



Lucien and I

Danny Wynn

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Be Careful What You Wish For...

What if you had the chance to relive your twenties the way you really wanted them to be?

Thirty-nine-year-old David is presented with that opportunity by Lucien, a charismatic young Englishman. Ranging from downtown Manhattan to Istanbul, Majorca, and the Hamptons, the two of them live a life of excess--drugs, beautiful women, and adventure--and forge a strange but great friendship.

But with every journey, there comes a price; and in every paradise there lurks a temptress. For David, will his quest for excitement lead him to betrayal and loss?

"Wynn immerses readers in psychologically rich studies of his characters and their quiet but fraught interactions. The prose is subtle but vivid, intellectually engaged but never arid, as the author provides readers with a flurry of glittering snapshots that gradually coalesce into a picture of tarnished longings. An engrossing and vibrant...meditation on friendship and the deep currents that run beneath its surface." --Kirkus Review

Reviewed by *Paige Lovitt* for Reader Views (06/15)

Article first published as Book Review: 'Lucien and I' by Danny Wynn on Blogcritics.

"Lucien and I" by Danny Wynn is a story of friendship. Nearing the end of his 30s, David still feels like his life has been unfulfilling. When he meets Lucien, who is in his mid-20s, he begins to live life to the fullest. Traveling together to exotic places, David enjoys being able to partake in Lucien's exciting world. To David, Lucien represents the man that he wishes he was during his young adulthood. Lucien is both charismatic and a man of mystery. He has developed a persona that is hard to easily define. Lucien knows this about himself and revels in it. Lucien bases much of his pursuits in search of sensations. In most cases, the main sensation he is seeking is pleasure.

David and Lucien first meet through their girlfriends. Initially, David does not like Sharon, who is the best friend of his girlfriend, Janey. Sharon goes overboard in trying to bring attention to herself by acting like a sex goddess. David finds her efforts to draw attention to herself very annoying, he is also disgusted with himself for taking the bait and being attracted to her. Lucien enjoys his relationship with Sharon, yet doesn't seem interested in having her around in the future. Neither men are very faithful to their women. Lucien also has some interesting visits with an ex-girlfriend who lives in Istanbul.

While on a three day holiday without their significant others, David is finally able to act on his attraction to Sharon, and they keep it a secret from their partners. In time, when both men are single, Lucien let David know that he found out about his indiscretion with Sharon. He ends the friendship with him and David has regrets. Life does go on, but it no longer is as exciting as it was with Lucien in his life.

"Lucien and I" is a very interesting novel. The author brings the characters to life extremely well. The settings are also described in colorfully vivid detail. Whether they are in the Hamptons, Istanbul, or Majorca, I felt like I was actually there with them. Their relationships with the women also has a complexity to them, even though they aren't serious. Friendships with others are interesting, yet they all seem to be pretty shallow. David does not act his age. While he might be trying to relive his past with his younger friends and girlfriend, he actually seems to be pretty emotionally stilted. Lucien helps him enjoy life, but their lives together do not really allow them to move ahead. Ending his friendship with David was probably the best thing that Lucien could have done for him.

"Lucien and I" by Danny Wynn is a well written, thought provoking novel. I feel that it stands in a class all by itself. The quality of writing is exceptional, and so is the content. I highly recommend reading this novel.

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Gary Collis:

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