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Flowers For Algernon

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Flowers for Algernon

by Daniel Keyes

Performed by Jeff Woodman



Synopsis

One of a series of top-quality fiction for schools. Charlie Gordon, who desperately wants to be able to read and write, undergoes a brain operation which dramatically increases his intelligence. But can his emotional development keep pace with the intellectual? --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was recommended this book by my mother who read it as a child. Even though I knew how it would end the book filled me with hope on every new page, until it didn't. I caught myself hoping that my mother hadn't remembered the ending correctly, and everything would be fine. Flowers for Algernon tackles many complex issues from the mistreatment and misunderstanding of the mentally handicapped, the burden of knowledge that every person with common sense thinks they experience but doesn't truly understand, to the meaning of existence and the human condition. You don't read Flowers for Algernon to feel happy at the end. You read it to cry, take a shuddering breath, and then step out into the sunshine with a greater appreciation for life and the struggles of your fellow human beings.

My 8th grader was assigned this book so I decided to read it along with them. My expectations were rather low and I was very pleasantly surprised. I really enjoyed the book and found that the book brought up some very deep, social issues to discuss with my daughter. Note - my daughter read a

condensed version provided by the school. This version has some slightly more adult scenarios (re: sexual situations).

I can't believe I missed reading this book decades ago. It was written long before gene therapy and treatment was an actuality, yet displayed and examined some extremely moral, biological, psychological, and personal issues in as sensitive a manner as I can recall over a lifetime of reading. It was surely deserving of its awards and positive reviews. The characters were carefully developed and the story (told in the first person) was riveting. A timeless treasure!

A classic that I read in college that I downloaded to reread. Highly recommended. The science (1950s era speculation) requires granting some artistic license. As a study of the ethics of medical research it is outstanding.

Just this once, I care enough to write a review for a product purchased on . A book no less, and yet I am not really sure why exactly I am writing a review. It could be that I feel somehow obligated to the author to indeed say, yes: this was a marvelous novel. Or, perhaps, this is a poor man's distorted ode to a protagonist who has haunted his mind all evening. Whichever the case may be, there is as much surprise as pain in having enjoyed this novel. The pretense of the book centers around one, Charlie Gordon; a mentally disabled, thirty-two year old man living in New York City. In a story that only science fiction can provide, he is given a chance at intelligence in the form of breakthrough hypothetical surgery. What ensues is an emotional reckoning; as Charlie comes to terms with himself and the world through new thoughts and views of conception. While searching for his balance in the world, Charlie must also face his own inner demons. Personally, I've felt more anger and sadness from this novel as any I have read before; injustice, cruelty, malice, and heartache resonate through-out. Yet, there is a sliver of pure humanity and love that baffles me to no end upturning my feelings and causing a quandary in my mind. Truly, this novel is an achievement to literature in my most humble opinion. I would recommend this book to: a friend, a family member, a fellow customer on , whomever.

I read this in grammar school five decades ago. I read it again this week. While some of the book is dated (it was written in the late 50s), most of it is as relevant today as it was then. This is a book worth reading.

Interesting premise. I'd always heard it was a good book but never knew what it was about. Well done, makes you think.

Please see above. The sex with Alice was Magisterial. The use of psychiatry free association childhood memories, hallucinations, nightmares, and the essential human need for attachment posited against IQ.

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