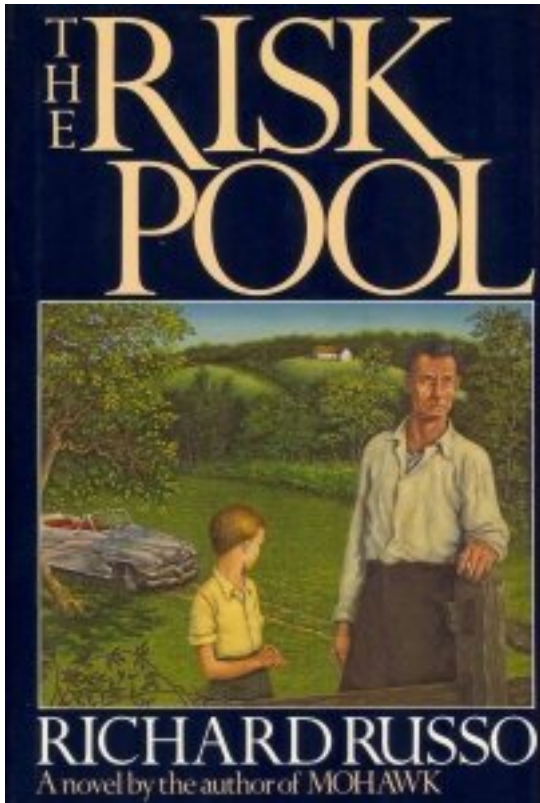

Richard Russo

The Risk Pool



Title: The Risk Pool

Author: Richard Russo

Format: Hardcover

Language:

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Description

Sweeping, humorous and greatly moving, *The Risk Pool* is a 30-year saga of Sam Hall, a roguish hellraiser, and of his introspective son, Ned. When Sam abandons the family, Ned vacillates between his nervous mother and his reckless father, struggling to win his father's affection.

Insightful reviews

Meghan: You can't go wrong with a Richard Russo book. But that being said, I didn't enjoy this one as much as others of his I've read. His trademark character development is here. You come to have affection for even a hopeless drunk who abandons his wife and child. You struggle alongside his son as he tries valiantly to forge a loving relationship with his father, and still avoid becoming his father. Even the peripheral characters are three-dimensional and sympathetic, despite their myriad flaws. But not much happens in this book. There are no big revelations, no one really changes. Overall - more a character study than a novel.

Ashlie: Richard Russo is one of my favorite authors. His ability to take you on a meandering tale, and keep you engaged, is unparalleled. He is a true master storyteller and one of a kind. I read his later novels first but this, his second book, holds up against all the rest.

Though I was never a real fan of the series Russo's writing always reminds me of *Seinfeld*, the show about nothing. There are never any grand plot twists: his novels are about the simplicity of humans and the complications of trying to make your way.

This is a story about the stagnancy of living in a blue collar town, and the chance, or lack thereof, to break out of the mold and shadow of your parents. Ned Hall is the protagonist who is coming of age as he is raised by his neurotic and troubled mother and his father, the ne'er do well husband she is estranged from. We see Ned throughout his father's entire life and watch as he navigates through life like an unmoored and unmanned ship: lethargically without any real direction.

As with all of Russo's novels, this one is filled with a rich tapestry of characters. It is funny, poignant, and a true joy to read.

Alex: Russo always impresses me with his ability to skirt the "rules" of writing and get away with it. If any of you have been unfortunate enough to experience a graduate level writing class you've - at some point - been brow-beaten with the two oldest writing saws: "Show don't tell" and "Write what you know." Russo never ever shows in any of his books, but the skewed perspective of the narrator is often part of the novel's depth as well as its charm. Perhaps he makes up for breaking the one rule so completely by keeping the other so much to heart. If Russo knows anything it is small town life in upstate New York- and the characters that make these towns tick. This was his second novel and it is very much like many others of his. That isn't a bad thing though- he continues to be an excellent story teller. And when you can spin a good true-to-life yarn -it doesn't matter much about any of the rules.

