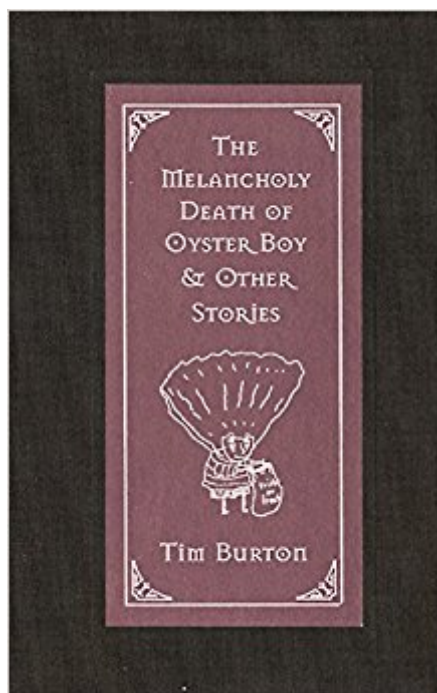


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The Melancholy Death Of Oyster Boy & Other Stories



Synopsis

From breathtaking stop-action animation to bittersweet modern fairy tales, filmmaker Tim Burton has become known for his unique visual brilliance -- witty and macabre at once. Now he gives birth to a cast of gruesomely sympathetic children -- misunderstood outcasts who struggle to find love and belonging in their cruel, cruel worlds. His lovingly lurid illustrations evoke both the sweetness and the tragedy of these dark yet simple beings -- hopeful, hapless heroes who appeal to the ugly outsider in all of us, and let us laugh at a world we have long left behind (mostly anyway).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This unassuming hardcover in black buckram with a dark lavender title plate is the door into a world of twisted pleasures. Filmmaker Tim Burton (Edward Scissorhands, Beetlejuice, The Nightmare Before Christmas) tells 23 winsomely macabre stories about boys and girls who don't fit in. Their bodies are misshapen, their habits are odd, and their parents are appalled by them. But they do try hard to be human, like poor unwanted Mummy Boy, who's "a bundle of gauze": he goes for a walk in the park with his mummy dog. Some kids are having "a birthday party for a Mexican girl." They think Mummy Boy is a piñata: "They took a baseball bat and whacked open his head. Mummy Boy fell to the ground; he finally was dead. Inside of his head were no candy or prizes, just a few stray beetles of various sizes." For all its simple humor, The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy & Other Stories is a peculiarly disturbing book about the violence that children suffer. It is illustrated in pen and ink, watercolor, and crayon. The themes and imagery are at a young-adult to adult level.

In the manner of the pictorial tales of Shel Silverstein, Roald Dahl, and Edward Gorey--but from a slightly more twisted realm of the imagination--Burton's creepy stories conjure up the fantastical, even the slightly demented: "The Boy with Nails in His Eyes," "Roy, the Toxic Boy," "The Girl with Many Eyes" ("You get really wet/When she breaks down and cries"), and "Brie Boy" ("The other children never let Brie Boy play ... but at least he went well with a nice Chardonnay"). --

Entertainment Weekly

The melancholy death of oyster boy is a collection of short story/poems that are accompanied by morbid pictures. These are mostly meant to be either morbid or hilarious or a combination of the two but the stories being more of a hit or miss. Some are funny or make you think in a poetic way especially with the pictures. Some are sad in a ironic way that will have you chuckling under your breath or sadly contemplating the tragic stories or both!but some leave you thinking what was the joke? Or what was the point? All in all it's a short read that will not last more than ten minutes, it's interesting in itself for the morbid Burton illustrations that it has and some of the stories are intriguing but the quality ratio in the story is not good enough with many falling flat. It would be a good read for when your waiting for the bus or tram but nothing I would really recommend anyone unless they were big Burton fans or fans of dark comedy.

Â If you like this style of book then you might also enjoy a fairytale about a little girl and a haunted house:Â The Stumps of Flattop Hill100+ pages of Tim Burton goodness. Featuring various Burton characters and their unique tales. Some are written in prose while others are in rhyme. Enjoyable and fun for all ages!

When I was purchasing this I hoped that there would be an option for a black book but there wasn't, to my delight it arrived in black! This is a great book to have if you're a Tim Burton lover, it's great :)

You'll burn through these in 2 seconds, but if you love Tim, you'll reread. It's a nice little collection.

Dark, as expected

good book. easy read

I love this

'The melancholy death of oyster boy & other stories' is a compilatory book of 23 poems written by director Tim Burton (Batman, Edward Scissorhands, Sleepy Hollow) All the poems are beautifully accompanied by original illustrations drawn by Burton, the perfect complement for the stories he tells throughout the book. The book is also presented in a Postscript version of Scripps College Oldstyle, a very interesting notation on the last pages. The peculiarity of all the characters in this book is what makes them so compelling, the poems are filled with a very dark humor, irony and beautiful metaphors (there is the story of 'Voodoo girl', a girl with pins around her heart, so no one can get close to her or she will be hurt) All the characters are outcasts, characters so unique that it is very difficult for them to fit in and be loved, but even though they're different, the situations can somehow relate to real life. Once you read this book it is very easy to understand the origins of 'Edward Scissorhands', a guy with scissors instead of hands who couldn't possible hug or have physical contact with anyone. The last poem of the book is the perfect ending for this incredible compilation of bizarre tales on the lives of even more bizarre but lovable characters. An excellent book for all ages, the poems are quite rhythmic and simple, I have bought a couple of copies to give to some of my friends and I haven't met a single person who has read it and didn't like it. The poem that gives title to the book is just unbelievable and the best poem of the book; how love can lead to cruelty and the melancholic fate of poor oyster boy will leave you with a sensation of sadness. If you have enjoyed the works of Burton in the movies and specially liked 'Edward Scissorhands' you are going to fall in love with this book.

Being a fan of Tim Burtons works which need no introduction here, I discovered after some cursory research that he had written a book of poetry with pictures that had a most interesting title. A little book all of one hundred fifteen pages or so that could be read in less than ten minutes. I had to get it. Well the binding is sure beautiful and the content is bizarre with children being the target of his illustrations. Not in an abusive way, but rather something the Addams family would enjoy. The individual parts are brief and the title work is quite good as well. Having recently reviewed a book on oysters, I remembered this one purchased many years ago and it has sat on my shelf long forgotten. I reread it again and still find it cool and thought provoking. Just a little ditty merely for fun. The illustrations are raw, minimalistic yet leave an imprint on your mind that stays there. So, if you're a Burton fan for whatever reason, you'll appreciate this little gem. Hey, don't get serious it's not high end poetry, prose or art we are talking about here just silliness, but fun in a ghoulish sort of way. I just throw it out here for food for thought because its within my particular bent of literary

preferences. Only four stars because for the price you should get more, but for originality it rates. Have fun!!

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