

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

Babbitt

by Sinclair Lewis, Originally published by Chump Change in 1922.

Republished by (Bantam Classics) Mass Market Paperback – Illustrated, September 1, 1998.

From CT.org...

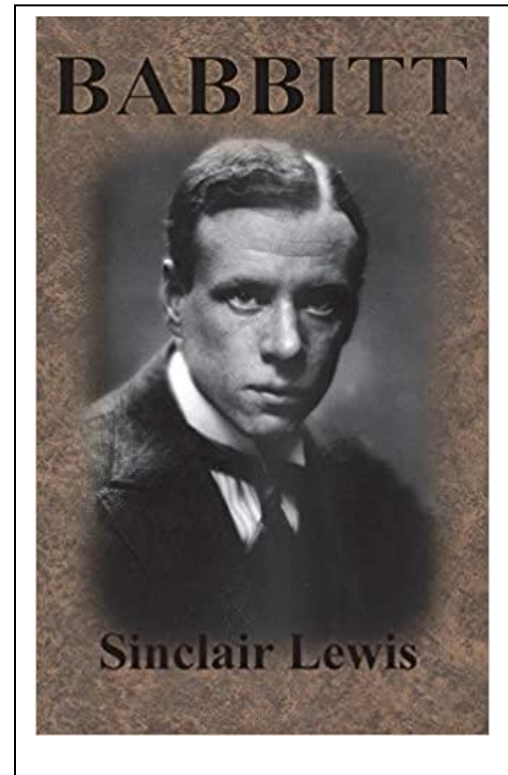
The New York Times recently reviewed **Babbitt** by Sinclair Lewis under the subtitle: “The Novelist Who Saw Middle America as It Really Was.” The review also mentions **Main Street** by Lewis published two years earlier, 1920. Both novels, both works of fiction, both based on Lewis’ observations about small town America. Good reads for city planners, and entertaining.

From Amazon...

“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.”

LINK: https://www.amazon.com/Babbitt-Sinclair-Lewis/dp/1945644648/ref=asc_df_1945644648/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=509210011619&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=11124688677164561768&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcm dl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9011805&hvtargid=pla-1245005848052&psc=1



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From the New York Times...

"The Novelist Who Saw Middle America as It Really Was."

"Sinclair Lewis captured the narrow-mindedness and conformity of middle-class America in the first half of the 20th century. On the 100th anniversary of his best-selling novel 'Babbitt,' Robert Gottlieb revisits Lewis's life and career."

By Robert Gottlieb

Dec. 31, 2021

"This is the centenary year of "Babbitt," Sinclair Lewis's best — and most misunderstood — novel. He had written five inconsequential books that had received respectable if not excited attention. And in 1920 — at the age of 35 — he had written "Main Street," the most sensationally successful novel of the century to date: hundreds of thousands of copies sold, and a title that came to stand for the values, both narrow-minded and wholesome, of what we now call Middle America.

"The Pulitzer Prize jury chose it as the year's best novel, but in a scandalous reversal of their decision, the prize's trustees refused to approve the award..."

Read the rest of the Review at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/31/books/review/sinclair-lewis-babbitt-main-street.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage§ion=Book%20Review>

From Wikipedia...

About

Harry Sinclair Lewis was an American writer and playwright. In 1930, he became the first writer from the United States to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, which was awarded "for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humor, new types of characters." [Wikipedia](#)

Born: February 7, 1885, [United States](#)

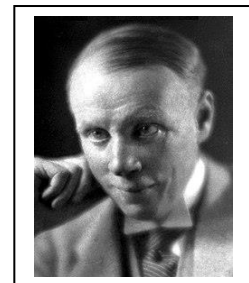
Died: January 10, 1951, [Rome, Italy](#)

Spouse: [Dorothy Thompson](#) (m. 1928–1942), [Grace Hegger Lewis](#) (m. 1914–1925)

Children: [Wells Lewis](#), [Michael Lewis](#)

Awards: [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#), [Prometheus Hall of Fame Award](#), [Nobel Prize in Literature](#)

LINK: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinclair_Lewis



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