

(Pdf free) My Heart Laid Bare

## My Heart Laid Bare

Von Joyce Carol Oates

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**Von Joyce Carol Oates : My Heart Laid Bare** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Heart Laid Bare:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The thinking reader's adventure.Von Ein KundeWith "My Heart Laid Bare," Joyce Carol Oates builds on her reputation as one of the most inventive and alluring writers at work today. This time, she's in her historical mode, covering the nefarious doings of the Licht clan, whose elaborate con schemes stretch back to Colonial days when an ancestress was transported to America during a shady career that included similar activities. Lead by patriarch Abraham, the early

20th century Lichts appear be masters of the carefully-planned, high-stakes swindle when an act of violence begins the unraveling of not only the way of life they call The Game, but of the family itself. The disintegration of a family is a theme Oates has explored before ("We Were the Mullvaneyns") but this new book is full of surprises. She draws the reader into an alluring tale, full of adventure, romance, and creative schemes, with the underpinnings of great sadness. The reader is left disturbed and unsure whether "My Heart Laid Bare" is a romp or something more serious trying to trick us, Licht-style, into not paying the attention we should. The book gets off to a tangled start, but readers are advised to stick with it. You'll get the picture soon enough, and join the Lichts on their compelling and unsettling path.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Magical! Transports you to another time and place.Von Ein KundeA book to be savored, this work struck a rare chord with me, the dilemma between not wanting it to end, yet being unable to put it down. Oates brings these characters to life. The language is lyrical and melodious, a savory delight of armchair escapism, yet so much more. I was engrossed in this book from the opening line and riveted to the very end. The ultimate dysfunctional family, run by a tyrannical and corrupt patriarch during the Gilded Age with just enough supernatural twists to make it the perfect candlelight read for snuggling under the covers while the wicked winds blow under ominous skies!0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Original and consumingVon Mike BThis was a quick yet detailed and, most importantly, FUN book to read. Take the Brady Bunch, make them top-notch con artists, throw 'em back another 100 years and you've got Licht family. What a strange crew, but it's such fun to read how each sibling slowly distances him/herself in his/her own unique way from Father and 'The Game'. Forget the romancy title and cover, this is not a Fabio book. Great character development. A must read!

KurzbeschreibungFinally returned to print in a beautiful paperback edition, a haunting gothic tale of a nineteenth-century immigrant family of confidence artistsa story of morality, duplicity, and retribution that explores the depths of human manipulation and vulnerabilityThe patriarch of the Licht family, Abraham has raised a brood of talented con artists, children molded in his image, and experts in The Game, his calling and philosophy of life. Traveling from one small town to the next across the continent, from the Northeast to the frontier West, they skillfully swindle unsuspecting victims, playing on their greed, lust, pride, and small-mindedness. Despite their success, Abraham cannot banish a past that haunts him: the ghost of his ancestor Sarah Licht, a former con woman who met with a gruesome fate.As Abraham involves his family in more and more complex and impressive schemes, he finds himself caught between the specter of Sarah and the growing terrors of his present. While his carefully crafted lies and schemes begin to fracture and disintegrate before his eyes, Abraham discovers that the bond of family is as tenuous and treacherous as the tricks he perpetrates upon unsuspecting strangers..deIn this Joyce Carol Oates's novel, a New England confidence man teaches his children the tricks of his trade and sends them out into the world to relieve suckers of their money. The book traces the Licht family's fortunes through the first three decades of the 20th century, as the children come of age, master their talents, and grow away from their father's beliefs. Abraham Licht is a charming but sinister man who is extremely attached to the haunted swamp adjacent to the family home. He schools his children in the arts of assuming new identities and turning one's back on the past, skills which Oates suggests come quite easily to Americans. Licht advises his youngest son, a boy ill-suited to grift, to "assemble your selves with grace," by which he means, be duplicitous and excel at it! Do not bare your heart! However, Abraham's lessons don't stick--one by one, Papa Licht's children let him down. The youngest son becomes a talented musician and composer, while the younger sister devotes herself to a life of helping others as a nurse and suffragette. The other children stick to grift but distance themselves from their father, which breaks his devilish heart. My Heart Laid Bare is a tragic family epic. It is a complicated, ambitious book crammed with ideas, crisply drawn characters, and American history. As Oates unfurls the tragedy, she describes many of the social movements of the early 20th century and posits that this country was shaped by charming, talented liars like the Lichts. --Jill MarquisKurzbeschreibungFinally returned to print in a beautiful paperback edition, a haunting gothic tale of a nineteenth-century immigrant family of confidence artistsa story of morality, duplicity, and retribution that explores the depths of human manipulation and vulnerabilityThe patriarch of the Licht family, Abraham has raised a brood of talented con artists, children molded in his image, and experts in The Game, his calling and philosophy of life. Traveling from one small town to the next across the continent, from the Northeast to the frontier West, they skillfully swindle unsuspecting victims, playing on their greed, lust, pride, and small-mindedness. Despite their success, Abraham cannot banish a past that haunts him: the ghost of his ancestor Sarah Licht, a former con woman who met with a gruesome fate.As Abraham involves his family in more and more complex and impressive schemes, he finds himself caught between the specter of Sarah and the growing terrors of his present. While his carefully crafted lies and schemes begin to fracture and disintegrate before his eyes, Abraham discovers that the bond of family is as tenuous and treacherous as the tricks he perpetrates upon unsuspecting strangers.