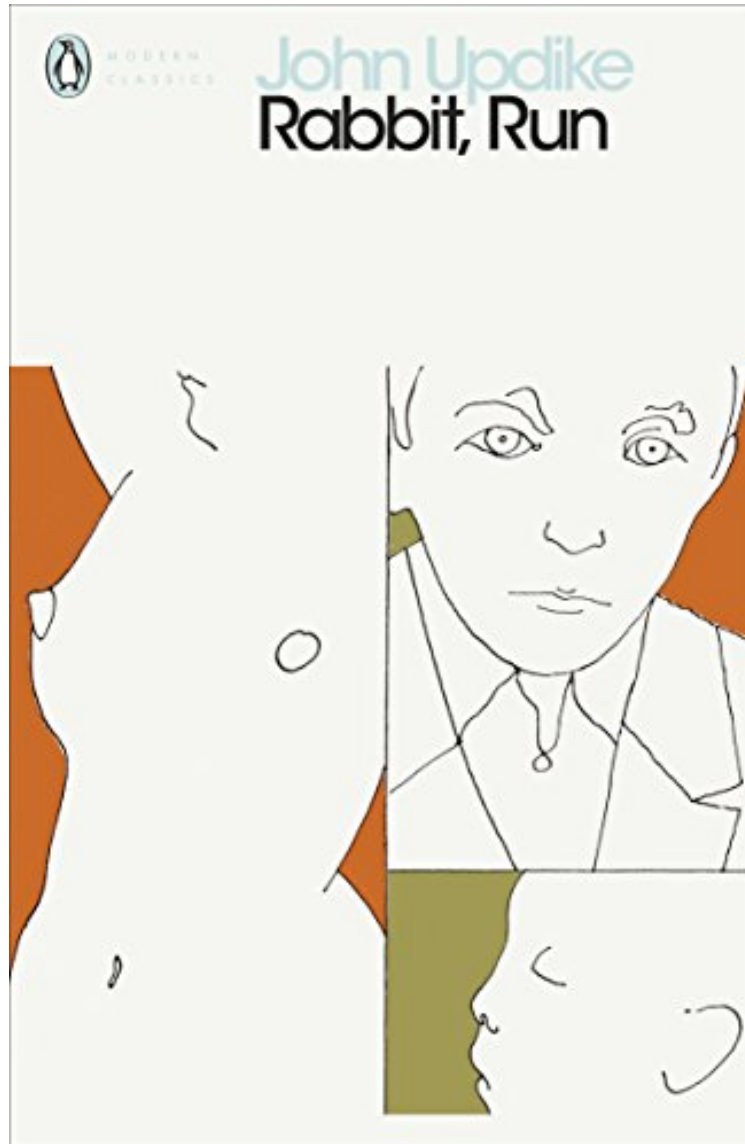


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Rabbit, Run (Penguin Modern Classics)

Von John Updike

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Von John Updike : Rabbit, Run (Penguin Modern Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rabbit, Run (Penguin Modern Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Sin of Moral IrresponsibilityVon Andrew KarbovskyThe novel is great: well thought-out plot, psychological profundity in portrayal of its characters and their relations, language splendor and richness of images and similes are hallmarks of the oeuvre of John Updike, one of the best writers of the century. The use of present tense in the novel makes its

