

Chapter 1 : Lion screenwriter Luke Davies overcame addiction to become a Hollywood hit

Candy is Luke Davies putting his rhythmic poetics to prose in a study of love & addiction. Where heroin is a Goddess worshipped by lovers: Candy & Dan. It's a pretty desolate read.

Background[edit] Davies has admitted the novel is based on his experiences as a heroin addict in the s, [1] the "worst years" being to She and Davies were married for six years during the s and confirms that key events in the film and novel really did happen except that "living it was 50, times worse". A Novel of Love and Addiction, the unnamed narrator falls in love with Candy, who gravitates to his bohemian lifestyle and his love of heroin. Hooked as much on one another as they are on the drug, their relationship alternates between states of oblivion, self-destruction, and despair. Plot summary[edit] As with the movie version, the book is divided into three sections, excluding the prologue and epilogue - Part one: The Kingdom of Momentum, and Part three: The Momentum of Change. In the beginning, everything seems perfect for the unnamed narrator and Candy the name for both the girl and the drug ; their life together is new and exciting. Of course, in both relationships and addiction, things do not remain so perfect or beautiful. Candy nearly dies of an overdose, but it does not prevent her from wanting to do increasingly more. When they try to get money by pawning a necklace, Candy is offered a very small amount; but the pawnbroker mentions that he thinks they can "work something out", and Candy prostitutes herself for the first time for a pitiful sum. The narrator regrets this action, but he also recognises it has helped the couple hold off the demons of withdrawal another day. From there, work in a brothel , as an escort , and finally as a street prostitute becomes part of daily life. They try getting clean several times, and Candy does in fact get detoxed early in the story, but that lasts a very short time. You want to be relaxed at your own wedding". Candy and the narrator really do seem to love each other, but the big question is whether their love is in fact a heroin-fuelled illusion. They continue on their path of disaster through very high "ups" and extremely low "downs". An unexpected pregnancy gives them a reason to get clean, but they fail yet again, and Candy prematurely delivers a baby boy who lives only seconds. When a friend Candy knew in the past comes back from the US, the couple feels as if their prayers have been answered. Casper is a chemistry genius and makes his own "Yellow Jesus". He is convinced to sell the recipe and give cooking lessons. Suddenly, Candy only has to work when they need the cash for chemicals and equipment, and the narrator can keep them in all the heroin they need with extra to sell. Finally, the couple decides to give methadone a try, and things start to look better, for a while anyway. They move to the country thinking another fresh start is what they need, but it goes very wrong. They begin fighting more and Candy begins acting strangely. After she has an affair with a neighbor who deals pot , things fall apart. The narrator leaves and stays with an old friend whom he angers, and gets kicked out after two days. Candy has had a full nervous breakdown and is hospitalised. The narrator makes his way home to find a very changed and very delusional Candy. After she is released they try one more time, but the narrator breaks the rules after running into Casper. Candy leaves the narrator, and shortly afterward Casper is caught making heroin. His employer sends him to rehab but Casper leaves, knowing that action marks the end of his career. Casper then gets antidepressants and alcohol, goes to his lab, cooks one last batch, and commits suicide. The narrator goes into rehab and sobers up. He sees Candy the first chance he is allowed to, and she tells him she knows they have to end. They have to stay apart to be clean. Themes[edit] Candy is an intense, and at times taxing, exploration of the heroin addiction shared by a young couple deeply in love. Beyond being a love story with a cautionary tale about drug addiction , Candy looks at the human need for escapism.

*Candy: A Novel of Love and Addiction [Luke Davies] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.
"Candy is beside me, drenched in sweat. She's breathing gently, long slow breaths.*

Her redemption story has largely gone unnoticed. She is finding comfort in the simple things in life – her family and her art. Jane Cowan As a blanket of mist descends on a sprawling farm outside Flowerdale, in country Victoria, Megan Bannister leads her horse named Marqua through the paddock, while her daughter Charlotte walks beside her carrying her four-month-old baby, asleep in a pouch. Before she acquired a devastating heroin habit, Bannister was a young Melbourne artist who was starting to get noticed. In she moved to Sydney and met Davies. But heroin kind of got in the way of showing that work," she said. Megan Bannister pauses for a portrait with her horse Marqua on a foggy morning in Flowerdale, Victoria. I thought that means that I did the thing that set her on her own path of horror," Davies said. But Bannister has accepted responsibility for her actions. I think it was going to happen anyway. And had it not been Luke it would have been someone else," she said. Megan Bannister works in her Melbourne studio in on a series of oil paintings. The novel is suffused with passages of lyrical ecstasy, as the two young lovers, Dan and Candy experience the highs of their romance and their habit. Heath Ledger, right, stars in a scene from the movie Candy, released in That was the first I knew about the book. It was a very strange experience. David Verrall When Candy was published in , Bannister refused to buy it. It was a very sad, horrible experience for anyone to go through," Bannister said. So things even out or balance out. But Bannister had gone through the further hell of being admitted to a psychiatric hospital after suffering a mental breakdown. And I shook all the time. It was the most horrible time of my life. I was like a zombie. Megan Bannister says her mental breakdown was one of the most "horrific" experiences she ever endured. ABC News Only after visiting a psychiatrist did Bannister learn that the medication she had been given was harming, not helping her. So I ended up meeting my sister," she said. And about a year after that happened, I had a complete breakdown. Her mother hid the existence of her sister from her, after adopting her out, which Bannister says "just felt like a huge betrayal". Which is a pretty horrific experience," she said. Davies has now been clean for 27 years; he has beaten hepatitis C which he acquired from sharing needles and which at one time, threatened to dispatch him to an early grave. She says that the public acclamation showered on Davies "is not the life I would want for myself". Even so, her fortitude is self-evident.

