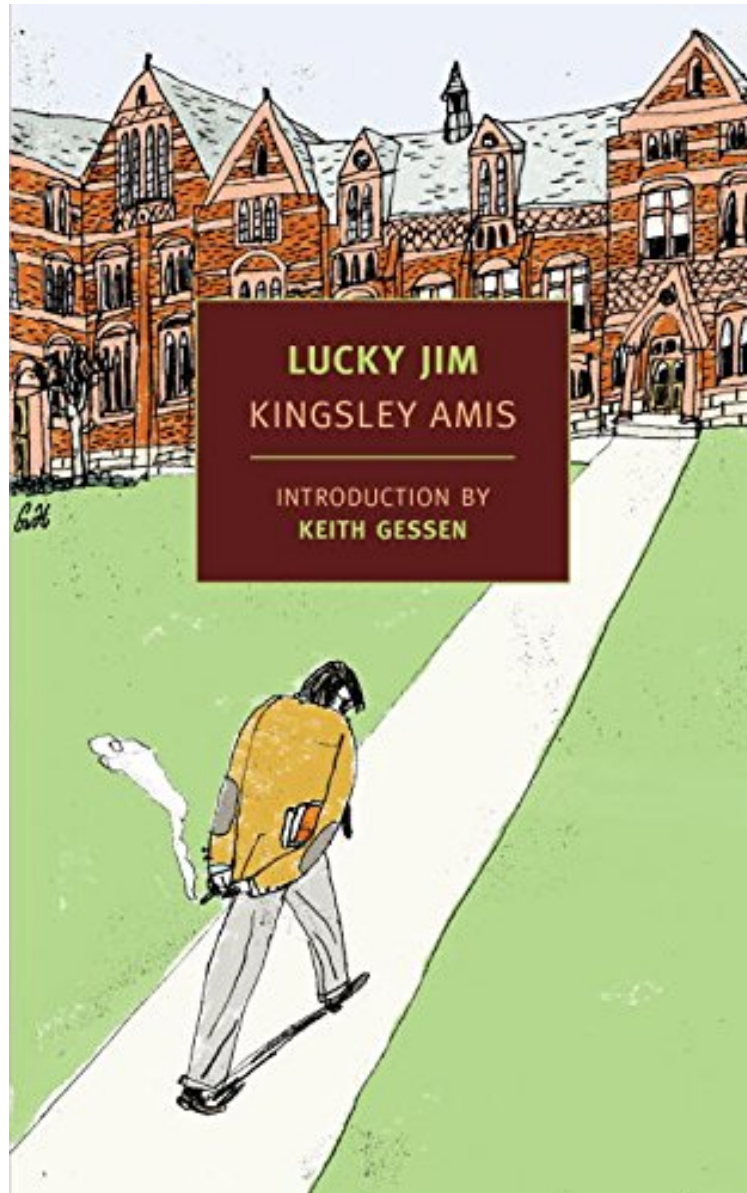


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Lucky Jim (New York Review Books Classics)

Kingsley Amis

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#22451 in Books NYRB Classics 2012-10-02 2012-10-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .71 x 4.971, .65 #File Name: 1590175751296 pages Great product! | File size: 20.Mb

Kingsley Amis : Lucky Jim (New York Review Books Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lucky Jim (New York Review Books Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Glad I finally read this classic. By Brian Clewly Johnson I waited far too long before reading this classic work. Been a long time since I burst out laughing in public with a Kindle in my

hands. But 'Lucky Jim' has that quality - and many more. The story is a simple boy/girl tale but some of the characters and their English eccentricities are a joy to discover. Simply magical. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Lucky You....if you read this book By Westley "Lucky Jim" is Jim Dixon - who appears to be a most unlucky man. He recently landed a university teaching job, but he's miserable. Terrible at his job, Dixon is left wondering throughout the book whether his position will be continued. In addition to his job woes, he seems to have great contempt for most everyone around him, including his neurotic girlfriend, Margaret. Things worsen when he's invited for a weekend of music at a senior professor's home and he meets the professor's son - Bertrand. A buffoonish artist, Bertrand nevertheless has an alluring girlfriend, the lovely Christine. Dixon unsurprisingly is drawn to Christine, despite her stuffy manner and seeming arrogance. Embarrassing Bertrand and stealing away Christine become his main priority. In the meantime, he still needs to prepare a lecture on "Merrie England" that will be attended by his superiors and local town dignitaries. Will he survive? The novel is a model of dry British wit - at times laugh-out-loud hilarious. Dixon is a fantastic literary character - a cynic who personifies the scorn we all feel at times. As Amis writes about Dixon, "all his faces were designed to express rage or loathing." In addition to his cynicism, Dixon is incredibly irresponsible and engages in all sorts of mischievousness, resulting in hilarious predicaments. Nevertheless, you cannot help but root for him to succeed. The writing is spectacular - each scene bristles with detail and nuance. In particular, Amis beautifully portrays difficult interpersonal situations frankly and accurately, replete with requisite humor. Although the book drags at times, it's a first-rate read. Most highly recommended, particularly for readers who enjoy novels set in academia. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read By Connie K. Little slow to get started but engaging and very funny. Recommend for reading as part of a wider range of topics. Selected it from a 100 books you must read

