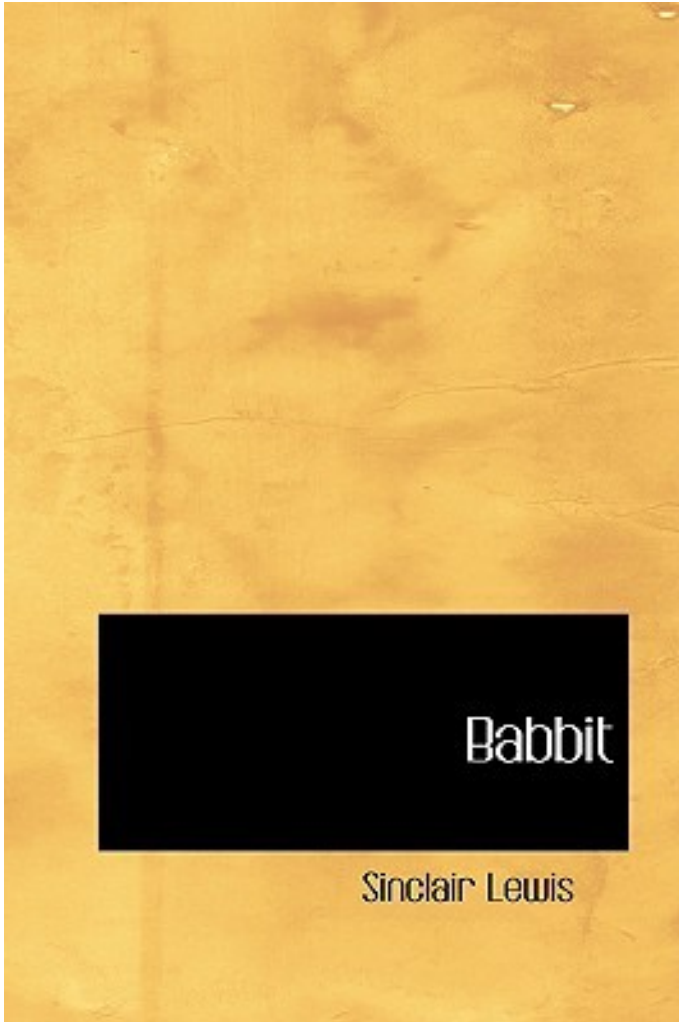

Sinclair Lewis

Babbitt



Title: Babbitt

Author: Sinclair Lewis

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Description

Babbitt is professionally successful as a realtor. He lives with only the vaguest awareness of the lives and deaths of his contemporaries. Much of his energy in the beginning is spent on climbing the social ladder through booster functions, real estate sales, and making good with various dignitaries.

Insightful reviews

Juan Hidalgo: Babbitt está considerada la mejor novela de su autor, Sinclair Lewis, ganador del Nobel de literatura en 1930 y primer Estadounidense en lograr tal galardón.

George F. Babbitt es un agente inmobiliario casi cincuentón e instalado en la comodidad de la próspera clase media americana de los años 20, el cual aglutina todas las virtudes y defectos de ese segmento social: patriotismo y patriotismo; religiosidad y doble moral; devoción a los suyos y rechazo a lo considerado ajeno; sumisión y rebelión...

Una vida entera de sumisión social y personal que comienza a tambalearse y amenaza con caer ante un acontecimiento imprevisto. Con maestría, el autor va construyendo un complejo y brillante edificio de convencionalismos, que Babbitt vive como triunfos y éxitos sociales; de logros y agudeza comercial, que nos muestran negocios sucios y desprecio por la clase trabajadora; de vida feliz que, en suma, no oculta más que amargura y represión. Un edificio del que, nada más concluir, comprobamos que está en ruinas y que sus elementos integrantes son la ironía del autor y la resignación del protagonista.

