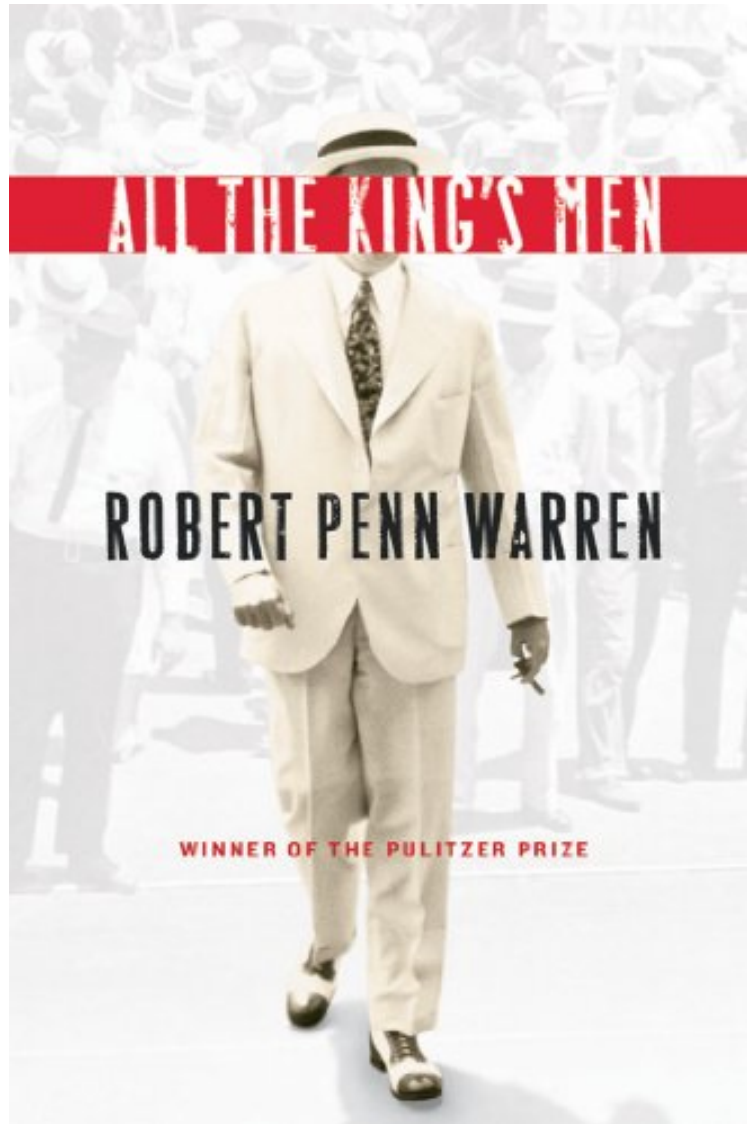


(Download) All the King's Men

All the King's Men

Von Robert Penn Warren

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Von Robert Penn Warren : All the King's Men before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All the King's Men:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Book I Talk About All the TimeVon Matthew SchenkerI have a list of books that I put into the category, "Books Every American Must Read." I don't put books on that list thoughtlessly, but All the King's Men occupies one of the top spots. Many people are turned off by a book that is ostensibly about a politician, but this book is really about how

politics is fused into our lives; it is about how many of the basic activities and achievements in a town, city or country come down to the mentality of one or two individuals; and politics becomes a metaphor for something that intoxicates you to the point of becoming unable to consider the humanity that surrounds you, so that the meaning of what you are doing is disconnected from your ambition to do it. It is also a story about how all of us, as we mature, give up the things that mean so much to us emotionally as we slowly but surely begin to serve what we believe is a better, more intelligent purpose. The narrator, Jackie Burden, has a wonderfully ironic way of expressing himself, where he recognizes that he has been disloyal to a "friend of his youth," yet goes ahead with a dark plan anyway. Mr. Burden once had dreams of being something great, of exploring history for its beauty, he had honorable family friends, but he ended up instead digging up dirt for his "boss," Willie Stark, the politician who transforms himself from a naive small-town speaker into a prominent, powerful figure on the bring of national attention. One of the people he digs up dirt on is one of those honorable people from his youth. But there is poetic justice in the story -- the corruption that engulfs the characters ends their upward rise. The themes of corruption explored in this book are played out again and again in American politics. The book was written in the 1940's, but it "predicted" Watergate, the Iran-Contra Affair, the Monica Lewinski scandal, as well as scores of other political games that have been played in the intervening decades. Finally, the main female character in this book is one of the most complex, unforgettable people you will ever meet in a novel. As an aside, the recent bestseller, "Primary Colors," has a main character with the name Jack Stanton, which happens to also be the name of one of the main political figures in this book. I have always thought it was NOT a coincidence, but no other reviewer writing about either the book or the movie that came later has pointed this out.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Arguably the greatest American novel

Von Walter Sobchak Perhaps you are like I was, one who has heard of this novel, but knows nothing about it. Why should you spend a considerable amount of time reading this book (it's a long one!)? The major strength of "All the King's Men" is that it has two parallel themes for the two main characters, Jack Burden (from Burdens Landing, LA) and Willie "The Boss" Stark (from Mason City, LA). Both of these men find themselves away from their home city, and are living in the capital, Baton Rouge. The main question is: Why are they, literally and figuratively, leaving their past behind them? The answer is that they want to escape from the idealism of their youth. Jack Burden, "the burden of Burden's Landing," was born with the idea that his city IS different. He grew up believing that in Burden's Landing, one can find justice, purity, and goodness. I will not give away any plot, but this ideal was made real for him through the character of Anne Stanton. Willie "The Boss" Stark, differs from Jack because when he was young, he believed that HE could make a difference. In other words, through hard work and effort, he could make a difference in politics and how things are run. Again, I won't give away plot, but something happens to him to make him believe that individuals who believe in this difference are fools who will be used. So both men meet meet one another in Baton Rouge. But here we get the true beauty of the novel: Both men cannot erase their past. And who, in reality, can erase their past? Both men try to be realists, but they have vestiges of idealism in them... the idealism of youth. For Jack, his idealism is in an image of Anne floating in the Gulf of Mexico, before he left for his first year of college. The image is timeless, innocent, and perfect. Warren describes this image on pages 117-119, and I think that most, if not all, people have an image or images like this from their youth. For Jack, this image haunts him because he feels that he should always be able to live in it... an image of the world being different and perfect. For Willie, he is a self made man who tries to instill the virtues he instilled within himself as a youth - into the state through political influence. I can relate to much of what Warren writes and he says some incomparable things, stated incomparably well. This has become my favorite book...

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thick and Rich

Von Jack Lechelt All the King's Men is based on Louisiana's Huey Long. Willie Stark's story is told through the eyes of Jack Burden, an aide to Gov. Stark. One can quickly realize where the entire notion for Primary Colors came from. A note of warning: the book is set in the 1920's through 1940's of the Deep South; within that time-line and region comes nasty social realities. I haven't a clue as to whether Warren himself comes out in the derogatory racism or if he just wants to truly capture the era, however, it is difficult to accept how casually and easily such fowl language can be used against other human beings. With that said, I think a far greater harm would be done by trying to sugar coat the past into something it wasn't. The book is incredibly well written and one can feel themselves a part of the story with the intense description throughout. All the King's Men is a classic story of how a politician feels he must resort to achievement by any means necessary as opposed to exhibiting proper means AND ends. ENJOY!

Kurzbeschreibung Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Robert Penn Warren's tale of ambition and power set in the Depressionera South is widely considered the finest novel ever written about American politics.