



## In Search of Satisfaction

By J. California Cooper

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With *In Search Of Satisfaction*, Cooper gracefully portrays men and women, some good and others wickedly twisted, caught in their individual thickets of want and need on a once-grand plantation.

In Yoville, "a legal town-ship founded by the very rich for their own personal use," a freed slave named Josephus fathers two daughters, Ruth and Yinyang, by two different women. His desire to give Yinyang and himself money and opportunities oozes through the family like an elixir. In seeking the legacy left by their father, Ruth and Yinyang pull each other, their families, and their Yoville neighbors into a vortex of ever-powerful emotion.

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## **In Search of Satisfaction** By J. California Cooper Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Cooper details a family saga in which two half-sisters attempt to come to grips with their father's legacy. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Cooper's newest work may provoke strong emotions but not much sympathy for the often misguided townspeople of Yoville, where Josephus, a freed slave, schemes to gain money and seek opportunities for himself and his daughter, Yinyang. Readers may be disgusted by the unbelievable display of greed, best exemplified by Carlene-the queen of avarice-or bored by the sometimes irritatingly didactic tone. On the other hand, they will relish Cooper's credible rendition of Southern speech patterns, for which she has been heartily praised. Although readers "in search of satisfaction" may not find it here, they should still scrutinize this award-winning author's earlier works, including, most recently, *The Matter Is Life* (LJ 6/1/91) and *Family* (LJ 12/90).

*Faye A. Chadwell, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia*

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From [Booklist](#)

The author's note that opens Cooper's new novel declares: "I cannot think of anyone . . . who is not in search of satisfaction." Most readers would agree. But the several generations of characters (black and white, rich and poor) who populate Cooper's fictional Yoville have various definitions of what they need, and they use both good and evil tools to meet those needs. As in *Family* and the short stories in *The Matter Is Life* (both 1991), Cooper's compassionate but demanding moral vision animates her fiction. In a voice that blends elements of oral history, fable, and parable, her intrusive, judgmental, sometimes almost incantatory narrator tells stories of the descendants of an ex-slave named Josephus Josephus from the years after the Civil War to the late 1920s, as well as those descendants' often surprising involvements with the rich but troubled white family who dominates the town. Josephus' children (and his grandchildren) fall on both sides of the color line; they--and members of the wealthy Befoe family--sometimes choose the path of God and sometimes the ways of Satan. After a slow start, Cooper's latest inexorably involves the reader in the moral dilemmas and decisions of its well-developed characters. *Mary Carroll*

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**Jerry Carley:**

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information presently can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider if those information which is within the former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you get it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take In Search of Satisfaction as the daily resource information.

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