



Lucky

By Alice Sebold

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Lucky By Alice Sebold

In a memoir hailed for its searing candor and wit, Alice Sebold reveals how her life was utterly transformed when, as an eighteen-year-old college freshman, she was brutally raped and beaten in a park near campus. What propels this chronicle of her recovery is Sebold's indomitable spirit-as she struggles for understanding ("After telling the hard facts to anyone, from lover to friend, I have changed in their eyes"); as her dazed family and friends sometimes bungle their efforts to provide comfort and support; and as, ultimately, she triumphs, managing through grit and coincidence to help secure her attacker's arrest and conviction. In a narrative by turns disturbing, thrilling, and inspiring, Alice Sebold illuminates the experience of trauma victims even as she imparts wisdom profoundly hard-won: "You save yourself or you remain unsaved."

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

When Sebold, the author of the current bestseller *The Lovely Bones*, was a college freshman at Syracuse University, she was attacked and raped on the last night of school, forced onto the ground in a tunnel "among the dead leaves and broken beer bottles." In a ham-handed attempt to mollify her, a policeman later told her that a young woman had been murdered there and, by comparison, Sebold should consider herself lucky. That dubious "luck" is the focus of this fiercely observed memoir about how an incident of such profound violence can change the course of one's life. Sebold launches her memoir headlong into the rape itself, laying out its visceral physical as well as mental violence, and from there spins a narrative of her life before and after the incident, weaving memories of parental alcoholism together with her post-rape addiction to heroin. In the midst of each wrenching episode, from the initial attack to the ensuing courtroom drama, Sebold's wit is as powerful as her searing candor, as she describes her emotional denial, her addiction and even the rape (her first "real" sexual experience). She skillfully captures evocative moments, such as, during her girlhood, luring one of her family's basset hounds onto a blue silk sofa (strictly off-limits to both kids and pets) to nettle her father. Addressing rape as a larger social issue, Sebold's account reveals that there are clear emotional boundaries between those who have been victims of violence and those who have not, though the author attempts to blur these lines as much as possible to show that violence touches many more lives than solely the victim's.

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From Library Journal

Sebold was raped as a college freshman, but the police said she was "lucky." At least she wasn't murdered and dismembered like the girl before her. Now a journalist, Sebold here details the aftermathAposttraumatic stress syndrome, heroin addiction, and, finally, some measure of understanding. This book is based partly on a feature appearing in the New York Times Sunday Magazine that prompted an appearance on Oprah.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A stunningly crafted and unsparing account of the authors rape as a college freshman and what it took to win her case in court. In 1981, Sebold was brutally raped on her college campus, at Syracuse University. Sebold, a New York Times Magazine contributor, now in her 30s, reconstructs the rape and the year following in which her assailant was brought to trial and found guilty. When, months after the rape, she confided in her fiction professor, Tobias Wolff, he advised: Try, if you can, to remember everything. Sebold heeded his words, and the result is a memoir that reads like detective fiction, replete with police jargon, economical characterization, and filmlike scene construction. Part of Sebolds ironic luck, besides the fact that she wasnt killed, was that she was a virgin prior to the rape, she was wearing bulky clothing, and her rapist beat her, leaving unmistakable evidence of violence. Sebold casts a cool eye on these facts: The cosmetics of rape are central to proving any case. Sebold critiques the sexism and misconceptions surrounding rape with neither rhetoric nor apology; she lets her experience speak for itself. Her family, her friends, her campus community are all shaken by the brutality she survived, yet Sebold finds herself feeling more affinity with police officers she meets, as it was in [their] world where this hideous thing had happened to me. A world of violent crime. Just when Sebold believes she might surface from this world, a close friend is raped and the haunting continues. The last section, Aftermath, has an unavoidable tacked-on-at-the-end feel, as Sebold crams over a decades worth of coping and healing into a short chapter. Told with mettle and intelligence, Sebolds story of fierce determination to wrest back her life from her rapist will inspire and challenge. -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Jonas:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try to and must have the time or they will get large amount of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the book you have read is usually Lucky.

Maria Casillas:

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