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Fran Ross

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#183329 in Books New Directions 2015-07-07 2015-07-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.60l, .0 #File Name: 0811223221240 pagesNew Directions | File size: 33.Mb

Fran Ross : Oreo (New Directions Paperbook) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oreo (New Directions Paperbook):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ahead of Its timeBy WAL WALThis is one of the best novels I have ever read, utilizing language to the fullest capacity, interweaving the tale of Theseus with facets of a young woman in search of her father Ross is one of the best examples of a writer exploring humanity with all of its intricacies and nuances in mind. The introduction by Harryette Mullen is also excellent and very thoughtful. This book bares down on

the everyday while propelling what it means to be alive forward, rich with energy and pursuit Oreó is absolutely a delight. This book would be a great addition to a curriculum in modern literature or poetry classes, much more rich, imaginative and wondrous than many of the books I've read as of late. I suggest you pull out a Yiddish Dictionary, a Mythology Reader, blank paper with a pen (to answer the questionnaires) and a box of tissues because you will be crying with a combination of trouble and joy! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Oreó by Fran Ross By karen amdur fishel A brilliant, funny, insightful poignant book about race, gender, religion and social/cultural identity. Comics could take any number of passages for "stand-up" routines today. I read it for a class at UCLA and give huge credit to the people who rediscovered this book. It is sad that Fran Ross passed away before her book got the attention that it deserves. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Meredith Davis Great book about multiracial identity and self discovery. Full of humor and humanity!

A pioneering, dazzling satire about a biracial black girl from Philadelphia searching for her Jewish father in New York City Oreó is raised by her maternal grandparents in Philadelphia. Her black mother tours with a theatrical troupe, and her Jewish deadbeat dad disappeared when she was an infant, leaving behind a mysterious note that triggers her quest to find him. What ensues is a playful, modernized parody of the classical odyssey of Theseus with a feminist twist, immersed in seventies pop culture, and mixing standard English, black vernacular, and Yiddish with wisecracking aplomb. Oreó, our young hero, navigates the labyrinth of sound studios and brothels and subway tunnels in Manhattan, seeking to claim her birthright while unwittingly experiencing and triggering a mythic journey of self-discovery like no other.

“A brilliant and biting satire, a feminist picaresque, absurd, unsettling, and hilarious ... Ross' novel, with its Joycean language games and keen social critique, is as playful as it is profound. Criminally overlooked. A knockout.” - Kirkus (Starred) “Setting out from her black household in Philadelphia to find her deadbeat Jewish father in New York, [Oreó] proceeds through one of the funniest journeys ever, amid a whirlwind of wisecracks in a churning mix of Yiddish, black vernacular, and every sort of English.” - Danielle Dutton, *The Guardian* “What a rollicking little masterpiece this book is, truly one of the most delightful, hilarious, intelligent novels I've stumbled across in recent years, a wholly original work written in a wonderful mashed-up language that mixes high academic prose, black slang and Yiddish to great effect. I must have laughed out loud a hundred times, and it's a short book, just over 200 pages, which averages out to one booming gut-laugh every other page.” - Paul Auster, *The New York Times* “Oreó is one of the funniest books I've ever read. To convey Oreó's humor effectively, I would have to use the comedic graphs, menus, and quizzes Ross uses in the novel. So instead, I just settle for, 'You have to read this.’” - Mat Johnson, *NPR Books* “With its mix of vernacular dialects, bilingual and ethnic humor, inside jokes, neologisms, verbal quirks, and linguistic oddities, Ross's novel dazzles...” - Harryette Mullen “It took me two years to "feel" Wu Tang's first album, even longer to appreciate Basquiat, and I still don't get all the fuss over Duke Ellington and Frank Lloyd Wright. But I couldn't believe Oreó hadn't been on my cultural radar.” - Paul Beatty, *The New York Times* “Hilarious, touching and a future classic.” - *Vanity Fair* “Think: Thomas Pynchon meets Don Quixote, mixed with a crack joke crafter. I'm not sure I've ever admired a book's inventiveness and soul more.” - John Warner, *Chicago Tribune* “The novel will endure, greeting each new generation of readers with its continuing relevance.” - Amanda Sarasien, *The Literary* “Hilariously offbeat.” - *Essence Magazine* “This is a novel that refuses to be categorized or tamed in any way.” - *Bookforum* “Oreó has snap and whimsy to burn. It's a nonstop outbound flight to a certain kind of readerly bliss. It may have been first published more than 40 years ago, but its time is now.” - Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* “Uproariously funny...criminally neglected.” - Stephen Sparks, *LitHub* “This novel has wings.” - Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*
About the Author Fran Ross (1935–1985) grew up in Philadelphia. She wrote Oreó while working as a proofreader and journalist, and then moved to Los Angeles to write for Richard Pryor. Danzy Senna is the author of several books, including the award-winning novel *Caucasia*. Harryette Mullen, a professor of English at UCLA, is the author of six collections of poetry, most recently *Recyclopedica*, which won a PEN Beyond Margins Award