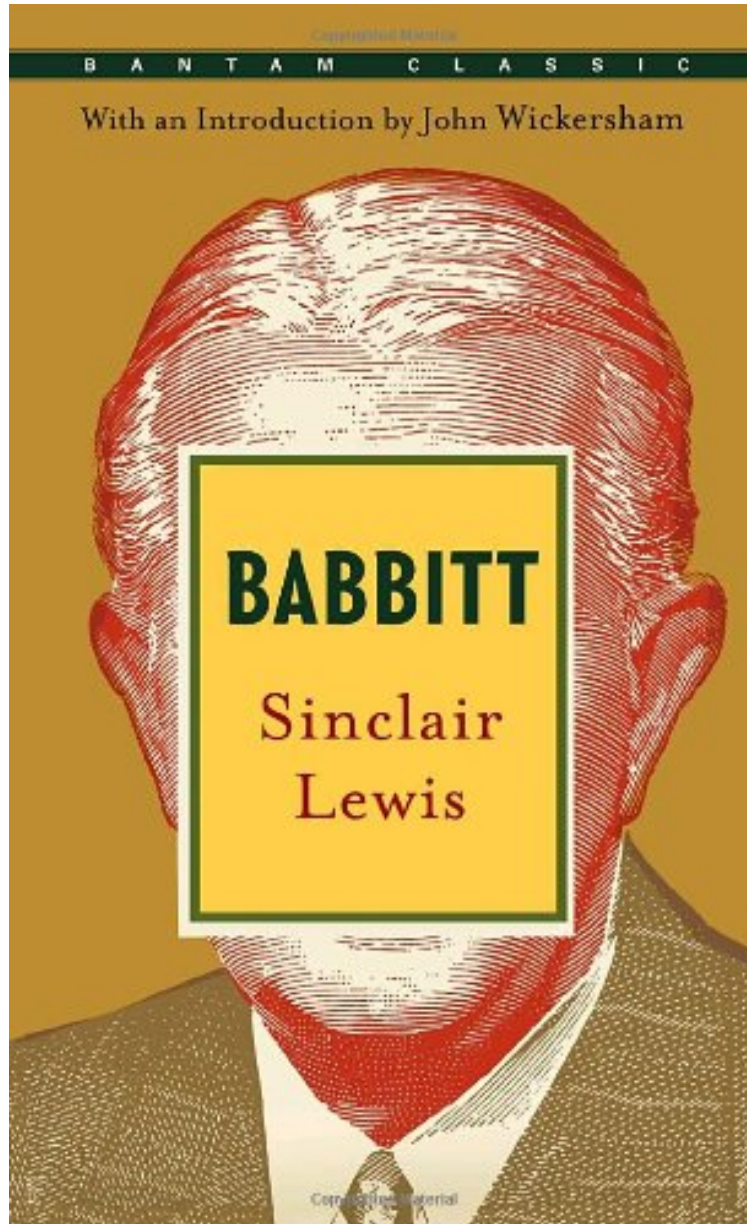


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Babbitt (Bantam Classics)

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#724182 in Books Sinclair Lewis 1998-09-01 1998-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.90 x .80 x 4.20l, .62 Binding: Mass Market Paperback 464 pages Babbitt | File size: 23.Mb

Sinclair Lewis : Babbitt (Bantam Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Babbitt (Bantam Classics):

36 of 36 people found the following review helpful. The ultimate middleman By Allen Smalling In 1922 the ultimate middleman, George F. Babbitt from Floral Heights, Cincinnati, took the stage and showed a character who was crass,

