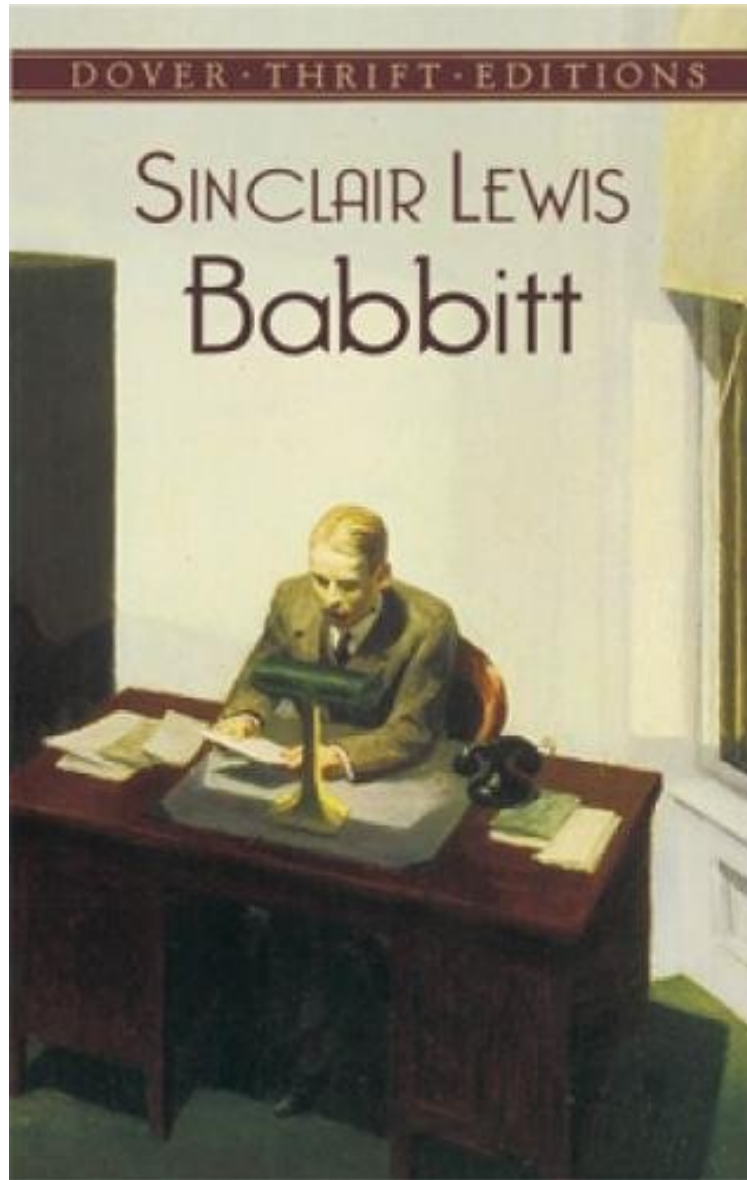


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Sinclair Lewis

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#117028 in Books Sinclair Lewis 2003-09-22 2003-09-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.48 x .77 x 6.341, .54 #File Name: 0486431673320 pages Babbitt | File size: 68.Mb

Sinclair Lewis : Babbitt (Dover Thrift Editions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Babbitt (Dover Thrift Editions):

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 ask 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 he 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.

Prosperous and socially prominent, George Babbitt appears to have everything a man could wish: good health, a fine family, and a profitable business in a booming Midwestern city. But the middle-aged real estate agent is shaken from his self-satisfaction by a growing restlessness with the limitations of his life. When a personal crisis forces a reexamination of his values, Babbitt mounts a rebellion against social expectations — jeopardizing his reputation and business standing as well as his marriage. Widely considered Sinclair Lewis's greatest novel, this satire of the American social landscape created a sensation upon its 1922 publication. Babbitt's name became an instant and enduring synonym for middle-class complacency, and the strictures of his existence revealed the emptiness of the mainstream vision of success. His story reflects the nature of a conformist society, in which the pressures of maintaining propriety can ultimately cause individuals to lose their place in the world. Babbitt ranks among the important 20th-century works addressing the struggles of people caught in the machinery of modern life, and it remains ever-relevant as a cautionary tale against clinging to conventional values.

"[It is] by its hardness, its efficiency, its compactness that Mr. Lewis' work excels." --Virginia Woolf "Sinclair Lewis is one of the major prophets of our time." -- William Allen White, Pulitzer Prize winner "Babbitt is an authentic modern American classic, a biting satire of middle-American values that retains much of its poignancy today." --Library Journal "Mr. Lewis is a genius. . . an idealist, an artist." --London Observer From the Back Cover Prosperous and socially prominent, George Babbitt appears to have everything a man could wish: good health, a fine family, and a profitable business in a booming Midwestern city. But the middle-aged real estate agent is shaken from his self-satisfaction by a growing restlessness with the limitations of his life. When a personal crisis forces a reexamination of his values, Babbitt mounts a rebellion against social expectations—jeopardizing his reputation and business standing as well as his marriage. Widely considered Sinclair Lewis' greatest novel, this satire of the American social landscape created a sensation upon its 1922 publication. Babbitt's name became an instant and enduring synonym for middle-class complacency, and the strictures of his existence revealed the emptiness of the mainstream vision of success. His story reflects the nature of a conformist society, in which the pressures of maintaining propriety can ultimately cause individuals to lose their place in the world.