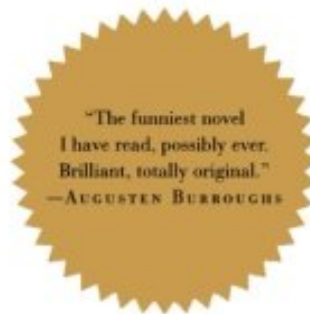


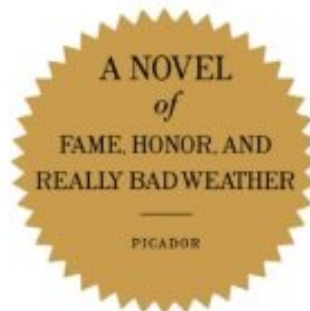
Winner of the National Book Award: A Novel of Fame, Honor, and Really Bad Weather

Jincy Willett

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Jincy Willett : Winner of the National Book Award: A Novel of Fame, Honor, and Really Bad Weather before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winner of the National Book Award: A Novel of Fame, Honor, and Really Bad Weather:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another Jincy fun readBy S. ZendzianThis is my third Jincy Willett

book, after the Writing Class and Amy Falls Down. Although, once again, Jincy spends too much time inside the narrator's head for my taste, her wonderful characterizations and engaging story line keeps me reading, and hoping for more from her. I'm new englander who has spent a considerable amount of time in Rhode Island, and who experienced the Blizzard of '78, so the locations and the time frame in the story were familiar and comfortable. Also, and once again, Jincy makes more than a few references known only to the literati, but that's okay with me. If I want to know, I'll look them up. But in the meantime Dorcas' encyclopedic librarian's brain is almost a character by itself. I am reluctant to write anything into this review about the good twin-bad twin aspect of the story, as its best to just read it for yourself and enjoy. I'd love to see this in the movies! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Whew By Jon Avent I certainly hope you are prepared for this story. I've had my nose in a book every day of my life since I was around nine and I am somehow sixty yet Jincy Willett managed to fill each chapter of this story with words I have NEVER seen. They're all perfectly mundane meaning but still...what a tale she tells. I found myself noting profound passages all through it. Anyone and everyone should read this book but if have a sister it will really take you for a ride. LOVED IT. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Damned Yankees By D. P. Birkett Dorcas and Abigail are twin sisters. Abigail is promiscuous and voluptuous. Dorcas is virginal and intellectual. Guy is a National Book Award winner, and he and his wife Hilda are hosts to a coterie of intellectuals into which they invite Dorcas and Abigail. They introduce the sisters to Conrad, who is a sexually predatory author and polymath. Conrad yearns for Dorcas but marries Abigail. He abuses her and she kills him. The book is loaded, perhaps overloaded, with satire on the literary scene and Rhode Island local color. I think there is a roman a clef lurking in there for those who can identify the characters who are writers. There are some wonderful farcical incidents. In one episode Abigail has become emaciated and tells Dorcas she is starving because Conrad has taken all her food. Dorcas makes an epic cross-country snowshoe trip to bring her supplies and finds that she has a fully stocked refrigerator. Conrad has taken the carrot sticks and spinach she was living on. Some of the humor is very black indeed. One incident is the gang rape of a drunken fourteen-year old. We never know what to expect from Willett. She makes us wait a long time between books. "The Jaws of Life" contained the blackest of sexual humor. "The Writing Class" was much more modest in its aims, and can be read just as a suspenseful page-turning mystery but hits its satirical targets spot on. The Snowshoe Experience: A Beginner's Guide to Gearin Up Enjoying Winter Fitness (Get Out Do It! Guide)

Set in Rhode Island, Winner of the National Book Award tells the story of twins who could not be more different. Abigail Mather is a woman of passionate sensual and sexual appetites, while her sister, the book loving local librarian Dorcas, lives a quiet life of the mind. But when the sisters are sought out by the predatory and famous poet, Guy De Vilbiss, who introduces them to Hollywood hack writer and possible psychopath Conrad Lowe, they rapidly become pawns in a game that leads to betrayal, shame and ultimately, murder. Darkly comic and satirical, Jincy Willett's Winner of the National Book Award is unnervingly funny and disarmingly tender whether she is writing about sex, literary delusion or Yankee pretension.

