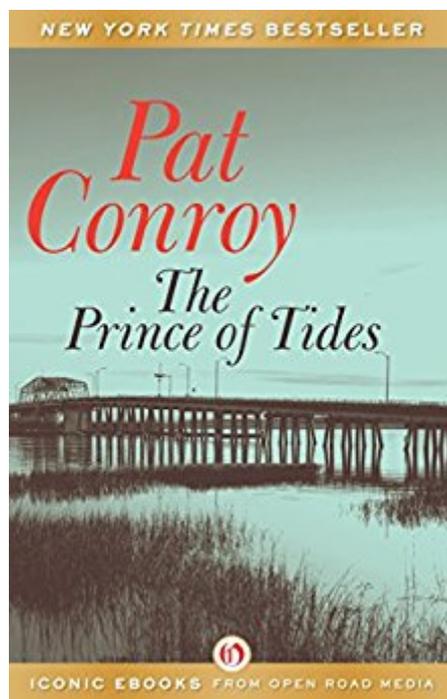


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The Prince Of Tides



Synopsis

Pat Conroy's New York Times "bestselling Southern drama about the destructive repercussions of keeping an unspeakable family secret" Tom Wingo has lost his job, and is on the verge of losing his marriage, when he learns that his twin sister, Savannah, has attempted suicide again. At the behest of Savannah's psychiatrist, Dr. Susan Lowenstein, Tom reluctantly leaves his home in South Carolina to travel to New York City and aid in his sister's therapy. As Tom's relationship with Susan deepens, he reveals to her the turbulent history of the Wingo family, and exposes the truth behind the fateful day that changed their lives forever. Drawing richly from the author's own troubled upbringing, *The Prince of Tides* is a sweeping, powerful novel of unlocking the past to overcome the darkest of personal demons. Pat Conroy at his very best.

Book Information

File Size: 3992 KB

Print Length: 674 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media (July 28, 2010)

Publication Date: August 10, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003XKN65K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #533 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Psychological #20 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Coming of Age #24 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Suspense > Psychological

Customer Reviews

In Pat Conroy's masterpiece, *The Prince of Tides*, not much is going right in Tom Wingo's life. He drinks too much, has lost his teaching/coaching job, and his marriage is on the rocks. He grew up with an abusive father whose violent behavior left physical and emotional scars on all the Wingo

children. His mother was more supportive, but was powerless to protect her children from her husband's wrath. She also put her social ambitions before anything else in her life. The only that has gone right in Tom's life is that he lived his entire life in the low country of Charleston, SC--one of the most beautiful and nurturing places on this earth. Things come to a head when Tom learns that his beautiful and talented twin, Savannah, has tried to commit suicide again. As she lays comatose in a New York City mental hospital, Savannah's psychiatrist, Susan Lowenstein, urges Tom to travel to New York. Doctor Lowenstein realizes that the only thing that can help save Savannah is to unlock the secrets of her terrible childhood (something that all the Wingo children have long suppressed and refuse to talk about). Tom flies to New York reluctantly, and at first, presents Dr. Lowenstein with a façade made up of humor, sarcasm and even rudeness. But Dr. Lowenstein eventually is able to break down Tom's protective shell to discover the horrors that took place during the Wingo's childhood. She also realizes that in trying to save Savannah, that this might also be Tom's last chance to save himself. But it turns out that Lowenstein has erected her own protective mask to hide her own unhappiness. With a remote husband and a spoiled son, Tom is able to turn the tables and help the good doctor in promoting a little self-healing as well.

Has anyone out there read many and many books over the years to the point where the books you read as of late don't interest you or excite you as much as they used to? Well, I'm one of those people. Not a lot of books these days fail to grab my attention with such surreal realism and heart and emotion as Pat Conroy's *The Prince of Tides* did. When I picked up this book last August, I had no idea what a ride I was in for. I read the first 200 pages with keen interest but had to put the book down due to starting a new semester at college. Now five months later and with finals and a wacky semester down the drain, I finally had the time to read the rest of the four hundred plus pages. The minute I picked up the book again after five long months all the details I had read and long forgotten came back to me like shooting stars. The magic of being able to envision the characters and the scenes of the best and worst moments of their lives had returned to me after years of diminishing like a candle. *Prince of Tides* is an extraordinary epic based on the Wingo family and their trials and tribulations throughout their lives. Conroy sketches out every detail of his characters with naturalness rarely read. He also managed to speak on a great many deals of horrors that plague people like me every day of our lives, such as, mental illness, child and spousal abuse, rape, psychotherapy, the Vietnam War, racism in the South and betrayal. But I think that the greatest gift that Conroy offers in this novel is the gift of love. He writes Susan and Tom's story of love and understanding with major depth. He doesn't simply make it a happy ending but one of lost fates; if

only they had met early on in life. It's a wonderful novel that all people on all walks of life can relate to, especially the ones who weep a fate lost.

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