pushy, materialistic, conformist yet occasionally sympathetic. Caustic but funny satirical novel never gets old, possibly because American class distinctions haven't changed all that much over the years. This is the starting place for Sinclair Lewis's most important novels, not MAIN STREET which showed Americans the way things had been, but BABBITT that showed Americans the way things were (and Europeans the way things they'd always suspected). Highly recommended.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Satire at its best
By Russell J. Sanders
Written in 1922, Sinclair Lewis's Babbitt is remarkably timely. Its main character George Babbitt is a social climbing realtor in the fine town of Zenith. If you don't believe it's a fine town, just as ol' George. He spends the entire novel either patting himself on the back because he is one of the superior class of men in town, striving to be even better, or looking down on others less fortunate. George Babbitt thinks himself the rising star of Zenith society. But the problem is that he is only comfortably middle class. For all his wishing and hoping, his horning in on rich parties, his reckless day spent in Chicago with a real English Lord, George is still just a semi-successful businessman. Now, back to why this is so timely. George Babbitt would fit right into the middle of today's Republican majority with his thumbing his nose at those not quite as successful as he, with his reverence for all things high society, and with his complete disdain for the common man. Lewis brilliantly paints a portrait of today's society, yet he was writing in the early 1920s. His use of racism, though most probably prevalent at that time, shows this disdain for the commoners that Babbitt and his compatriots have. But his doesn't stop with racism; he is disdainful of factory workers, stenographers, manicurists, and anyone else who is in a subservient position. Lewis uses a flowing, colloquial voice which fits his story perfectly: for all Babbitt's social climbing, he still poses as a common man. This is satire at its best, and good satire is relevant throughout the ages, for man's folly is ageless.²⁸ of 28 people found the following review helpful. Great Classic
By Henry G. Obermayer
Sinclair Lewis has to be one of the "great" writers of all time. In Babbitt he describes an era using fictional characters to represent the times in which many changes were taking place in the social environment of our country. America was coming out of the rural age and into the age of technical development, and characters reflected the effects of these changes in Lewis' novel. Great reading, and an opportunity to reflect on an important stage in America's development.

When Babbitt was first published in 1922, fans gleefully hailed its scathing portrait of a crass, materialistic nation; critics denounced it as an unfair skewering of the American businessman. Sparking heated literary debate, Babbitt became a controversial classic, securing Sinclair Lewis's place as one of America's preeminent social commentators.
Businessman George F. Babbitt loves the latest appliances, brand names, and the Republican Party. In fact, he loves being a solid citizen even more than he loves his wife. But Babbitt comes to resent the middle-class trappings he has worked so hard to acquire. Realizing that his life is devoid of meaning, he grows determined to transcend his trivial existence and search for greater purpose. Raising thought-provoking questions while yielding hilarious consequences, and just as relevant today as ever, Babbitt's quest for meaning forces us to confront the Babbitt in ourselves—and ponder what it truly means to be an American.

From Publishers Weekly
Lewis's tale of middle-class frustration, stress and success in the 1920s is brought to life by the L.A. Theatre Works 1987 full cast production featuring more than 30 actors, including Ed Asner (as Babbitt), Judge Reinhold, Ted Danson, Richard Dreyfuss, Helen Hunt and John Lithgow. With a deep and raspy voice and with great projection, Asner delivers a believable and amusing performance that securely anchors the entire production. Whether bullying his family or spouting politics with his friends at the club, Asner keeps the consistency of the self-aggrandizing character solid throughout. Jazz music segues well between scenes, though without any additional production sound beyond voices, it can at times feel out of place. While the full cast proves enjoyable in their individual parts, many take turns narrating the exposition throughout the production. At times, this is executed well, but sometimes it feels as if the director is just trying to give everyone more voice time. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Library Journal
First published in 1922, Babbitt is an authentic modern American classic, a biting satire of middle-American values that retains much of its poignancy today. George F. Babbitt, Lewis's outwardly successful but inwardly unhappy real estate salesman, still seems real. His story makes engrossing reading and is ideal for audio listening. With Babbitt himself at the center of every scene, it is impossible for listeners plagued by frequent interruptions to lose track of the story line. Narrator Wolfram Kandinsky has a voice that many listeners may find grating; however, his reading here conveys an appropriate ironic tone that is especially apt when he reads Babbitt's own lines. Recommended for general fiction collections. Kent Rasmussen, Thousand Oaks, CA
Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "[It is] by its hardness, its efficiency, its compactness that Mr. Lewis's work excels."—Virginia Woolf