readers not onlookers but participants of the tragical events. The author does not despise his main character Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom but tries to depict impartially and understand him. Rabbit, a man who once was a first-rate basketball player, in the beginning of his mature life becomes an apprehensive son, indifferent father, inattentive husband, lustful but callous lover. He thinks only about himself, he is ready to run from any obstacle or trouble (his wife, his lover or any person who does not want to do what Harry desires), 'he doesn't care who he hurts or how much'. Gratifying his selfishness and feebleness in solving ethical problems, he leaves behind only disenchantment, pain and even death. His former lover fairly tells him: 'You're Mr. Death himself. You're not just nothing, you're worse than nothing. You're not a rat, you don't stink, you're not enough to stink.' One of the main characters of the novel is a priest, there are a lot of church-goers (including Rabbit himself) on its pages, they speak about God but do not have faith. Their sanctimony corrupts people. Even such unbelievers as Ruth, a call girl and Rabbit's lover, and Lucy, priest's willful wife, look more sincere than their pious milieu (Lucy about Rabbit: 'If he's a Christian thank God I'm not one'). So, who is Rabbit? A monster? No, the author tells us, he is just an ordinary modern man devoided of moral responsibility.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Run, Rabbit, Run Von TCHas life ever seemed to much for you? Do you sometimes just want get away from it all? Well, here is a man that does it all for you, Mr. Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom. He is the man for running away from just about anything that is a conflict for him. Updike investigates this unfortunate soul of the suburban middle-class with the use of many similes, metaphors, motifs, and imagery. In "Rabbit, Run," John Updike's simple language brings reality to the central character of Harry and his boredom and disgust with his present life. In his early years at Mt. Judge High School, Harry was the star basketball player and this game was his life. In the beginning scene of the novel, Rabbit tries to recapture his ex-hero illusion of himself as a basketball star by playing basketball with a group of teenagers on the court. In this scene, we get a taste of Updike's use of rabbit imagery to enhance the rabbit qualities of Harry. When he arrives home, he regains the sour reality of his unfulfilled marriage, and his animal instinct tells him to flee. Like an animal, he can be gentle, but when he goes off on his own, he is the cause of all problems. In fleeing from his home, he experiences marital infidelity (a central theme of many of Updike's books), the death of his baby, and ends up not a born-again-hero, but a man fleeing in panic from the realities of life. The quest motif is an important part of the novel in that Harry escapes from the imperfections in his life in search for a higher purpose. Because he is extremely sexually driven, he finds himself in the arms of Ruth, a prostitute that fulfills his need for an experienced cook and lover. Some of the scenes with Ruth are graphic and X-rated so I don't recommend this book to young children. Throughout the novel he possesses rabbit twitching and nervousness that causes others around him discomfort and pain. At the end of his quest, Harry does not find his higher purpose in life but ends up running aimlessly into the night. Even though Harry was quite depressing, I found this book very enjoyable because of Updike's detailed use of imagery and motifs. This is just the first of the Rabbit trilogy books by Updike, and this novel drives me to read the other Rabbit books just to see what happens to Harry next. This is a must read on my reading list, and I recommend this book to all high school students and adults.

7 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. great novel Von wolpertiaFirst I have to state that John Updike's novels are not an easy read for a non-native speaker. The language is very elaborative and he writes extremely detailed going off in many colorful and intuitive tangents that are sometimes hard to incorporate. The story slowly unfolds and reveals more and more of Harry Angstrom's (rabbit) ambivalent character living and coping with ordinary American middleclass surroundings. Even though the first rabbit novel (Rabbit Run) takes place in the fifties it does not seem outdated. The political and social surroundings may have changed over the decades but rabbits core conflict of being torn between the responsibility for his family and the desire to break free are still as up-to-date as they were back then. Harry Angstrom's seems like one of us with his settling feeling of mediocrity. With barely 30 he is at the threshold of reorienting his life: his cherished high school memories of once having been a basketball star slowly fading and giving way to see the whole extent of having a family. But Rabbit does differ from most of us - he is not held back by any qualms and does the unthinkable: leaving his 7 month pregnant wife and their 3 year old son. Instead he is going on a rampage of a reckless ego trip, not showing up for work, hiding from his wife and his family and beginning an affair with another woman. John Updike doesn't fail to provide his reader with some dramatic twists. Rabbit is just a magnet to circumstantial and emotional chaos even though in the end he always eludes unharmed.

Kurzbeschreibung It's 1959 and Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom, one time high school sports superstar, is going nowhere. At twenty-six he is trapped in a second-rate existence - stuck with a fragile, alcoholic wife, a house full of overflowing ashtrays and discarded glasses, a young son and a futile job. With no way to fix things, he resolves to flee from his family and his home in Pennsylvania, beginning a thousand-mile journey that he hopes will free him from his mediocre life. Because, as he knows only too well, 'after you've been first-rate at something, no matter what, it kind of takes the kick out of being second-rate'. Pressestimmen "Brilliant and poignant... By his compassion, clarity of insight and crystal-bright prose, he makes Rabbit's sorrow his and our own." --The Washington Post From the Trade Paperback edition. Kurzbeschreibung It's 1959 and Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom, one time high school sports superstar, is going

nowhere. At twenty-six he is trapped in a second-rate existence - stuck with a fragile, alcoholic wife, a house full of overflowing ashtrays and discarded glasses, a young son and a futile job. With no way to fix things, he resolves to flee from his family and his home in Pennsylvania, beginning a thousand-mile journey that he hopes will free him from his mediocre life. Because, as he knows only too well, 'after you've been first-rate at something, no matter what, it kind of takes the kick out of being second-rate'.