Chapter 3 : Luke Davies (Author of Candy)

In Luke Davies' Candy: A Novel of Love and Addiction, the unnamed narrator falls in love with Candy, who gravitates to his bohemian lifestyle and his love of heroin. Hooked as much on one another as they are on the drug, their relationship alternates between states of oblivion, self-destruction, and despair.

Information and support to help Australians achieve their best possible mental health. Writers are the unsung heroes of movies I think. People like Luke lay the foundations for a great movie. From the moment you came into our lives you were all that we could have hoped for. And I literally prayed that I hope one day these words pass my lips. They were so precious and delicate. I just used to think Luke would die before long. God the damage and the mayhem that we caused. The thing that emerges from that is a profound sense of gratitude that I got a reprieve. Discovering that Luke had a heroin problem was one of the most dreadful nights of my life. I became a horrible person whose self-interest was absolute. A junkie is not just a nice person going through a rough trot. I was an arsehole. I was a bad person, you know. I remember at one stage just offering up my life for him. I would do that, just anything to stop this with him. I flooded Heaven I think with all my prayers. You just go on loving them. I was born in Sydney. My childhood was this idyllic little dead-end street. It was so full of trees. And there was a little creek down the front. If it was raining heavily you could stand at our front door and the creek, its beginnings sounded like Niagara Falls. My dad was a journalist and my mum was a nurse. Was that normal, that I was, like, that I would take a photo like that? You would, wherever you were, Luke, you would seem to somehow or other have a book perhaps in your pocket or under your arm. And I have to say I just took it for granted. I came across Tintin when I was eight or nine years old and he gets to go on these great adventures and he travels the world and he solves all sorts of problems. They transported me completely those books. I loved them so much that I just figured that I had to write to the author and tell him. One day I got home and my mum was like, look at this. And it was this amazingly beautiful envelope with a sort of embossed Tintin and Snowy, the little dog, on the front of the envelope waving at you. A Christmas card would arrive and I think they were originals. And then there were the letters. And I sent him a photo of myself and he sent me a photo of himself. He just loved anything American. And so I think he was reading Rolling Stone magazine from when he was about 12, seriously, and he was a Bob Dylan freak. He was a baseball freak and knew all the grid iron stuff. In terms of actually becoming a reader and a writer. The significant moment in my life for me was when I was 13 years old. It was instantly like, Oh My God, I want to do to other people what this book just did to me. I want to create that sense of whatever it is. When I think back I find it sad that at 13 years old, as I did that leap from Steinbeck through Jack Kerouac On the Road I started to become interested in drugs, in the wildness of the way that these, that people lived who took drugs. Say, the attitude to drugs in On the Road, even the attitude to, um, getting smashed in Cannery Row with those very pleasantly loveable characters, Mack and the Boys, the alcoholics. And so there was, it was pretty free and easy I suppose. He was just hyperactive and I remember some of his friends and so on. I started acting like I took drugs before I did. And I find that really disturbing, telling my friends that pot was a good thing, and my friends are like "really?" But within two or three months I did smoke it for the first time. It was always, um, quite soft drugs in those days when we were at school. There was a little bit of pot smoking. When I moved out of home after first year uni into, you know, Darlinghurst, I sort of became like amongst all my circle of my friends like the friendly local neighbourhood pot grocery store. And some days not even end up at university but, you know, it was a drop-in house. There was a lot Then the amounts got bigger and then cocaine came into it and then that became very quickly freebasing. You know, you smoke, whatever, you smoke it in a pipe. And to find somebody who was my own age and a boy, you know, that was interested in all these things was just so cool. I was just 17 when we met. You were a skinny, pale poet kid. But there at 17, you were already a poet. And then he did become a published poet. And that was just extraordinary. So I still have that first book of his poetry. And he always was a poet. After a while heroin just slipped in there. It just crept in. I was certainly aware of it by the time of our Honours year where he just pretty much drifted off. And I saw him, you know, mix up, you know, a hit a few times in his Darlinghurst place. The day I graduated I was

