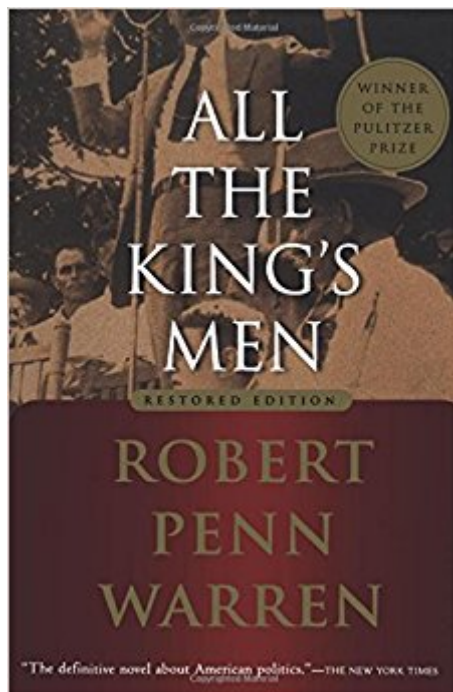


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All The King's Men



Synopsis

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this classic book is generally regarded as the finest novel ever written on American politics. It describes the career of Willie Stark, a back-country lawyer whose idealism is overcome by his lust for power.

Book Information

Paperback: 656 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 488 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,314 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics #745 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

This landmark book is a loosely fictionalized account of Governor Huey Long of Louisiana, one of the nation's most astounding politicians. *All the King's Men* tells the story of Willie Stark, a southern-fried politician who builds support by appealing to the common man and playing dirty politics with the best of the back-room deal-makers. Though Stark quickly sheds his idealism, his right-hand man, Jack Burden -- who narrates the story -- retains it and proves to be a thorn in the new governor's side. Stark becomes a successful leader, but at a very high price, one that eventually costs him his life. The award-winning book is a play of politics, society and personal affairs, all wrapped in the cloak of history. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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I loved this classic. It's probably one of my all time favorite novels. This is not a quick, easy read, but it is well worth the time and effort required. Because the novel jumps from the present (1940's) to the past, it can be a little confusing, at times. It's not the kind of book you can read in segments over

a period of time, because you will lose the thread. It is, however, so beautifully crafted that all of the seemingly superfluous stories come together. The characters are so well drawn and the descriptions are so rich, that I didn't want to miss a sentence. In this year of ugly politics, this book is a reminder that, sadly, what we are witnessing now is nothing new.

Our book club chose this novel as our classic for the year and it did not disappoint. There are many different plots and twists that all come together in one very well written book.

This book was very well written! The author was a poet as well as a novelist, and you can tell that in the way he writes. His prose is very poetic. The subject of the book was the descent of a man into the dark side of politics in the south, which is not a pretty subject, but it does leave a hope of redemption in the end. It was not a happy book to read, but it was deep and many layered for thought and discussion.

The characters and plot of *All the King's Men* are so complex and so sublime that this is close to a perfect novel. Though the two films made of the book focus on the rise and fall of Willie Stark, this book is really the story of Jack Burden, a broken, lonely political hack for the governor who runs from responsibility and relationships for most of the book. Given an assignment by Stark to dig up dirt on one of his political enemies, Jack uncovers a scandal that will turn his life upside down, as well as the lives of most of the other major characters in the novel. The plot has so many complications and unforeseen turns that despite the book's length it never bogs down, and the final growth that occurs within Jack is moving and fitting. To use one of the book's on-going metaphors, Jack touches the spiderweb of life and sends out ripples of impact that change his life forever. Warren's language is beautiful, his imagery is evocative, and this book will stay with the reader for years.

This book is good, and I've heard it's even better when you read it a second time, but I had a hard time following the story for a good part of the book. Jack Burden, our narrator, is an incredibly thoughtful man, and he often gets lost in his own thoughts, so as a reader trying to follow all these thoughts, it is easy to become confused. Although when I read it a second time, I expect it to be easier to follow since I won't be concerned with the main plot line. Otherwise, a good read.

I would have given this book 5 stars. This particular version however has many errors. It is as if the

text was dictated but not proofread . There are many incorrect words that apparently sound like the words that should've been in the text - like when a person talks to their phone and the phone doesn't get it right!

This is the classic American political novel. Warren's tale of power and corruption in the Depression-era South is a sustained meditation on the unforeseen consequences of every human act, the vexing connectedness of all people and the possibility of it's not much of one's goodness in a sinful world. Willie Stark, Warren's lightly disguised version of Huey Long, the onetime Louisiana strongman/governor, begins as a genuine tribune of the people and ends as a murderous populist demagogue. Jack Burden is his press agent, who carries out the boss's orders, first without objection, then in the face of his own increasingly troubled conscience. And the politics? For Warren, that's simply the arena most likely to prove that man is a fallen creature. Which it does.

Along with East of Eden and Breakfast of Champions, I can never stop reading it over and over and over. It is Shakespeare, the Bible, and the moral to every story you have ever heard all rolled into one. They will tell you that this story is about Willie Stark. It is not. It is the confession of Jack Burden and his guilt or innocence become a matter between the author and the reader. You will never, ever read another book like this one. It is the best piece of American literature to ever come out of the South, the South where the n-word still drips unabashed and the tragic past is always just beneath the surface--this book came from that time and it still packs a wallop regardless of your race, color, or creed. Read it, you must...

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