Y aquí llegamos al eterno universal: el reconocimiento de la propia infelicidad y el intento de abandonar los caminos trillados que imponen las buenas costumbres y la sociedad, aunque esto supone un coste emocional muy alto y... en este punto dejo a los lectores que averigüen por sí mismos la decisión de Babbitt (¿volverá el desertor al redil contento de ser readmitido y plenamente consciente de su fracaso? ¿O por el contrario, romperá con su pasado y se atreverá a cambiar el rumbo de su vida?). En esto, el libro se constituye en un espejo en el que cualquiera de nosotros puede verse reflejado en mayor o menor grado, obligándonos a hacer balance de nuestra propia existencia, lo que tal vez explica el gran éxito de la novela al ser publicada y la plena vigencia del relato a pesar de las décadas transcurridas.

Pros: La detallada descripción de costumbres, hechos y emociones, que nos hacen partícipes de la familia y la sociedad americana de los años 20. Unos diálogos de familia y entre amigos sorprendentes por su literalidad y su aproximación a conversaciones reales de la época.

Contra: Un alargamiento excesivo de la trama, que nos impacienta ante la tardanza del "acontecimiento desestabilizador".

J.M. Hushour: This is a quintessential tear-down-the-Joneses kind of novel, an iconoclastic, rigorous, and upsetting riff on conformity and the banality of uniformity and conservatism that, frankly, we need more of. That this was written in 1920 is startling for two reasons: first, it was

that bad even in 1920? You think society's unimorphism and fall-into-step blind corralling of tastes and mores occurring now is bad, but it ain't nothing new. And it was infinitely more inappropriate back then to diverge from it. Now everyone is too busy staring down at the rectangular anus held in their hand shitting out templates for living and loving to be bothered by the occasional deviant. Second, the period in which it was written was just ripe for this kind of rejection of norms (remember, it was the period of "The Wasteland", Dadaism, the rise of jazz, etc.).

Would that we had works like this now! We need Lewises and Zolas badly.

The plot is simple: real estate salesman Babbitt belongs to every club and obeys every rule.

One day, though, he decides that maybe it all kind of sucks.

Outstanding!

Chloe: Oh the pain of suburban ennui! It really and truly sucks when you do everything everyone always tells you will make you happy and then you realize that you're dissatisfied with the world. Poor Georgie Babbitt... or not.

This is an early entry in the genre that has been driven into the ground by things like American Beauty, Norman Mailer's *An American Dream* and Bret Easton Ellis' *American Psycho*. Middle-aged realtor and pillar of the community, George Babbitt, is an up-and-comer. He says all the right things to all the right people and would never dare to take a crap in the rose bushes. Babbitt is a man defined by his conformity to social conventions, which is about as boring as it sounds. Then his friend shoots his wife (his friend's wife, not Babbitt's) and Babbitt's moral center goes askew. Except rather than doing interesting things, like Bateman feeding a cat to an ATM in *Psycho*, he just boozes it up and flirts with his neighbor's wives. All so very trite and dull.

Lewis doesn't help with his plodding style and compulsion to have his characters deliver multi-paragraph rants about NOTHING! I didn't care for the reproductions of newspaper ads, I didn't care for the pages long sermons from the local preacher or the equally long sermons from the new age nutjob. I just didn't care.

Lyn: it usually amazes me how human nature doesn't change. This e-book was once written in and concerning the 1920's yet aside from a few anachronistic language, might have been written today. This was once additionally a enjoyable glimpse at Prohibition period America. Lewis used to be spot on in lots of of his characterizations and used to be an astute observer of human nature. This may be on an inventory of books that everybody may still read.

