

The Adventures Of Augie March

Von Saul Bellow

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SAUL BELLOW

The Adventures of Augie March

“I am an American,
Chicago born—
Chicago, that somber
city—and go at things
as I have taught myself,
freestyle...”



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Von Saul Bellow : The Adventures Of Augie March before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Adventures Of Augie March:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A unique coming-of-age storyVon A.J."The Adventures of Augie March" is a coming-of-age story about a young man who grows up in a working-class Jewish neighborhood of Chicago in the first half of the 20th century. Augie is intelligent and articulate, but he seems to wander through life passively with no definite goals and not many interests. As the Depression hits, he is forced to postpone his academic pursuits in order to make a living, taking a wide variety of odd jobs, including stealing books, organizing labor unions, and working as a research assistant to an eccentric

wealthy man writing a book about wealthy people. Eventually he decides to become a schoolteacher, but even this profession is relatively short-lived. The novel culminates in Augie's discovery that he must align himself with the "axial lines" of his life. Augie's "adventures" consist mainly of his getting entangled in various affairs of his relatives, friends, girlfriends, and employers. These episodes range dramatically from his nearly getting caught by the police in a stolen car, to his accompaniment of his friend Mimi to an abortionist and her subsequent grave illness (probably a bold thing to write about at the time), to helping his girlfriend Thea train an eagle to hunt lizards in Mexico. (Thea finds, to her frustration, that she can train neither the eagle nor Augie.) This is a bizarre assortment of events, but the depiction of each is strangely realistic and unique. The narration is masterfully constructed with Bellow's erudite prose and penchant for rich description. Reading this novel is challenging but ultimately rewarding.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. as irrelevant as calling a book 'over-written', here we are

Von asphlex This is one of Bellow's most highly regarded novels and there are plenty of reasons why. It's wonderfully written, maintains the interest throughout a very honest, human story that few people won't be able to relate to. It focuses on its time and place directly and gives the reader deep insight into the people who are living, turning the narrative into a separate dimension, dragging you into this universe and keeping you there, forever, trapped, unhappy after a long time of joy. Augie keeps talking, keeps telling you his story, and after a while it seems like he has run out of things to say. Oh, sure, all these additions allow us to know the boy/kid/man, and he tells it in an intriguing manner, but sometimes things he tells us about himself are repeated, Augie loses focus and when he gets nervous or unsure of himself, he details the shattered, minute details that really don't give us anything. Yeah, it's a terrific book, but among Bellow's first three novels, I believe it is the least of them. Read it anyway, get what is to be gotten (a lot), then move on, keep it in your mind, allow Augie to haunt you for a while, then, rightly, forget all about that person whom you really liked a lot but just wouldn't shut up.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Wild Oats Years

Von Ein Kunde Augie March had an interesting life in his teens and twenties. We follow him through the Great Depression and WW2. The Depression is summed up in a rich, cagy cripple named Einhorn. The war is largely spent in a lifeboat with a maniac. Augie's greatest adventures are romantic. The leading ladies are assertive Thea Fenchel and beautiful Stella. Thea chases Augie down, despite the fact that it is her sister who Augie has a crush on. But Augie is led by the nose, and doesn't have a chance against a strong-willed woman. She drags him to Mexico to bag an eagle and train it to hunt giant lizards. Like Augie, the eagle disappoints her. Then there's beautiful Stella, damsel in distress, asking Augie to rescue her from a man and a situation. Thea says Don't you dare! But our Augie can't say no to a damsel in distress. When he is rescuing her the car breaks down, they spend the night together, yada yada yada. In the end, Augie ends up marrying someone. He's the type of guy who really just wants unity with a special someone, a loving wife and a happy family. Either of these girls could have bagged him like an eagle in a sack. So could any other girl with a strong will. Just grab him by the ear and pull him to the Justice of the Peace.

Kurzbeschreibung The great novel of the American dream, of the universal eligibility to be noble, Saul Bellows third book charts the picaresque journey of one schemer, chancer, romantic, and holy fool: Augie March. Awarded the National Book Award in 1953, The Adventures of Augie March remains one of the classics of American literature. An impulsively active, irresistibly charming and resolutely free-spirited man, Augie March leaves his family of poor Jewish immigrants behind and sets off in search of reality, fulfillment, and most importantly, love. During his exultant quest, he latches on to a series of dubious schemes from stealing books and smuggling immigrants to training a temperamental eagle to hunt lizards and strong-minded women from the fiery, eagle-owning Thea Fenchel, to the sneaky and alluring Stella. As Augie travels from the depths of poverty to the peaks of worldly success, he stands as an irresistible, poignant incarnation of the American idea of freedom. Written in the cascades of brilliant, biting, ravishing prose that would come to be known as Bellowian, The Adventures of Augie March re-wrote the language of Saul Bellows generation.

Pressestimmen "The Adventures of Augie March is the Great American Novel. Search no further." (Martin Amis)

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