



Pride

William Wharton

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During the Depression, a 10-year-old boy befriends a carnival stuntman and his lion cub and learns about the meaning of family, loyalty, love, and survival.

Pride Details

Date : Published July 1st 1996 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9781557042590

Author : William Wharton

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Fiction, Novels

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From Reader Review Pride for online ebook

Cin Masson says

Willaim Wharton can write and tell a story. Look through bars and you'll never get any pleasure out of life.

Susan says

Pride was the perfect title for a perfect book. It had the best message/moral in a book that I've read in a long time. William Wharton's writing transports you back to the days the follow the Depression. It's warm, it's about people, about growing up, about family.

Some thought-provoking quotes:

In one place, 10-year-old Dickie talks about how he's too old to sit on his parents' laps, then says, "Those things seemed to stop, to end, without my hardly noticing them. I might never sit on anybody's lap again the rest of my life."

Another favorite: "Sally is up against another wall, another crossroads in the conflict between her basic goodness, sensitivity, awareness, and her yearning for excitement, anything to make the day-to-day, momentary quality of her life more meaningful, something left over in many humans from the millions of years lived before agriculture, cities, law ethics."

My favorite is at the end of the book, when Dickie's father tells him: "The important thing for all of us is never look at the bars, look through them. Because if you keep looking at bars, you'll never get anything done, and you'll never have fun in life, any joy,"

You'll need to read the book for the last quote to make sense, but once you do, you'll never forget it.

I can't believe this book's been in print since 1985 and I've just now read it. It's one of the few books I think is worthy of a second read.

Jennifer says

This is one of my favorite books. It's the story of a young boy who learns that while his father is human he still is an extraordinary man. The family has fled from union unrest to vacation at the shore during off season. While father spends his days concerned with the family's safety, young Dickie becomes obsessed with the fate of a lion kept captive in a cage on the boardwalk.

I started reading and fell in love with Wharton's works in high school. I think the thing that impressed me most about Wharton is his ability to write about relationships especially those between men. He was such a brilliant writer and will be truly missed.

Feliks says

Definitely one of the lightest, sweetest, but also most memorable, and oddly-perfect modern novels. A book which would fit almost any need. Its profound but entertaining; it yields richly-drawn characters yet they are ones taken from the utterly simplest walks-of-life; it is historical fiction but with a timeless quality.

If none of this matters to you, forget it all and let's just make it this: you will never find another novel in which a full-grown African lion zooms around the inside of a huge egg-shaped chamber in a motorcycle side-car, upside down, just inches away from your face.

Shelly says

Also set during the depression and involving show animals, this story has some similarities in theme and conclusion to "Water for Elephants" but is overall different enough to say that both are well worth reading. I liked this one a little bit more.

Janjan says

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Aemilia Harbutt says

This book is like no other. It's complicated. Very complicated. It's the tale of two tales, of people in similar situations, tied together by its title of two meanings, Pride. Pride is an emotion when one shows blankly content towards one's actions, or someone else's actions. Pride is also a group of lions, that revolve around each other like clique. This is the story of a man's journey, from impeccably witty to unsuccessful and lost, the owner of a lone lion, and a boy growing in the Depression with a cat, who is also like a lion. I learned about change and time, over what was once a smart boy, to a crippled man, from love to loss, from cat to lion, and care to negligence. I learned about pride as well.

Anthony Bracciante says

This is a wonderful book with great characters that seem very real at times. I failed to give it 5 stars over the ending. It is still a great read.

Erin says

I think my mom gave this to me awhile back from her book collection, and I finally got around to reading. It was great, and I think that anyone who liked "Water for Elephants" would really enjoy this.

Charmaine says

William Wharton is soon becoming one of my favourite writers. This book (as the others) has rich characters. It was a pleasure to read and makes one one to read all the other.

Arjun says

I never did like "Birdy." Actually, I don't like any other books written by William Wharton, unfortunately. But I loved Pride. Almost 20 years later, it is still one of my favorite books.

John says

NOBODY CAN LET ANYBODY ELSE , NOT EVEN A LION, OUT OF A CAGE. That one line made this a great book. The first part left me not wanting to go on but the second part was great then the third terrible again. It did all come together some how, am not sure how and was surprised that it did. This is one of those books that you remember 30 years later. I think it was even better than BIRDY. It was a very simple story with very wise thoughts.

Amanda says

I read this book, tense with fear, knowing that terrible things happen when animals are featured in books yet hoping for a happy ending. And I read the ending, holding back sobs, knowing that this book has the best possible ending and maybe even a better one than I'd wished for. I'm still sad, but filled with love and hope and admiration at the same time. The Kettlesons are good people. Love!

Nousha says

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