



## The Winshaw Legacy: or, What a Carve Up!

By Jonathan Coe

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**The Winshaw Legacy: or, What a Carve Up!** By Jonathan Coe

If Charles Dickens and Agatha Christie had ever managed to collaborate, they might have produced this shamelessly entertaining novel, which introduces readers to what may be the most powerful family in England--and is certainly the vilest. A tour de force of menace, malicious comedy, and torrential social bile, this book marks the American debut of an extraordinary writer.

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## **The Winshaw Legacy: or, What a Carve Up! By Jonathan Coe Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #708035 in Books
- Published on: 1996-01-03
- Released on: 1996-01-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.10" h x 1.00" w x 5.20" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 512 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

In this patchily entertaining postmodern pastiche of class warfare, Coe places Michael Owen, a burnt-out middle-class writer, as the family chronicler of the Winshaws, an upper-class British dynasty involved in everything wrong with modern England: television and tabloid journalism (Hilary, the hack); Thatcherite politics and National Health Service Reform (Henry, the back-stabber); industrialized agriculture (the beastly Dorothy); insider stock trading (Thomas, the voyeur); and arms dealing with Iraq (the callous Mark). Coe's contemporary vile bodies are not only utterly unprincipled, greedy and philistine, but their presentation is uninspired and unamusing as well, contracting these issues down to a distinctly parochial dimension.

Sandwiching their corrupt stories is an intricate comic plot out of the murder-at-the-manor genre, weirdly reflected in Owen's obsession with an old movie in which he is convinced he stars and which determines his fate. Coe's dry, deflating Midlands sense of humor infrequently rises above the episodes of scrupulously didactic satire and works well with the more quotidian social ills, such as telly-addiction and the unending waits in NHS hospitals. The narrative becomes more interesting toward the end, when Coe gets around to murdering a number of his characters, but since they never become quite real in the first place, the reader doesn't really care. A story closer to this mundane Britain of post-Thatcher disaffection would have been more welcome for his American debut than agitprop Waugh-mongering.

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#### From Library Journal

In this mordant satire of 1980s greed, a seemingly chance encounter with an employee of a vanity press lands well-reviewed if little-read novelist Michael Owen a commission to write the history of a powerful British family named the Winshaws. The Winshaws have made their mark in every area of British life. Harry is a member of Parliament, Hilary writes a popular newspaper column, Dorothy runs the nation's largest slaughterhouse, Thomas is a merchant banker, Roddy is a London art dealer, and Mark is an arms dealer supplying Saddam Hussein. Yet, as Owen soon discovers, their wealth and power are matched by their shallowness and moral vacuity. Coe stirs elements of the Gothic, detective, and comic genres into a wildly funny, ultimately frightening mix. Though occasionally didactic, this work is nonetheless a tour-de-force-and a delight to read.

*Lawrence Rungren, Bedford Free P.L., Mass.*

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#### From Booklist

The fall of the House of Winshaw has shades of the fall of the House of Usher in Poe's famous short story. The "wretched, lying, thieving, self-advancing Winshaws," of Winshaw Towers in Yorkshire, are plagued by violent deaths between the 1940s and the 1990s, the time span covered in this remarkably complicated yet arresting novel, Coe's first to be published in the U.S. The Winshaws are a family of eccentrics of the kind we so love in British fiction--with secrets kept in attics and members consigned to mental institutions. And no Winshaw is more eccentric than Tabitha, the grande dame of the family whose mind was shattered when her brother was shot down over Germany during World War II. It is Tabitha who, at a later point, enlists the talents of a novelist to write the history of the family. It is not only Tabitha's and the writer's voices, but also the voices of several other family members' who join in a chorus, all adding their twists to the family story. In a deliciously circuitous fashion, as we learn the family members' travails in and out of love and in pursuit of mental and financial stability, we come closer to learning the reasons behind the bloody deaths for which Winshaw Towers has become infamous. This complex, layered novel is demanding but rewarding; persistent readers will be completely engrossed. *Brad Hooper*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **John Drew:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stay than other is high. For you who want to start reading the book, we give you this The Winshaw Legacy: or, What a Carve Up! book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Amy Mueller:**

The particular book The Winshaw Legacy: or, What a Carve Up! has a lot associated with on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. McDougal makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can get the point easily after scanning this book.

#### **Glen Bass:**

Why? Because this The Winshaw Legacy: or, What a Carve Up! is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

#### **Wayne Robinson:**

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