Christian Clarke: What pants may still I put on to the U.S. Open, I ask myself, anxiously, at seven within the morning, whereas site visitors of mine slept on our threadbare black futon in our hot, cramped dwelling room. may still I put on the chinos? i did not even recognize they have been known as "chinos" till my girlfriend, napping within the mattress i'm pacing subsequent to, informed me they have been known as chinos. The chinos are off-white. Are all chinos off-white? Are there eco-friendly chinos? White pants are risky. Is donning white stylish or fruity? Both? isn't really there a "rule" approximately donning white? whatever approximately hard work Day. by no means put on white earlier than hard work Day, or after exertions Day or on hard work Day. What day is today? Sunday. And it is the day sooner than hard work Day. Why no longer put on my dishevelled shorts and footwear and golfing shirt? i may do that. yet it

is the US Open. that is not a regular carrying event. it really is tennis. it really is like golf. prosperous humans play tennis. no longer on hot, cramped, urban tennis courts, yet at state clubs, and as a result prosperous humans could be attending the U.S. Open. permit me think. What may they wear? pricey shirts with the collars deliberately left up (I heard an individual describe them as "popped") and dear sun shades with white sweaters draped round their shoulders with the sleeves tied in a free knot in entrance in their chests and the ladies can have pearl earrings. i've got no sun shades or white sweaters and my female friend has no pearl jewelry and i've by no means left my collar up on purpose. i'm going to carry the problem to our guests. they're within the different room, at the couch. visitors in our apartment. My collage good friend and his female friend who works on Capitol Hill in DC. i will not find the money for a house. I dwell in a terrible local yet it's not that i am an analogous form of negative as them. they're immigrants coming to the US poor. i'm heart type dwelling past my skill in a dear urban poor. What if the site visitors wish breakfast? Am I purported to make breakfast? we do not have time for cooking. we are late. Do filthy rich humans fear approximately being on time? Do negative people? or simply center category people? may still i purchase breakfast? i haven't got adequate cash for that. Our visitors have our tickets. I owe them funds for the tickets. they're expensive. i need to pay for my price ticket and my girlfriend's ticket. She is extra bad than me. She was once one of many immigrants like humans within the neighborhood. i have to fee my financial institution account. What if i haven't got enough. I checked. i haven't got enough. what's going to the others in our get together wear? i will ask them. should still I put on a hat? i am balding, badly. quite a few wisps of hair-like fabric on most sensible of my head. i want a hat. not anyone desires to glance a balding man. i feel approximately George Babbitt nearly each day.

Stephen Gallup: i have continuously understood this to be a unique approximately conformity and continually had it on my record of titles to learn or later. It grew to become out to be a slightly tricky read, yet after all i am joyful to have persevered. George Babbitt is a businessman in a fictitious mid-sized American urban (I expected it as being positioned probably within the sector round St Louis or Indianapolis). Married with 3 kids, he holds a reasonably first rate area of interest within the community, from which he freely bargains serious remark relating to people who are reduce at the social scale or who may possibly harbor strange opinions. As for people with better status, he could be fawning in the event that they deign to note him or very brittle in the event that they don't. Sinclair Lewis spends the 1st 1/2 the publication ensuring the reader is familiar with that Babbitt isn't likable or admirable. He notes for instance that Babbitt speaks with "the booming profundity of a filthy rich male repeating a completely hackneyed assertion a few subject of which he is aware not anything whatever." As such observations piled up, i started to think that the idea that of the publication used to be as mistaken as if, say, Shakespeare had used Polonius as a primary character. a much more complicated and engaging personality is Babbitt's outdated pal Paul Riesling, who could have been a live performance violinist yet now sees himself as a not anyone with a shrewish wife. Paul sees middle-class existence as a wretched trap, and whilst he finally snaps, Babbitt is eventually surprised into reevaluating things. This half too makes for tough reading, simply because his offerings as a newly woke up insurgent are depicted as being so harmful and wrong-headed that I groaned aloud. Myra, his longsuffering wife, eventually rescues him (or no less than turns into the agent during which he's rescued), allowing issues to settle again right into a cozy stasis, with out any effects of error, in a end that joggled my memory of the previous motion picture misplaced in America . Babbitt's

will be "a lifetime of barren heartiness," yet he comes to a decision it is a cozy life. And even supposing he is a cartoon I am convinced all of us have recognized humans like him (people who may in fact hotly contest the comparison), and if sincere we'd even realize Babbitt-like developments in ourselves.

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