



# The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

By Junot Díaz

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## The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao By Junot Díaz

Author Junot Díaz won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" - a novel that took him 11 years to complete. Things have never been easy for Oscar. A ghetto nerd living with his Dominican family in New Jersey, he's sweet but disastrously overweight. He dreams of becoming the next J R R Tolkien and he keeps falling hopelessly in love. Poor Oscar may never get what he wants, thanks to the Fuku - the curse that has haunted his family for generations. With dazzling energy and insight Díaz immerses us in the tumultuous lives of Oscar; his runaway sister Lola; their beautiful mother Belicia; and in the family's uproarious journey from the Dominican Republic to the US and back. Rendered with uncommon warmth and humour, "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" is a literary triumph that confirms Junot Díaz as one of the most exciting writers of our time. This recording is unabridged. Typically abridged audiobooks are not more than 60 per cent of the author's work and as low as 30 per cent with characters and plotlines removed.

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## **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao** By Junot Diaz Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best of the Month, September 2007:** It's been 11 years since Junot Díaz's critically acclaimed story collection, *Drown*, landed on bookshelves and from page one of his debut novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, any worries of a sophomore jinx disappear. The titular Oscar is a 300-pound-plus "lovesick ghetto nerd" with zero game (except for Dungeons & Dragons) who cranks out pages of fantasy fiction with the hopes of becoming a Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is also the story of a multi-generational family curse that courses through the book, leaving troubles and tragedy in its wake. This was the most dynamic, entertaining, and achingly heartfelt novel I've read in a long time. My head is still buzzing with the memory of dozens of killer passages that I dog-eared throughout the book. The rope-a-dope narrative is funny, hip, tragic, soulful, and bursting with desire. Make some room for *Oscar Wao* on your bookshelf--you won't be disappointed. --Brad Thomas Parsons

From Publishers Weekly

SignatureReviewed by Matthew SharpeA reader might at first be surprised by how many chapters of a book entitled *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* are devoted not to its sci fi--and--fantasy-gobbling nerd-hero but to his sister, his mother and his grandfather. However, Junot Diaz's dark and exuberant first novel makes a compelling case for the multiperspectival view of a life, wherein an individual cannot be known or understood in isolation from the history of his family and his nation. Oscar being a first-generation Dominican-American, the nation in question is really two nations. And Dominicans in this novel being explicitly of mixed Taíno, African and Spanish descent, the very ideas of nationhood and nationality are thoughtfully, subtly complicated. The various nationalities and generations are subtended by the recurring motif of *fukú*, the Curse and Doom of the New World, whose midwife and... victim was a historical personage Diaz will only call the Admiral, in deference to the belief that uttering his name brings bad luck (hint: he arrived in the New World in 1492 and his initials are CC). By the prologue's end, it's clear that this story of one poor guy's cursed life will also be the story of how 500 years of historical and familial bad luck shape the destiny of its fat, sad, smart, lovable and short-lived protagonist. The book's pervasive sense of doom is offset by a rich and playful prose that embodies its theme of multiple nations, cultures and languages, often shifting in a single sentence from English to Spanish, from Victorian formality to Negropolitan vernacular, from Homeric epithet to dirty bilingual insult. Even the presumed reader shape-shifts in the estimation of its in-your-face narrator, who addresses us variously as folks, you folks, conspiracy-minded-fools, Negro, Nigger and plataneros. So while Diaz assumes in his reader the same considerable degree of multicultural erudition he himself possesses—offering no gloss on his many un-italicized Spanish words and expressions (thus beautifully dramatizing how linguistic borders, like national ones, are porous), or on his plethora of genre and canonical literary allusions—he does helpfully footnote aspects of Dominican history, especially those concerning the bloody 30-year reign of President Rafael Leónidas Trujillo. The later Oscar chapters lack the linguistic brio of the others, and there are exposition-clogged passages that read like summaries of a longer narrative, but mostly this fierce, funny, tragic book is just what a reader would have hoped for in a novel by Junot Diaz. Matthew Sharpe is the author of the novels *Jamestown* and *The Sleeping Father*. He teaches at Wesleyan University.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Reviewers agree that Junot Díaz's first novel was well worth the 11-year wait. Díaz established his reputation with *Drown* (1996), a collection of short stories that drew widespread praise. With *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Díaz has cemented his place in the literary stratosphere. He garners admiration

for the "slangy and kinetic energy of his prose" (*New York Times*), as well as for the way he hop scotches between high- and lowbrow culture and ties together Dominican and American history (and the problems therein). Some critics cite a distracting (mysterious) narrator, too many digressions, and a difficult narrative structure. Despite these minor flaws, fans of literary fiction should dive right in.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Catherine Browning:**

Do you certainly one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* book is readable by you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer connected with *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* content conveys prospect easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different such as it. So , do you even now thinking *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

#### **Bobby Miller:**

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#### **Belinda Ferguson:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always aim to and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

#### **Melissa Fernandez:**

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