smashed. I could barely stand. Luke Davies looking at photo: How my dad found out was really shameful. And his response knocked me flat. He raised his left arm like that, rolled up his sleeve. And showed me his wrist. And the bend of his elbow. And I knew at once what he was telling me. And I very foolishly and very naively, inexperienced in the matter, I gave him money to take to pay the dealer. Which of course licenced him to start all over again. That was my discovery that Luke had a drug problem of a very serious nature. My dad got smart really quickly. I wish I had known a little bit more. But I probably did before then. Birds filled the sky. A great kindness swept through us. They talk about Candy as the movie and all that. I thought he was a bit of a smart arse. And a bit of a dickhead. But he grew on me. So this is Coluzzi Bar coming up here. This is the very first moment we very met. Megan came along the street and I just remember being dazzled. She looked so completely unlike any Sydney girl. She was dressed really differently. This mad kind of beehive hair thing. And funny and irreverent. That was my bedroom there, with the veranda. Yeah, that was where we first made love. Any my bedroom was behind your.

Chapter 4 : Luke Davies - IMDb

Luke Davies' Candy thoroughly covers the sizable terrain between William Burroughs' Junky and Andrew McGahan's Praise. Do not talk to me about drugs if you have not done them yourself, or if you have not read Candy.

Despite my interest, for some reason I never got around to seeing it. My interest once again piqued, I promptly obtained both the book and the film, then did something I would never normally recommend, and watched the film first – instant gratification and all that. The performances were wonderful and the story was compelling in its tragedy. But at the end, I did pause to wonder whether I might have ruined the experience of the novel. The film and the novel are significantly different. It also has a very different feel about it than the novel. In fact, in many regards I am glad I watched the film first. There was no opportunity for me to have had expectations unmet, and so there was no disappointment. I enjoyed them both as two separate entities. But, this is a book review site, so I will leave further commentary regarding the film for another time and place. Apart from the differences in plot and vibe, the biggest surprise for me with the book is how beautifully it was written: So what did we do, once the descent began? We learned how to drive well, under hazardous conditions. We had each other to egg each other on. There was neither room nor need for passengers. Maybe we were also thinking that one day our car would sprout wings and fly. I saw that happen in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. In no way does the author glamorise the tragedy of addiction – quite the opposite – but the writing makes the experience tolerable and by turns darkly funny and achingly poignant. Candy reads like an autobiography, penned by an unnamed narrator, who could be any lost soul on any street corner in the world. The author takes us into the heart and mind of an addict, and exposes in raw, gritty detail the futility, waste and despair. This does not feel like a fictional account, it is far too vividly and emotionally detailed. Their journey is harrowing, confronting and just so damn tragic that it is disturbing to read. Candy is such a novel, and I imagine it will continue to invade my thoughts for some time to come. Thank you, Buggy, for inspiring me to read this one.

Chapter 5 : Candy - Luke Davies - Google Books

About Luke Davies. Luke Davies was born in Sydney in He has worked variously as a truck driver, teacher, and journalist. His collection of poetry Absolute Event Horizon was shortlisted for the Turnbull Fox Phillips poetry prize.

Chapter 6 : Candy: A Novel of Love and Addiction eBook: Luke Davies: www.nxgvision.com: Kindle Store

Luke Davies was born in Sydney in He has worked variously as a truck driver, teacher and journalist. Luke Davies' collection of poetry Absolute Event Horizon was shortlisted for the Turnbull Fox Phillips poetry prize.

Chapter 7 : Candy Man Part 1 - Australian Story

Luke Davies has written a completely absorbing tale of a spiraling journey into the night of addiction. I am a horror aficionado, enjoyer of the ripening decay of flesh, bone, and blood; but in Candy there is a different Monster, a stealthy beast formed from powdery particles that feeds upon the very soul of man, tearing apart mind and spirit.

Chapter 8 : Candy: A Novel of Love and Addiction - Wikipedia

Luke Davies was born in Sydney in He has worked variously as a truck driver, teacher, and journalist. His collection of poetry Absolute Event Horizon was shortlisted for the Turnbull Fox Phillips poetry prize.

Chapter 9 : Candy: A Novel of Love and Addiction - free PDF, DJVU, DOC, EPUB

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Luke Davies (born) is an Australian writer of poetry, novels and screenplays. His best known works are Candy: A Novel of Love and Addiction (which was adapted for the screen in) and the screenplay for the film Lion, which earned him a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.