



The Museum of Innocence (Vintage International)

By Orhan Pamuk

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It is 1975, a perfect spring in Istanbul. Kemal and Sibel, children of two prominent families, are about to become engaged. But when Kemal encounters Füsün, a beautiful shopgirl and a distant relation, he becomes enthralled. And once they violate the code of virginity, a rift begins to open between Kemal and the world of the Westernized Istanbul bourgeoisie. In his pursuit of Füsün over the next eight years, Kemal becomes a compulsive collector of objects that chronicle his lovelorn progress—amassing a museum that is both a map of a society and of his heart. Orhan Pamuk's first novel since winning the Nobel Prize is a stirring exploration of the nature of romance.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, November 2009: The story of Kemal, the half-hearted industrialist who is the hero of *The Museum of Innocence*, Orhan Pamuk's first novel since he won the Nobel Prize for Literature, is a deeply private one, built around an often inexplicable obsession that he attempts to justify to the reader. In honor of Füsün, the poor, beautiful cousin he had a short affair with when he was 30 and engaged to another, he has hoarded a museum of relics, both of their time together and of the much longer time when, like Gatsby drawn by the green light on Daisy's dock, he hovered at the edge of her life, held in check (but yet held nearby) by the proprieties of Turkish society. From Kemal's passion Pamuk constructs a masterful meditation on time, desire, and possession, saturated with the details of the city of Pamuk's youth: the brand names, the film stars, the streets, the intricate social relations between classes and between modernity and tradition. It's as if the museum of the title was built in honor not of Füsün but of Istanbul, circa 1975. --Tom Nissley

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Nobel laureate Pamuk's latest is a soaring, detailed and laborious mausoleum of love. During Istanbul's tumultuous 1970s, Kemal Bey, 30-year-old son of an upper-class family, walks readers through a lengthy catalogue of trivial objects, which, though seeming mundane, hold memories of his life's most intimate, irretrievable moments. The main focus of Kemal's peculiar collection of earrings, ticket stubs and drinking glasses is beloved Füsün, his onetime paramour and longtime unrequited love. An 18-year-old virginal beauty, modest shopgirl and poor distant relation, Füsün enters Kemal's successful life just as he is engaged to Sibel, a very special, very charming, very lovely girl. Though levelheaded Sibel provides Kemal compassionate relief from their social strata's rising tensions, it is the fleeting moments with fiery, childlike Füsün that grant conflicted Kemal his deepest peace. The poignant truth behind Kemal's obsession is that his museum provides a closeness with Füsün he'll never regain. Though its incantatory middle suffers from too many indistinguishable quotidian encounters, this is a masterful work. (Oct.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Turkey's most prominent and best-selling novelist, Orhan Pamuk is the rare author who creates highly literary works that also enjoy popular appeal. *The Museum of Innocence* is no exception. Critics described it as a beautiful, moving love story—not only between Kemal and Fusun but also between Pamuk and his beloved Istanbul. And while the critic from the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* found Kemal's long-term devotion tedious at times, she also called the story "surprising" and "moving." The major complaint came from the *Miami Herald*, which cited a lack of momentum and of appealing characters. But without question, fans of star-crossed lovers and exotic locales will find much to delight in here.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Tebo:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive today, people have to do something to make themselves survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Sure, by

reading a guide your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading any book, we give you this The Museum of Innocence (Vintage International) book as nice and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Eileen Smith:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the data about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write for their book. One of them is this The Museum of Innocence (Vintage International).

William Medellin:

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