



Prizes

By Erich Segal

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Prizes By Erich Segal

Erich Segal, bestselling author of *Love Story* and *Doctors*, now brings his extraordinary storytelling gifts to the elite arena of the world's most remarkable physicians and scientists. In *Prizes*, Segal brings vividly to life three very different and memorable characters in a story brimming with love and loss, discoveries and betrayals, life and death.

Adam Coopersmith. He is that rare combination: a brilliant physician who truly cares for his patients. But his marriage to Antonia, an ambitious lawyer, has lost its early passion. It's not until Adam meets Anya Avilova, a Russian émigré who has tried desperately to have a child, that he falls in love for the first time...only to have his career nearly destroyed by scandal and his life endangered by something unforeseen--and far more perilous....

Sandy Raven. A researcher on the cutting edge, Sandy's devotion is matched only by his genius. Yet at the moment of his greatest discovery, he will experience his most profound betrayal. Suddenly, the family life Sandy cherishes will hang in the balance. Will he choose to live a lie or abandon his dream to seek new, more worldly prizes?...

Isabel da Costa. A child prodigy, Isabel owes all her success to her father, who pushed her to reach for the stars. Though she becomes a brilliant physicist, all the adulation in the world can't give Isabel another childhood. In the end, she will be torn between the father who has given her everything and the young man who holds the key to her happiness--until a shocking revelation explodes her world and threatens her very life....

Adam. Sandy. Isabel. For each, the Nobel Prize casts its seductive promise over their work. Two will be selected for this highest honor; one of them will not live to receive it. But as they pursue the secrets of nature, they will also discover the secrets in their own hearts. Their stories make *Prizes* a gripping, emotionally charged experience, a novel that proves once again that Erich Segal is the unsurpassed master of laughter and tears, tragedy, and triumph.

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Prizes By Erich Segal Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Segal stretches himself in this wisest, most mature of his novels, a long, richly researched work about scientific genius that offers substantial rewards. Many will feel giddy when entering the mind of child prodigy Isabel da Costa, a physicist who creates a formula for the Unified Field Theory that baffled Einstein for the last 20 years of his life. Also on hand and headed toward likely Nobel Prizes are Sandy Raven, a geneticist who reverses the aging process in cells, and tragic Adam Coopersmith, who creates MR-Alpha, a drug that overcomes the antiviral that keeps many women from becoming pregnant. The childhoods, family dramas and love affairs of these three geniuses generate steady interest, as do their battles to be accepted, but the real kicker comes when two of the three find themselves facing fatal illnesses. Some of Segal's pages are less than inspired, mainly those about Sandy's obsession with an actress who becomes head of 20th Century-Fox, but few will care as Isabel, Adam and Sandy hack into undiscovered country and Nobels hover ever closer in what could be Segal's biggest hit since *Love Story*. 250,000 first printing; major ad/promo; Literary Guild main selection; Doubleday Book Club selection; Reader's Digest Condensed Book.

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From Library Journal

Segal, author of earlier commercial successes like *Love Story* (1970) and *Doctors* (Bantam, 1988), has written another novel that appears headed along a similar path. *Prizes* tells the story of three internationally acclaimed scientists who are in the running for the coveted Nobel Prize. Segal's writing style tends to be dry and lifeless when dealing with the emotional events surrounding each character's maturation from infancy to adulthood. Yet the sections dealing with scientific research and the explanation of scientific theories—such as the Unified Field Theory and those of genetic engineering—are clearly explained and fascinating to read. Public libraries with strong current fiction collections would do well to include this title.

--Erna Chamberlain, Binghamton Univ., N.Y.

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From [Booklist](#)

Segal has mixed up his usual saccharine concoction, tossing in the obligatory accidental deaths, fatal diseases, and unrequited and/or doomed love. This particular smoothie has some new and tasty, if predigested, ingredients, including child prodigies and whiz kids, doctors, geneticists, workaholic lawyers, a fading movie producer, and a bitchy starlet turned studio executive. Segal's characters are like the brightly painted horses on a merry-go-round, their garish features grimacing rigidly as they go up and down and whirl around and around. It's all plot, plot, plot, with paint-by-number emotions and not a descriptive passage or believable conversation to be found, but that's the formula for soap operas, and in those terms Segal excels. Who wouldn't feel sympathy for Isabel, the lonely little genius, whose overly possessive father keeps her hard at her books, oblivious to her need for friends? But it's all worth it in the end: Isabel wins a Nobel Prize for a grand unified theory at age 18. In fact, lots of characters win prizes, are prizes, or see other people as trophies. But some get the booby prize, like the young, handsome immunologist who helps a multitude of heretofore infertile women conceive but is stricken with a demoralizing illness at the peak of his career. Segal has the temerity to suggest that his saga is like a Greek tragedy, but the truth is, it's schmaltz from start to finish. *Donna Seaman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charlotte Hawley:

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