Regarded by many as the finest, and funniest, comic novel of the twentieth century, *Lucky Jim* remains as trenchant, withering, and eloquently misanthropic as when it first scandalized readers in 1954. This is the story of Jim Dixon, a hapless lecturer in medieval history at a provincial university who knows better than most that "there was no end to the ways in which nice things are nicer than nasty ones." Kingsley Amis's scabrous debut leads the reader through a gallery of emphatically English bores, cranks, frauds, and neurotics with whom Dixon must contend in one way or another in order to hold on to his cushy academic perch and win the girl of his fancy. More than just a merciless satire of cloistered college life and stuffy postwar manners, *Lucky Jim* is an attack on the forces of boredom, whatever form they may take, and a work of art that at once distills and extends an entire tradition of English comic writing, from Fielding and Dickens through Wodehouse and Waugh. As Christopher Hitchens has written, "If you can picture Bertie or Jeeves being capable of actual malice, and simultaneously imagine Evelyn Waugh forgetting about original sin, you have the combination of innocence and experience that makes this short romp so imperishable."

.com Although Kingsley Amis's acid satire of postwar British academic life has lost some of its bite in the four decades since it was published, it's still a rewarding read. And there's no denying how big an impact it had back then--*Lucky Jim* could be considered the first shot in the Oxbridge salvo that brought us *Beyond the Fringe*, *That Was the Week That Was*, and so much more. In *Lucky Jim*, Amis introduces us to Jim Dixon, a junior lecturer at a British college who spends his days fending off the legions of malevolent twits that populate the school. His job is in constant danger, often for good reason. *Lucky Jim* hits the heights whenever Dixon tries to keep a preposterous situation from spinning out of control, which is every three pages or so. The final example of this--a lecture spewed by a hideously pickled Dixon--is a chapter's worth of comic nirvana. The book is not politically correct (Amis wasn't either), but take it for what it is, and you won't be disappointed. From Bookforum We still read it for the humor, the biting dialogue, the bitter lines. —Christian Lorentzen "Lucky Jim illustrates a crucial human difference between the little guy and the small man. And Dixon, like his creator, was no clown but a man of feeling after all." —Christopher Hitchens "Mr. Kingsley Amis is so talented, his observation is so keen, that you cannot fail to be convinced that the young men he so brilliantly describes truly represent the class with which his novel is concerned....They have no manners, and are woefully unable to deal with any social predicament. Their idea of a celebration is to go to a public bar and drink six beers. They are mean, malicious and envious....They are scum." —W. Somerset Maugham "After Evelyn Waugh, what?" this reviewer asked six years ago....The answer, already, is Kingsley Amis, the author of *Lucky Jim*....Satirical and sometimes farcical, they are derived from shrewd observation of contemporary British life, and they occasionally imply social morals....*Lucky Jim* is extremely funny. Everyone was much amused, and since it is also a kind of male Cinderella or Ugly Duckling story, it left its readers goo-humored and glowing." —Edmund Wilson, *The New Yorker*, 1956 "I was recommended [Kingsley Amis' *Lucky Jim*] when I was a teenager trying to figure out how to start reading 'serious' books. Great recommendation, because on the surface it's nothing of the sort, but it is brilliant." —Hugh Dancy, *T: The New York Times Style Magazine* "Remarkable for its relentless skewering of artifice and pretension, *Lucky Jim* also contains some of the finest comic set pieces in the language." —Olivia Laing, *The Observer* "Remarkably, *Lucky Jim* is as fresh and surprising today as it was in 1954. It is part of the landscape, and it defines academia in the eyes of much of the world as does no other book, yet if you are coming to it for the first time

you will feel, as you glide happily through its pages, that you are traveling in a place where no one else has ever been. If you haven't yet done so, you must." —Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post*