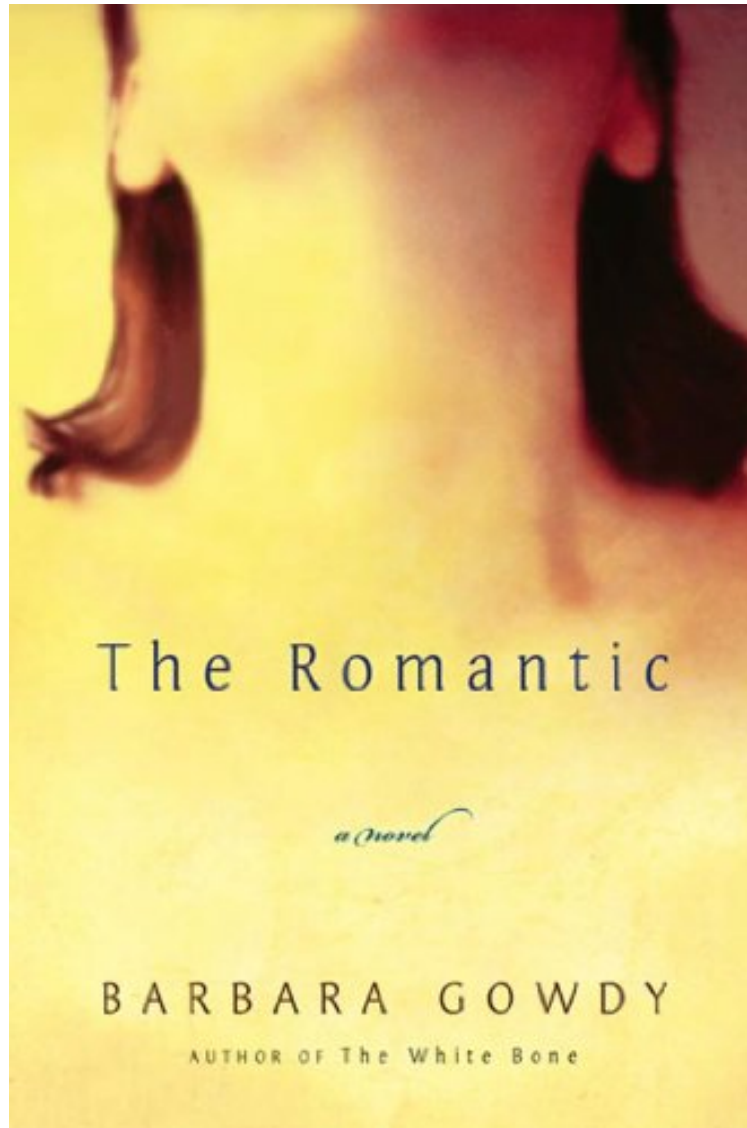


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## The Romantic: A Novel

Von Barbara Gowdy

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**Von Barbara Gowdy : The Romantic: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Romantic: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. funny and sadVon florida-kOn a recent trip to Canada, I bought The Romantic by Barbara Gowdy. It was lying on a pile of books by Canadian authors; I picked it up because of the cover, but I bought it because of one line on the back:"When she is nine years old, her former beauty queen mother "disappears," leaving a note that reads only - and incorrrectly - "Louise knows how to work the washing machine."I thought that was just great - and captured the mix of tragedy and

wry comedy which is apparant throughout the book.I've come to the conclusion that I very much like Canadian authors - I haven't ready anything by one that I haven't enjoyed, and some are simply wonderful. This turned out to be a real find, and is one of the best books I've read for ages. Yes, you can compare it to Atwood, but it's so much more than that - Gowdy really does have a voice of her own. It was unbearably sad at the end - I was sitting in the airport trying to fight back tears when all I really wanted to do was have a good old sob. Wonderful stuff. Will definitely have a look for other titles by her.

KurzbeschreibungFrom the author of *The White Bone*, a piercing novel of passionate attachment and of the fear and freedom of letting go Louise Kirk learns about love and loss at an early age. When she is nine years old, her former beauty queen mother disappears, leaving a note that reads onlyand incorrectly" Louise knows how to work the washing machine." Soon after, the Richters and their adopted son, Abel, move in across the street. Louise's immediate devotion to the exotic, motherly Mrs. Richter is quickly transferred to her nature-loving, precociously intelligent son.From this childhood friendship evolves a love that will bind Louise and Abel forever. Though Abel moves away, Louise's attachment becomes ever more fixed as she grows up. Separations are followed by reunions, but with every turn of their fractured relationship, Louise discovers that Abel cannot love her as fiercely and exclusively as she loves him. Only when she faces another great loss is Louise finally forced to confront the costs of abandoning herself to another.Skillfully interweaving the stories of Louise and Abel at different ages, Barbara Gowdy produces a powerful exploration of love's many incarnations: a motherless daughter who yearns to be adopted, a husband eternally linked to a wife who has left him, a girl bewitched by the boy next door, a woman who refuses to let go of a magnetic, elusive man. Haunting and profound, *The Romantic* is a story about love in all its exquisite variations.From Booklist Louise Kirk has loved Abel Richter since they were children, but it was his mother who drew her affection first. At 10, a year after Louise's own mother left her and her father, the Richters, an older couple with an adopted son, move in next door. Louise watches Mrs. Richter longingly from a distance, wishing she would adopt her as well. Louise befriends Abel in order to get to Mrs. Richter, but her love soon transfers to the solitary, sensitive boy. The connection between the two flourishes, and Louise never stops thinking about Abel, even when he moves away. It is his return, when they meet at a high-school party, that marks the beginning of their adult relationship--an attachment Louise thinks will be permanent, especially when she discovers she is pregnant. But her love for Abel blinds her to his failings. Moving seamlessly between Louise's childhood, her teen years, and her present, this novel is a sad, beautiful examination of a lonely woman and her attempts to find unconditional, unwavering love. Kristine Huntley Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Pressestimmen "A heartbreaking and compassionate novel...Gowdy is a miraculous writer. The pages of "The Romantic" brim over with so much real life they practically breathe."--"Chicago Tribune" "Few writers are able to meld the serious and the comic to such poignant effect...a brilliant evocation."--"The Boston Globe" "A masterful narration that moves seamlessly back and forth in time...clear-eyed."--"Los Angeles Times" "I had to admire Gowdy's elegant structure.... Louise's descriptions of her feelings for Abel are carefully constructed and, at times, flat-out beautiful.... Gowdy has found a perfect vehicle for her peculiar talents."--"The New York Times Book ""[A] heartbreaking and compassionate novel...Gowdy is a miraculous writer. 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"Los Angeles Times" I had to admire Gowdy's elegant structure.... Louise's descriptions of her feelings for Abel are carefully constructed and, at times, flat-out beautiful.... [Gowdy] has found a perfect vehicle for her peculiar talents. "The New York Times Book ""[A] heartbreaking and compassionate novel...Gowdy is a miraculous writer. The pages of *The Romantic* brim over with so much real life they practically breathe." --Chicago Tribune"Few writers are able to meld the serious and the comic to such poignant effect...a brilliant evocation." --The Boston Globe"[A] masterful narration that moves seamlessly back and forth in time...clear-eyed." --Los Angeles Times"I had to admire Gowdy's elegant structure.... Louise's descriptions of her feelings for Abel are carefully constructed and, at times, flat-out beautiful.... [Gowdy] has found a perfect vehicle for her peculiar talents." --The New York Times Book