Becky: in the beginning I simply came upon this tale attention-grabbing -- and questioned how i'll like somebody who's a jerk (the father, Sam). yet by means of the tip of the story, i spotted how deep this ebook is on such a lot of levels. (1) i assumed the tale used to be going to be approximately Ned and his mom (she raised him for the main part). however it wasn't...it was once extra approximately Ned and his father, and what a profound influence his father had on Ned's life, even supposing he wasn't round many of the time. (Don't permit the truth that the publication was once written round these few instances that Sam was once round idiot you. He lived together with his dad for 2 years and the opposite days he used to be round him, you may upload up on hands). And but Sam was once even more very important to Ned than his mother. due to gender? due to genetic qualities that made them 'simpatico'? This saddened me simply because i used to be less than the appearance that being the custodial guardian -- doing the not easy task of elevating the kid -- may create a deeper courting among that father or mother and the child. Is that sometimes the case and it truly is simply because the mum during this tale used to be so dysfunctional that it did not paintings this fashion for Ned? (2) within the story, it was once pointed out a variety of instances that the characters might develop as much as be similar to their gender father or mother (girls like their mothers, boys like their fathers). even though it seemed Ned broke this -- simply because he was once so conscious of it? (3) and what approximately Drew? that may be a entire different discussion! It wasn't a ebook that i could not placed down (in fact, it took me a few months to read) so did not get five stars, however it certainly made me imagine (which is why I gave it four stars). i might like to pay attention what you consider this book!

Beverly: This used to be an excellent read. i would learn his "Empire Falls," and simply been depressed via it. That tale used to be approximately losers in a dark place. This ebook happens in at the very least as unhappy and dilapidated a city as Empire Falls, however the humans have a greater outlook that makes the publication a excitement to read. nonetheless now not any type of uplifting, yet sturdy writing and a great tale that does not make you must leap off a bridge.

Lorie Eckert: I write those booklet experiences to remind myself what the booklet was once about. with out those little reports, the e-book will be long gone from my brain inside minutes. i didn't write this evaluate in a well timed fashion, so bet what? I lodge to plagiarism to bear in mind the story. After i am getting the fundamentals down, i'm going to remark from my jogged memory. This half is entire plagiarism: The probability Pool, via Richard Russo, is a coming of age novel narrated by means of the most character, Ned Hall. the tale happens within the small city of fictional Mohawk, New York. The complete publication is split into 4 parts, which correspond to the 4 seasons of Mohawk (according to Ned's grandfather): Fourth of July, Mohawk Fair, consume the Bird, and Winter. wintry weather is capitalized since it is through a ways the longest season within the town. Ned's parents, Sam and Jenny, have a tumultuous relationship. Sam has lately again from global warfare II, and he desires to have a good time life. Jenny attempts to head along, but if she turns into pregnant, she is able to quiet down and get to the company of actual life. Sam abandons the kin almost immediately after Ned's birth, yet he returns later and attempts to insert himself again into their lives at a variety of times. Ned corridor lives along with his father for 2 brief years after his mom has a apprehensive breakdown, and whilst she recovers, Ned strikes again in together with her for his highschool years. Ned manages to develop up right into a advantageous younger man, regardless of being

raised by means of lower than perfect parental figures. His father is a first class drifter who's continually caught on the backside of the car assurance threat pool as a result of his undesirable using habits. His mom develops serious mental difficulties that continue her in hospitals and nursing houses for numerous years. Ned is usually raised through a lot of minor characters on the town who keep watch over him, yet now not too closely. And now a few reviews from me: 1) Ned's father can have been volatile as a result of his reports in WWII, yet Russo didn't take the publication in that path at all. He left that as much as the reader's personal sensibilities concerning veterans. 2) Mohawk Manhattan was once very comparable to town of Empire Falls (in the ebook of an identical name). Indeed, either Russo novels spent loads of time in neighborhood diners. 3) If Mohawk long island certainly had wintry weather from Thanksgiving until eventually the Fourth of July, I want all population may stream away as Ned corridor eventually does. Also, I felt sorry for Ned for the lengthy iciness that was once his emotional upbringing. Considering that this booklet is autobiographical in that regard, I need to grasp extra approximately Russo. 4) If many Russo novels are going to be set in diners, I could be tempted to maneuver clear of his writing myself. However, I so enjoyed That Outdated Cape Magic, (NOT set in a diner) I'll proceed to offer him extra chances. Also, he has written a nonfiction, autobiographical booklet that I glance ahead to reading. I like to get to grasp an author's fiction after which learn his autobiographical paintings to work out the place all that "fiction" got here from. (I'm considering Paul Auster right here and Kurt Vonnegut and Jonathan Lethem.) 5) Since I'm a mother myself, I took offense on the real love Ned confirmed for the flaky father and the disdain or tolerance or no matter what it was once that he exhibited towards the mum who used to be there for him until eventually she was once actually at her wit's end. Come on, guys, minimize us mothers a break. Also, on the finish of the book, Ned's spouse and baby wanted him and Ned's father wanted him. Ned selected the father. As a result the cycle of wayward father – and mom left by myself with baby – will get able to repeat itself. Argh!!

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