in a complex, deceiving world, and the answers he finds in the most unexpected places.

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Sexy By Joyce Carol Oates Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Oates has produced another novel with a compelling story line and a complex protagonist. Darren Flynn is incredibly good-looking, but isn't quite sure how to handle all the admiring attention he receives from females and males alike. In addition, his teachers and swimming coach remark consistently on his untapped potential and the way he holds himself back both in the pool and in his writing, and Darren knows this to be true. The teen's hardscrabble rural New England lifestyle is juxtaposed with the professional, well-off families of his friends. As in *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl* (HarperCollins, 2002), Oates takes an ambiguous and uncomfortable incident with a male teacher and allows the story to unravel through rumor and innuendo into a horrible climax. Here, a retaliatory attack on the man's character by some disgruntled students careens out of control and has deadly consequences. The characters of family and friends are well drawn but the star is the protagonist, and Darren's authenticity shines through. The male-centered, first-person narrative and athletic allusions make this novel appealing to reluctant male readers. This is sure to be a popular title and is great for sparking discussion, even though the explicit language and subject matter may be problematic in some schools.—Courtney Lewis, Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, Kingston, PA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 9-12. Fans of Oates' previous YA books will want to read this book, which, like *Freaky Green Eyes* (2003), is written in fragmented sentences meant to create a conversational effect. Sixteen-year-old Darren Flynn is a good-looking "guy's guy," a junior on the swim team, but he is uncomfortable with his maturing body and with girls. Darren believes men watch him, too, something that both disgusts and excites him. A seemingly innocent encounter with his English teacher, Mr. Tracy, troubles Darren. There are rumors Tracy is gay, and after the teacher flunks one of Darren's teammates, some boys retaliate, implicating Tracy in child porn. Tracy, who insists he is innocent, appeals to Darren for help. Teens will be drawn into the story, wanting to know if Darren is gay and if he will vouch for his teacher. But Oates loses control of her plot by dividing her attention among too many issues--sexual orientation (there's even a scene in which Darren has sex with a college girl), personal responsibility, and betrayal--and the ethical debate becomes too muddled to follow. Readers may come away as confused as Darren is by the close of the novel. Cindy Dobrez

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Review

"A compelling story. The characters are well drawn. Sure to be a popular title." -- *School Library Journal*

"A deftly written page-turner." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Fans of Oates' previous YA books will want to read this." -- *ALA Booklist (boxed review)*

"Fine young adult literature." -- *BookPage*

"Palpable and compelling." -- *Horn Book Magazine*

"Raises thought-provoking questions." -- *Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

"Raises thought-provoking questions." -- *Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

"Touching and believable. An unusually sensitive and sympathetic assessment." -- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"With terse prose, she draws readers into the awakening consciousness of the teenage mate." -- *KLIATT*

"[A] deftly written page-turner." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Delatorre:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *Sexy*. Try to stumble through book *Sexy* as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you experience alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortuned in your case. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Joe Stearns:

The particular book *Sexy* has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research just before write this book. That book very easy to read you will get the point easily after looking over this book.

Lucille Davis:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get lot of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read will be *Sexy*.

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