



The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International)

By Alice Munro

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WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013

Alice Munro mines her rich family background, melding it with her own experiences and the transforming power of her brilliant imagination, to create perhaps her most powerful and personal collection yet.

A young boy, taken to Edinburgh's Castle Rock to look across the sea to America, catches a glimpse of his father's dream. Scottish immigrants experience love and loss on a journey that leads them to rural Ontario. Wives, mothers, fathers, and children move through uncertainty, ambivalence, and contemplation in these stories of hopes, adversity, and wonder. *The View from Castle Rock* reveals what is most essential in Munro's art: her compassionate understanding of ordinary lives.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

[Signature]Reviewed by *Sigrid Nunez*Ten collections of stories and one novel have made Alice Munro one of the most praised fiction writers of our time. In *The View from Castle Rock* her full range of gifts is on display: indelible characters, deep insights about human behavior and relationships, vibrant prose, and seductive, suspenseful storytelling. Munro, in a foreword, tells how, a decade ago, she began looking into her family history, going all the way back to 18th-century Scotland. This material eventually became the stories presented here in part 1, "No Advantages." Munro also worked on "a special set of stories," none of which she included in previous collections, because they were "rather more personal than the other stories I had written." They now appear here in part 2, "Home." With both parts, Munro says, she has had a free hand with invention. Munro has used personal material in her fiction before, but at 75, she has given us something much closer to autobiography. Much of the book concerns people who have died, and places and ways of life that no longer exist or have been completely transformed, and though Munro is temperamentally unsentimental the mood is often elegiac. One difficulty that can arise with this kind of hybrid work is that the reader is likely to be distracted by the itch to know whether an event really occurred, or how much has been made up or embellished. In the title story, the reader is explicitly told that almost everything has been invented, and this enthralling multilayered narrative about an early 19th-century Scottish family's voyage to the New World is the high point of the collection. On the other hand, "What Do You Want to Know For?" at the heart of which is an account of a cancer scare Munro experienced, reads like pure memoir and seems not only thin by comparison but insufficiently imagined as a short story. Perhaps none of the stories here is quite up to the mastery of earlier Munro stories such as "The Beggar Maid" or "The Albanian Virgin." But getting this close to the core of the girl who would become the master is a privilege and a pleasure not to be missed. And reliably as ever when the subject is human experience, Munro's stories—whatever the proportions of fiction and fact—always bring us the truth. (Nov.) Sigrid Nunez's most recent novel, *The Last of Her Kind*, will be published in paperback by Picador in December.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Alice Munro's fans will find many familiar themes in this collection: father-daughter relationships, small-town repression, domestic work, discontented girls, and education. At the same time, Munro extends her craft deeper into her own past. Yet while she labels some parts historical-autobiographical, it's unclear just how many stories arise from personal experience, no matter how much depth each possesses. Perhaps it doesn't matter: Munro's particular talent lies in recreating art as life. If this collection pleased most critics, however, its "waffling between genres" and kitchen-sink feel raised concerns for others (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Despite its powerful prose and sheer beauty, *Castle Rock* may not be for Munro novices; instead, try *Carried Away*, a new selection of the author's small masterpieces.

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From [Booklist](#)

Munro is universally accepted as one of the outstanding writers of the short story in English, but her new book is both frustrating and exhilarating. "The nerve it took, to pick up and cross the ocean," remarks a character in one of the stories in the first--the frustrating--grouping of stories; that statement could stand as the theme underlying the entire book. Munro has always relied on characters' personal and familial histories as chief material from which her beautifully articulated stories are fashioned, and this traditional type of Munro story populates the second half of this collection. There, Munro traditionalists will find much to feast

on. It is the first half of the book that is problematic. She introduces these stories as fiction; topically, they are about her Scottish ancestors coming to Canada and the roots and branches established therein. Writing style--yes, predictably limpid and lovely. And they are as psychologically astute as one would expect from a very "smart" writer. But they taste like autobiographical essays; her intrusions into the prose not as narrator but as actual author prove distracting and erode the veil of suspension of disbelief. On the other hand, only purists will howl over the issue of authorial intrusion, and the vast number of fiction readers will be completely absorbed. *Brad Hooper*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sally Oneal:

Here thing why this specific The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International) are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International) giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no reserve that similar with The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International). It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your means home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International) in e-book can be your option.

Kimberly Kiser:

This book untitled The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International) to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this guide from your list.

Paul Dixon:

Precisely why? Because this The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International) is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Shalon Fisk:

As a pupil exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher questioned them to go to the library in order to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's heart and soul or real their leisure activity. They just do what the professor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and also can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this The View from Castle Rock (Vintage International) can make you really feel more interested to read.

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