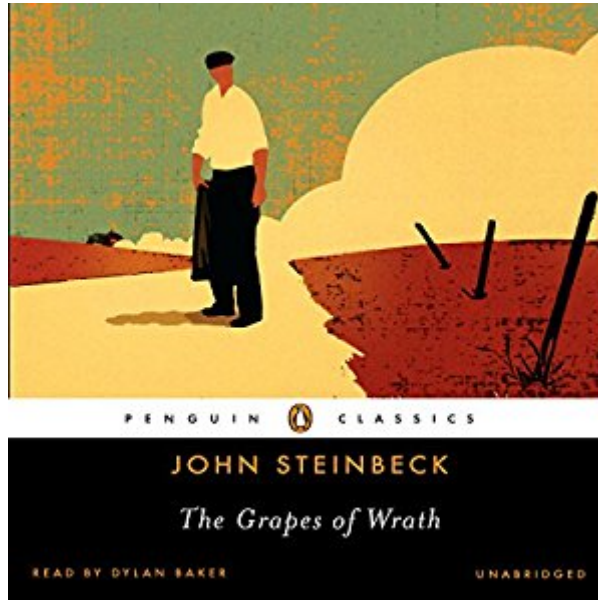




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The Grapes Of Wrath



Synopsis

The Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression, a book that galvanized-and sometimes outraged-millions of readers. At once naturalistic epic, captivity narrative, road novel, and transcendental gospel, Steinbeck's, *The Grapes of Wrath* is perhaps the most American of American classics. Although it follows the movement of thousands of men and women and the transformation of an entire nation during the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s, *The Grapes of Wrath* is also the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, who are driven off their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. From their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of this new America, Steinbeck creates a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, tragic but ultimately stirring in its insistence on human dignity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These people were honest and hardworking, yet were treated in such a vile and inhumane way by people who owned and operated large tracts of fertile land who were so greedy for profit, they paid pitifully low hourly wage or per bushel of product. Local law enforcement was encouraged to harass, belittle and force them to move when they were dissatisfied with the inhumane wages. The ending was too abrupt and left the reader "hanging". Where were the men of faith & integrity during this period.

I really liked how this book took the reader through the physical, as well as emotional journey of the Joad family, who, after having their land taken from them, head to California looking for a better life and new opportunities. Not all is as it was made out to be. I would recommend this book.

Classic book about the history of California. Steinbeck is a classic author with some very realistic viewpoints about the plight of migrants. Good read, used books came in okay condition.

This is the second time I have read this as an adult and it is still a wonderful book. Our book club chose it to read and even though I read it about 30 years ago, I still enjoyed reading it and got lost a bit in the world that Steinbeck creates. The story has a post-apocalyptic feeling to it, as the characters deal with a foreign world after their entire way of life is obliterated. It is also a powerful tale of dignity and loss, as well as the struggle to maintain humanity against something nameless and faceless that is impossible to understand. If you read this in high school, you should read it again -- it is well worth your time.

Sadly, this novel is just as relevant today as it was when written. The methods have changed and most people probably don't think of themselves like the suffering migrant workers in this novel; but we've more in common with them than we're ever going to be allowed to have with The Man. This book is generally criticized by those that "ain't figur'd her out yet" as socialist propaganda. They've either never read the book or grossly misunderstand humanism. Worse yet, many of those loudest critics boast of their religion, which I also believe they grossly misunderstand. The only "Goddamn Red" is see if this book is that of the bleeding, caring heart of the reader that tries to empathize with these people's plight. But I suppose that just makes me a socialist liberal nutjob. Guess I'll go read Ann Rand next. Should present one hell of a juxtaposition.

Steinbeck goes into more detail than I needed at times i.e. since I know little about vehicles I got bogged down in his often descriptions of how the vehicle is kept operating on trip to Calif but that is my issue, also his vivid description of the turtle crossing the road but besides from that issue, the book was great; well written, develops characters well & tells a gripping story of the effects of the dust bowl & the trek to hopefully find a better life in Calif, and work, during the depression; not a heart warming story but one that needs to be told & Steinbeck did a great job of it; esp liked his take on Calif rejections of these migrant & why

An emotional roller-coaster. A story of one of the multitude of families losing the culture of the poor and struggling sharecrop farmers of the midwest and south who are displaced because of the disastrous weather and the industrialization of farms in America. Throughout the story, short lived hope is trashed by the hopelessness of too many displaced farmers being lured to the false riches and futures of the California Central and Salinas Valleys. The fact that there is no hope is emotionally draining. Compare this with Steinbeck's East of Eden, a story with hope and a possible future

I hoped this would be a good book, and it exceeded my expectations. Its been awhile since I've read a fiction novel. Steinbeck does a great job developing the characters and storyline. The greatest benefit I got though, was the insight I gained into the culture of that time. Watching a documentary on PBS about the "dirty 30's" can only take you so far. In reading this I feel like I lived it with the Joads. The struggles, but also the morality and resilience of the era were different than they are now. Also, I was completely unaware of the way midwesterners migrating to the West were treated- very synonymous with segregation.

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