From Publishers Weekly Willett's second book, after 1987's Jenny and the Jaws of Life (a collection of stories re-released last year with a foreword by David Sedaris), is a brilliant black comedy starring twins with antithetical dispositions and a handsome stranger with designs on both of them. Zaftig Abigail has turned promiscuity into an art form, while the literary, virginal Dorcas finds pleasure in the library-in its books, but also in the graffiti scrawled on its facade. Dorcas recounts Abigail's scandalous coming-of-age, marriage and eventual act of murder, weaving in excerpts from the book version penned later by Abigail and the sisters' friend, Hilda. Through Hilda and her writer husband, Guy, who considers Abigail "art itself," the twins become involved in a circle of artsy, intellectual and morally decadent friends. Abigail soon falls madly in love with Guy's old friend, the charming but sadistic Conrad, and ensnares herself in a destructive spiral of dieting, degradation and dependency. Through a fascinating interplay of violence and desire, Abigail's masochistic tendencies unfold (Dorcas had identified them as a teen: "I stopped hitting her only when I saw, through the stars of my rage, that she loved it"). It's hard to decide whom to cheer for most: Abigail for her triumphant revenge or Dorcas for her sense of humor, keen perception and restraint. Willett does a remarkable job of treating dark subject matter with shimmering playfulness, without diminishing its monstrosity. And embedded in her narrative is also a reflection on the subjective and sensual nature of written expression. Poignant and funny, mean and tender, Willett's novel is exuberantly original. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Yes, that's really the title, and its attention-getting ingenuity is an apt beginning to this utterly cunning and clever novel in which Willett blends wry understatement with wise understanding to portray a complex relationship between twin sisters and mordantly explore the misfortune that can befall the man who comes between them. Dorcas Mather is as prudish as her sister Abigail is promiscuous, aspects of their personalities that both women have acknowledged and accepted almost since birth. But when sexy, sinister Conrad Lowe comes to town and unexpectedly sets his sights on the spinsterish Dorcas, the stage is set for a confrontation of cataclysmic proportion. Though Abigail is the more flamboyant of the pair, Willett endows Dorcas with an incisive and penetrating wit that never masks the depth of her love for her wayward sister. Sharp-tongued and intelligent, Dorcas receives the full benefit of Willett's

luminous writing, which vibrates between acute humor and astute wisdom. An exceptional debut novel from a fresh, funny, and facile writer. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved “The funniest novel I have read, possibly ever. Brilliant, totally original, and worthy of its title. I promise you will laugh constantly and to the point of stomach damage.” ?Augusten Burroughs, author of *Running With Scissors* and *Dry* “Riotous . . . hugely funny . . . Willett's satirical abilities remain deliciously undimmed. . . . A wicked treat. . . . Amid the antic, hilarious, gender-bending battle of the sexes that Ms. Willett whips up in this book, either one may qualify as a reason to kill. Either that, or to die laughing.” ?Janet Maslin, *New York Times* “The author mows down worlds of artistic and psychological twaddle with killer sprays of language. Willett is effortlessly, furiously funny. . . . A.” ?*Entertainment Weekly* “Read the title with a snort that echoes across the room, and proceed from there...unnerving, scabrously funny...a spectacularly toxic novel.” ?*The Onion* “Willett plays artfully with narrative structure. . . . It's Dorcas' jaded take on every Yankee pretension, psycho-babble truism and literary delusion she encounters that makes this gothic tale so amusing.” ?*Seattle Times* “She writes for the joy of reading, not for the puffed-up pride of having written, and we're the ones who run off with the prize.” ?*New York Times Book* “Dorcas' deadpan narration is perfect. . . . Willett's hapless characters are, in the end: grotesquely flawed, hugely funny, but human.” ?J.L. Johnson, *Boston Herald* “A sharp, highly original satire.” ?*Time Out* “A hilarious black comedy . . . brilliantly constructed and unabashedly vicious . . . Nothing escapes [Willett's] notice, and Dorcas' keen view of the world is richer for that fact. And so are we.” ?*Miami Herald*