

(Mobile book) Swan Boats at Four: A Novel

## Swan Boats at Four: A Novel

*George V. Higgins*

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#3573686 in Books 1995-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 6.50 x 1.00l, #File Name: 0805030778228 pages | File size: 37.Mb

**George V. Higgins : Swan Boats at Four: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Swan Boats at Four: A Novel:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Elegy for the Good Life By marc haefele Swan Boats at Four is perhaps the greatest tour-de-force of unreliable narration I've ever seen, and now that Higgins is no longer with us, most of us won't live to see it surpassed: none of its four central characters are to be believed, but boy do they talk, at length and rewardingly, in the best and most entertaining Higginsese. Sailing on a costly transAtlantic liner are an adulterous banker and his care-worn wife, the banker's former mistress, who happens now to be a ship's officer, and best of all, a dapper, elderly gent who may be a former lawyer, and is certainly the glibbest talker Higgins ever crafted in his decades of crafting glib fictional talkers. We early find out that the banker couple are traveling to avoid facing his home-front problems with bank auditors--he keeps telling everyone, with decreasing credibility, the problems are not his fault, she--similarly-- that things are bound to turn out fine. We know that the mistress (she rapidly renews her relationship with the banker) and the old gent are in cahoots. Beyond this, most of the story is in the old gent's words, which we intermittently understand may all be fiction within the fiction-- the town he affectionately describes as his own; the law practice he inherited and left behind; the woman he loved whose demise has just left him a widower; even the fashionable downtown Boston club he claims to have saved from extinction with his sage leadership--may all be pure fabrication. The mystery of the tale is as to why he attaches himself to this particular couple and bedazzles them. And the overwhelming answer is one zinger of an ending that left me short of breath. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Masterful Entertainment By Lisabeth M. Renee This book is perfect for those who enjoy

subtle insights and manipulations in a novel! The author takes you on an internal journey as his characters take their transatlantic cruise. As noted by another reviewer (who provides a synopsis of the story), Higgins also provides a VERY INTERESTING ending to satisfy his readers. In response to the ZZZZZ review....the problem is not with the book....this reader was obviously not suited to this style of writing...If you enjoy a good read, and enjoy taking time savoring what you are reading....then this is a book for you! 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Higgins fans only? By A Customer Do you feel strongly about the SL crisis in the early 90s? Then maybe this book is for you. The main character runs his own little bank, but the powers that be just don't want him to succeed. His bank is technically in the red, so the government wants to shut him down! On page after page, our hero ponders his situation. Parts of this book doesn't really read like a novel, more like a really long reader's letter in some provincial newspaper. Other parts have a slight elegiac feel to them, but it just doesn't work when the characters are all cardboard.

Aboard a deluxe ocean liner, a middle-aged couple with financial and marital problems are pigeonholed by a charming confidence man with a mission, and the three exchange revealing stories about their lives. 25,000 first printing.

From Publishers Weekly Though Higgins's trademark Boston lowlifes, cops and lawyers are absent from this moderately engaging detour into high society, his trademark long monologues are definitely present: the protagonist's opening screed against federal bureaucrats runs to about 7000 words. Sixty-ish Massachusetts banker David Carroll and his wife, Frances, are on the London-to-New York maiden voyage of a refurbished luxury liner, a trip that Frances booked even though, 12 years earlier, David had a fling with the liner's 30-year-old marketing manager, Melissa. The Carrolls are forced to share a table with elegant retired Yankee Burton Rutledge, who regales them with stories of his late wife, her life and loves? at every meal for five days. Rutledge's tale is often convoluted, containing dialogue within dialogue. It's unlikely and ambiguous as well (Is Rutledge ever telling the truth?), and the Carrolls come off as self-absorbed and boring. But Higgins (Bomber's Law) keeps everything aloft on clouds of effortless hot air? or at least until the shaggy-dog ending. Rights: ICM. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Higgins usually prefers a seedy setting, but his new work takes place in the first-class dining room of an ocean liner. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist You can't blame Higgins for wanting to get away from the old neighborhood, but if you write dialogue, you need to hang with good talkers. Elocution aside, the society types onboard the cruise ship in Higgins' latest novel can't play in the same league with the Beantown lowlifes whose less-than-dulcet tones we've come to love in the author's previous work. Onboard the America is a troubled middle-aged couple, David and Francis Carroll: David's bank is under investigation, and Francis is reeling from her husband's past infidelities. The cruise, from England to the U.S., presents a new challenge: onboard is one of David's former playmates. The action is minimal, but the talk is plentiful, as the Carrolls dine with their tablemate, who may or may not be a con man. Life stories are exchanged, intimacies established, betrayals effected, and thousands of calories consumed. If these characters' commentary on the slow unraveling of their lives feels a bit bloodless in comparison to Higgins' cooptalk or crooktalk, we can't help but admire an author who makes jumping from hard-boiled to Henry James look as easy as clearing your throat. Bill Ott