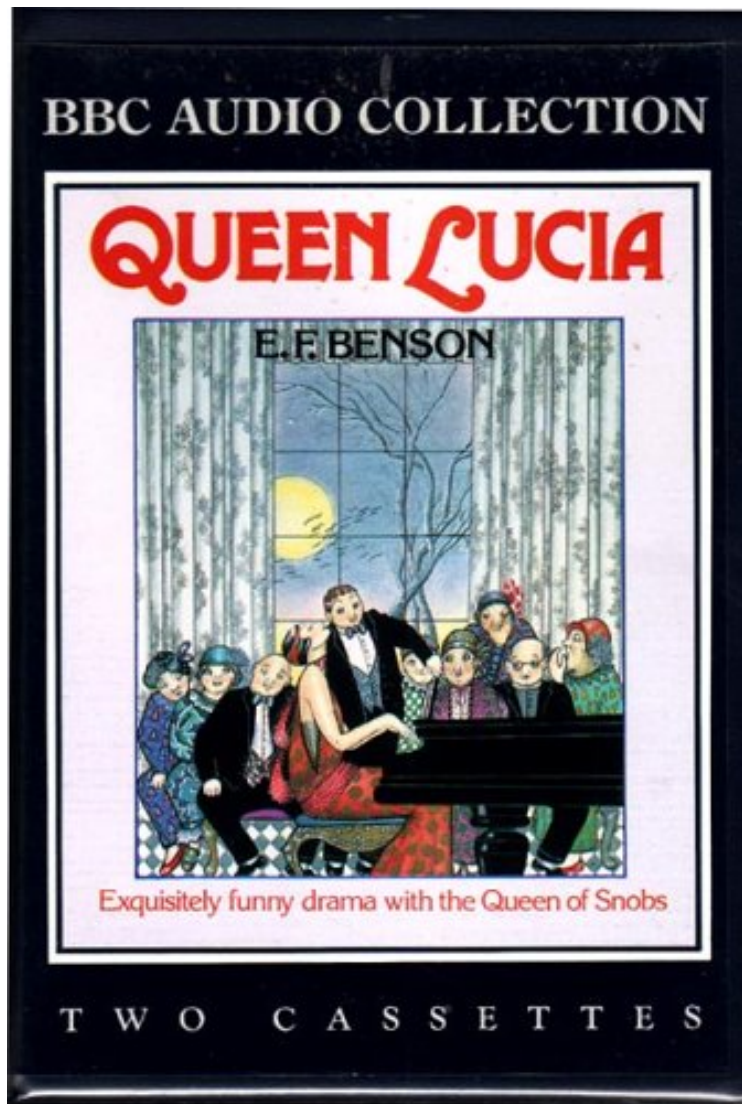


[Free] Queen Lucia

Queen Lucia

E. F. Benson

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E. F. Benson : Queen Lucia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Queen Lucia:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The hypnotic powers of a cobra (and venom to match!) By Whistlers Mom When Jane Austen wrote EMMA, she boasted gleefully that she had created a heroine that no one would like. E.F. Benson must have felt confident that his most enduring character - the inimitable Lucia - would be as cordially disliked by modern readers. Lucia reigns as Queen of the village of Riseholme NOT by virtue of beauty, breeding, wealth, achievement, brilliance, or charm but by sheer gall and determination. Like all successful politicians, she's

