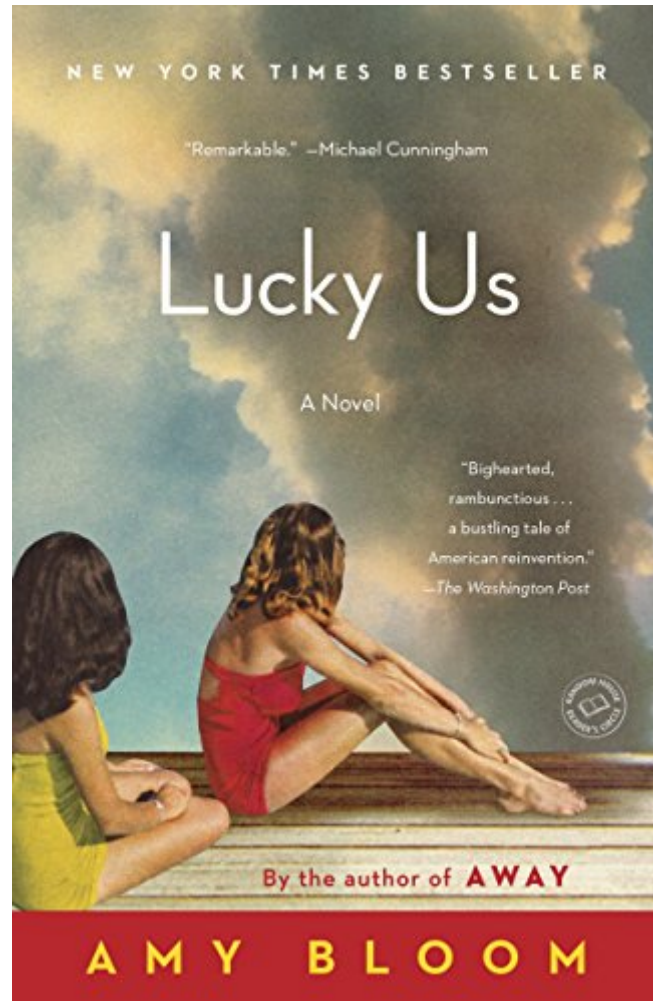




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Lucky Us: A Novel



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Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND O: THE OPRAH MAGAZINE • Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

"My father's wife died. My mother said we should drive down to his place and see what might be in it for us." So begins this remarkable novel by Amy Bloom, whose critically acclaimed *Away* was called "a literary triumph" (The New York Times). *Lucky Us* is a brilliantly written, deeply moving, fantastically funny novel of love, heartbreak, and luck. Disappointed by their families, Iris, the hopeful star and Eva the sidekick, journey through 1940s America in search of fame and fortune. Iris's ambitions take the pair across the America of Reinvention in a stolen station wagon, from small-town Ohio to an unexpected and sensuous Hollywood, and to the jazz clubs and golden mansions of Long Island. With their friends in high and low places, Iris and Eva stumble and shine through a landscape of big dreams, scandals, betrayals, and war. Filled with gorgeous writing, memorable characters, and surprising events, *Lucky Us* is a thrilling and resonant novel about success and failure, good luck and bad, the creation of a family, and the pleasures and inevitable perils of family life, conventional and otherwise. From Brooklyn's beauty parlors to London's West End, a group of unforgettable people love, lie, cheat and survive in this story of our fragile, absurd, heroic species.

Praise for *Lucky Us*

"*Lucky Us* is a remarkable accomplishment. One waits a long time for a novel of this scope and dimension, replete with surgically drawn characters, a mix of comedy and tragedy that borders on the miraculous, and sentences that should be in a sentence museum. Amy Bloom is a treasure." —Michael Cunningham

"Exquisite . . . a short, vibrant book about all kinds of people creating all kinds of serial, improvisatory lives." —The New York Times

"Bighearted, rambunctious . . . a bustling tale of American reinvention . . . If America has a Victor Hugo, it is Amy Bloom, whose picaresque novels roam the world, plumb the human heart and send characters into wild roulettes of kismet and calamity." —The Washington Post

"Bloom's crisp, delicious prose gives [*Lucky Us*] the feel of sprawling, brawling life itself. . . . *Lucky Us* is a sister act, which means a double dose of sauce and naughtiness from the brilliant Amy Bloom." —The Oregonian

"A tasty summer read that will leave you smiling . . . Broken hearts [are] held together by lipstick, wisecracks and the enduring love of sisters." —USA Today

"Exquisitely imagined . . . [a] grand adventure." —O: The Oprah Magazine

"Marvelous picaresque entertainment . . . a festival of joy and terror and lust

and amazement that resolves itself here, warts and all, in a kind of crystalline Mozartean clarity of vision. • Elle From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 3739 KB

Print Length: 257 pages

Publisher: Random House; Reprint edition (July 29, 2014)

Publication Date: July 29, 2014

Sold by: Amazon.com Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00IBZ5ZRY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

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Customer Reviews

There are as many characters in this book as there are reasons to recommend reading it. It had several separate stories within the story that made me sad when each story ended as in Gus's life with his new family in Germany and Edgar's beautiful jazz singer lover. I could have read a whole book just about her. The life of the two sisters, Eva and Iris was one rough road with a series of unfortunate events to rival the Kennedy's but through it all, the many characters and supporting cast as well as the strong if unusual relationships they build along the way are what make them lucky indeed!

As a long-time Amy Bloom fan, I was very excited to read her latest book. She is an incredibly gifted writer -- the language and sentence structure is always spot on. Line by line, Lucky Us is perfect. As always, her characters are complete people with all the fixings to make them human. But I felt as

though the book fell a bit flat in parts. It was a good read, but not as pleasingly deep and enjoyable as her short stories or *Away*.

And lucky anyone who lets Eva, Iris, Gus, Edgar, Francisco, Danny, Reenie and Clara into their world. And a few others, too. As Eva said of herself and Danny, what a pair. What a wonderful book about how love evolves, if we only let it. Thank you, Amy Bloom.

I was surprisingly pleased with this story. It didn't try to sugar coat the challenges of the Amish people in the story, nor try to minimize the difficulties of the various personalities with shortcomings in the community where they live.

Normally, I enjoy Amy Blooms books but "Lucky Us" was a problem. I both cared and didn't care about the characters. Often I thought them contrived. I felt the same about the plot. Portions felt lifted from other books -- the abandoned by its mother child finding refuge with an eccentric womanizing Dad, a half sister turned lesbian/actress. Just didn't work for me in total, altho parts did.

I enjoyed this book so much. There were complex family relationships, but with a good ending.

A great story about a plucky young lady who makes lemonade out of lemons and comes out the big winner. Great characters you won't soon forget and a trip back into the crazy 40's & 50's complete with wild women, the hunt for nazi sympathizers, gay women, gay men, classic NY Italians, a loving but undependable Dad, sisterly rivalry....it's all here. Loved reading it and would recommend it.

I was looking for a good book to read this summer and having a hard time finding one. Now this lady is a talented writer and knows how to tell a story. Sweet and inspiring. You won't be sorry you chose this book.

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