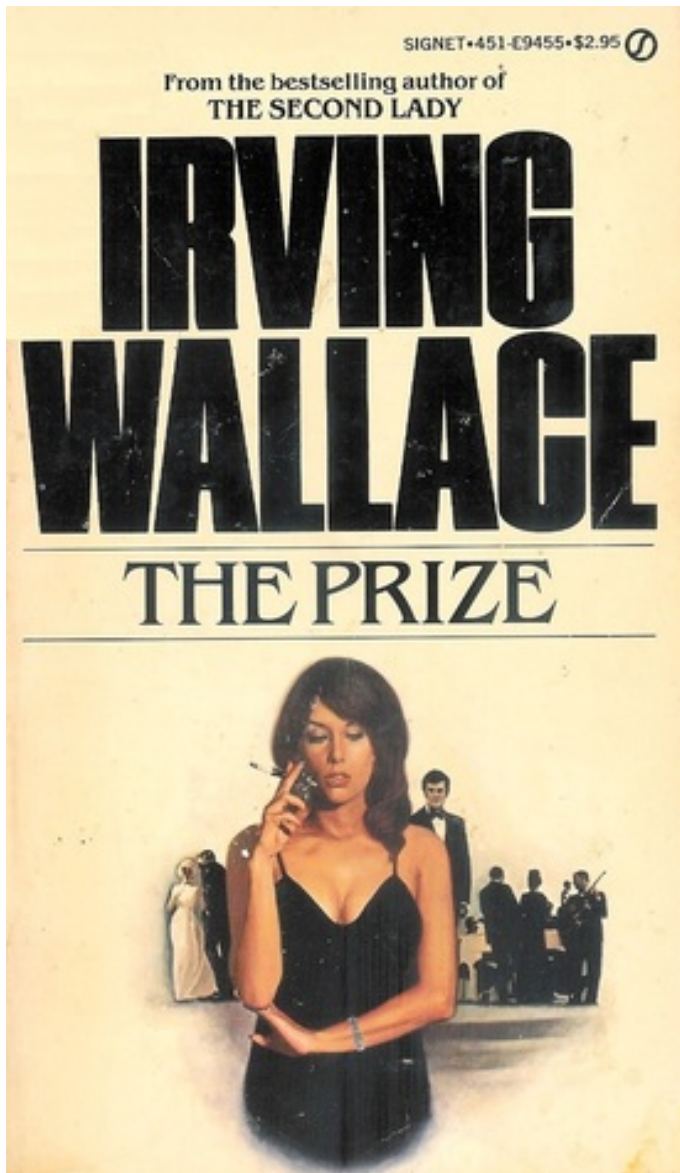

Irving Wallace

The Prize



Title: The Prize

Author: Irving Wallace

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Description

Novelist Andrew Craig has not been sober in a very long time. After losing his wife in an auto accident he believes to have been his own fault, he turned to the bottle, and to his sister-in-law, Leah, who acts as his caretaker and live-in nurse. Then, when he is awarded the Nobel Prize in literature for his novel, "The Perfect State," a historical jab at communism, he heads for Stockholm, hoping to find a reason to live, and to write. The other laureates have their own problems, a heart surgeon who believes that sharing his award with an Italian colleague robs him of his glory, a married couple awarded the prize in medicine in the middle of a serious marital crisis, and others – including Max Stratman, whose heart isn't really up to the trip, but who needs the prize money to provide for niece, Emily.

This novel delves into the lives, loves, dreams and nightmares of these characters, and others, building a panoramic view of the Nobel Prize, life in Stockholm, and the state of world politics in the years following World War II. It is rich, and compelling, driving the reader from the pits of despair to the heights of inspiration. A wonderful novel by one of America's finest novelists. The Prize was made into a movie starring Paul Newman.

Insightful reviews

Gayathri: Its one of the books which shows every big affair in this world has murky side. It gives a glimpse of what all goes in deciding who are the nobel prize winners. At the time I was reading this book, Barack Obama was announced as Nobel Peace prize winner and the book made all the sense(since nobody could understand why he was given that award).

The emptiness of a scientist's life who has achieved everything and is still not satisfied (the chemistry award winners) , the impact of the concentration camps even after decades of enduring those are very well depicted.

Gautham Vasan: The prize shows great promise of building up to be great book. The first half of the book is a gripping read. But Irving Wallace gives in to the requirements of a formulaic bestseller. The second half comprises of a far fetched story which the author somehow tries to merge with the brilliant first half. He tries to establish connections where none exist. Unlike the idealistic author Andrew Craig in his story, he does a hatchet job of a second rate fiction thriller filled with too many unlikely coincidences, shady characters. I couldn't help but feel that he somehow lost his integrity somewhere between the time it took to write this. The best fiction has some amount of truth, at least a believable lie. The story in the second half feels too implausible even to be considered mediocre fiction. But in all fairness, the book does have its highs and some great pieces of writing and research. Overall the book seems to start with a bang and ends with a whimper. If only the author wasn't obsessed with creating a happy ending using such unlikely story lines, maybe, maybe this would've been a fantastic read

Judy:

Irving Wallace's novel about the Nobel Prize was the #8 bestselling book in 1962. It took him over a decade to research and write. Unfortunately his research lays too heavily within the story and made the book overly long.

I could say that I got quite an education about the prizes but I would rather have looked all that up on Wikipedia and then enjoyed the story. Of course, Wikipedia did not exist in 1962.

By following the stories of six fictional Nobel winners, their associated wives or relatives, and some members of the Academy, he wove a pretty good tale. Each winner, whether scientist or writer, comes to Stockholm for Nobel week with personal baggage, vulnerable in different ways to the politics of the Nobel committees, to the press, and even to the world events of the times.

Though Wallace's characters are as much types as they are people, he gives each enough substance so that the reader becomes involved and participates emotionally in their changes. Of course, there are various romances spiced up with explicit sex (apparently Wallace is famous for that) but to his credit he makes of sex something seamless with the rest of life rather than sensational. He is clearly not in agreement with Puritanical views about its evilness.

Whenever he wrote about the trials and activities of the characters the story raced along. The historical bits, the travelogue style about visits to Stockholm's landmarks, and his descriptions of architecture, furnishings, restaurant meals and routes through the city were beyond boring. Unless you like that sort of thing, skimming is recommended.

In the end, he presents a balanced picture of the behind the scenes selections of the winners, the idiocy of such awards, as well as the positive effects on both the world and the winners due to recognition of great scientific work and literature.

I think the prize itself has been overshadowed by the many pop culture awards we have now, but I was still thrilled in recent years when Toni Morrison and Doris Lessing won. For me, the book was worth the read.

Nipun: a great read, peppered with plenty of attention-grabbing facts. Good mixture of truth and fiction - supplies a ringside view of the Nobel Prize.

Rene Townsend: I loved this publication because it is all approximately humanity. but it is simply a bit too drawn in and out my alternative it will were a greater learn if there has been at the least 25% much less of it.

Jack: top understood as a interval piece, outlined through and alongside the chilly battle ideological divide, with each one web page dripping down the exalted pedestal of north-western ecu patriarchal superiority. one of these perspective that hasn't elderly as gracefully because the regal bearing of the white men forever memorialised by way of the text. The Prize the description of the alcoholic Swedish writers admonition to the literary laureate to place the urgent problems with the day into the present. the type of taken recommendation that winks on the forth wall in its way.

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