convinced of her fitness to rule and she generally convinces her subjects, although mutiny is always on the boil. Indeed, the simmering resentment of other Riseholmites against Lucia's iron control and their periodic rebellions (always swiftly and cunningly squelched by the resourceful Lucia) is the main theme of the book. Ironically, Lucia's downfall comes at the hands of the one person (newcomer Olga Bracely) who has NO interest in over-throwing her. Benson was noted for his brittle humor and sharp social satire, but in his six Lucia novels he created characters that the reader cares about while richly enjoying their pettiness, snobbery, and absurdity. Lucia and Peppino and Georgie and Daisy and Lady Ambermere are all big frogs in a little pond and never, EVER do or say anything intrinsically interesting, and yet they ARE interesting. They are so endlessly fascinated with themselves and each other that the reader (against his better judgement) gets caught up in the excitement. The Lucia series has a small, but devoted following which grows every time a reader stumbles on one of them and gets hooked like a large-mouth bass. They are pure guilty pleasure and who can't use some of that? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Much ado about nothing! By Donald Draper But isn't everything? Long before we had the Housewives of the world, we had Lucia. But alas for us her world had gotten lost: obscured. I have quite forgotten why our how I discovered this series by E.F. Benson but I am glad I did. Set in a fantastical English village before WWI where no-one works except at gossip, dinner parties, gardens, and piano recitals Lucia and crew fill there days with trivial, nonsense and anything petty. Hardly a recipe for deep thinking! But damn if I didn't get hooked. And let's face it, the above mentioned mentioned Housewives of Beverly hills or Miami or New York are just as plain! It's a great book between heavier fare. And you just might get a glimpse of people in your own circle of friends and insight to their hearts. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Plus Ca Change... Well You Know By propertius When reading a book the reader should ask himself what was the author attempting to accomplish and did he succeed. I dare say that Mr. Benson set out to write a brilliant and entertaining satire and social commentary and he certainly accomplished this. The mark of great satire is that it stands the test of time, and this story of the social world of a, I assume, Midlands English town could have been written today and transplanted to any affected American suburb today. Yet the characters do not lose their unique English personalities, pretensions and attributes. It rang true then and it rings true now. Delicious are the leitmotifs of speaking Italian (which Lucia and her husband can't) and the visit of an opera diva to their little world. Where another writer may have sullied the experience of "the queen" and her fate, Benson makes certain that social mores triumph but without too much rancor.

E. F. Benson (1867-1940) was born at Wellington College in Berkshire, where his father, who later went on to become the Archbishop of Canterbury, was the first Headmaster. He wrote 105 books in all.

From Kirkus s There is some irony in the fact that Benson, the creator of everything from plays to sober biographies, is best remembered for his series of "Lucia" novels, delicious satires of the pretensions and foibles of provincial middle-class life in Britain in the 1920s and '30s. Still, given Benson's droll send-ups of the bitter battles waged by matrons desperate to live out their fantastical versions of upper-class elegance and wit, and his shrewd readings of the ways in which our longings can make us both bizarre and sometimes appealing, it's very likely an irony he would have savored. His six novels chronicling the rise and fall and rise ad infinitum of Mrs. Emmeline Lucas of Riseholm are now being reissued as trade paperbacks. Queen Lucia, the first in the series, follows Mrs. Lucas (Lucia to her most intimate friends) through a lengthy and often hilarious campaign to derail the career of a would-be rival to the throne of cultural arbiter. The plot, however, is less important than the pratfalls. The six Lucia novels form a kind of epic portrait of striving gone mad, and it's good to have them appearing once again. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "An altogether satisfying entertainment; full of humorous situations, sparkling with wholesome wit." --Times Literary Supplement(London) "These fingers have written many accolades about the voice and interpretations of Nadia May (aka - Wanda McCaddon), but they are tingling with pleasure at her rendition of E. F. Benson's characters in the English town of Riseholme . . . Such fun does Nadia May have with the stylized characters that the listener actually lives there and is part of the silly rituals of the '30s . . . Her delight in reading this novel is directly transmitted to the lucky listener." --AudioFile "[The audiobook narrator's] British accent and richly condescending tone are just right for Queen Lucia . . . She breathes the personality of the wealthy Lucia into each sentence." --Media "Benson . . . is best remembered for his series of 'Lucia' novels, delicious satires of the pretensions and foibles of provincial middle-class life in Britain in the 1920s and '30s . . . Queen Lucia, the first in the series, follows Mrs. Lucas (Lucia to her most intimate friends) through a lengthy and often hilarious campaign to derail the career of a would-be rival to the throne of cultural arbiter." --Kirkus s "[The audiobook narrator's] British accent and richly condescending tone are just right for Queen Lucia . . . She breathes the personality of the wealthy Lucia into each sentence." --Media "Benson . . . is best remembered for his series of 'Lucia' novels, delicious satires of the pretensions and foibles of provincial middle-class life in Britain in the 1920s and '30s . . . Queen Lucia, the first in the series, follows Mrs. Lucas (Lucia to her most intimate friends) through a lengthy and often hilarious campaign to derail the career of a would-be rival to the throne of cultural arbiter." --Kirkus s About the Author E. F. Benson was an

English novelist, biographer, memoirist, archaeologist and short story writer.