



The Grapes of Wrath (Centennial Edition)

By John Steinbeck

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The Grapes of Wrath (Centennial Edition) By John Steinbeck

The Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression, a book that galvanized—and sometimes outraged—millions of readers.

First published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America. At once a naturalistic epic, captivity narrative, road novel, and transcendental gospel, Steinbeck's powerful landmark novel is perhaps the most American of American Classics.

This Centennial edition, specially designed to commemorate one hundred years of Steinbeck, features french flaps and deckle-edged pages.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

When *The Grapes of Wrath* was published in 1939, America, still recovering from the Great Depression, came face to face with itself in a startling, lyrical way. John Steinbeck gathered the country's recent shames and devastations--the Hoovervilles, the desperate, dirty children, the dissolution of kin, the oppressive labor conditions--in the Joad family. Then he set them down on a westward-running road, local dialect and all, for the world to acknowledge. For this marvel of observation and perception, he won the Pulitzer in 1940.

The prize must have come, at least in part, because alongside the poverty and dispossession, Steinbeck chronicled the Joads' refusal, even inability, to let go of their faltering but unmistakable hold on human dignity. Witnessing their degeneration from Oklahoma farmers to a diminished band of migrant workers is nothing short of crushing. The Joads lose family members to death and cowardice as they go, and are challenged by everything from weather to the authorities to the California locals themselves. As Tom Joad puts it: "They're a-workin' away at our spirits. They're a tryin' to make us cringe an' crawl like a whipped bitch. They tryin' to break us. Why, Jesus Christ, Ma, they comes a time when the on'y way a fella can keep his decency is by takin' a sock at a cop. They're workin' on our decency."

The point, though, is that decency remains intact, if somewhat battle-scarred, and this, as much as the depression and the plight of the "Okies," is a part of American history. When the California of their dreams proves to be less than Edenic, Ma tells Tom: "You got to have patience. Why, Tom--us people will go on livin' when all them people is gone. Why, Tom, we're the people that live. They ain't gonna wipe us out. Why, we're the people--we go on." It's almost as if she's talking about the very novel she inhabits, for Steinbeck's characters, more than most literary creations, do go on. They continue, now as much as ever, to illuminate and humanize an era for generations of readers who, thankfully, have no experiential point of reference for understanding the depression. The book's final, haunting image of Rose of Sharon--Rosasharn, as they call her--the eldest Joad daughter, forcing the milk intended for her stillborn baby onto a starving stranger, is a lesson on the grandest scale. "You got to," she says, simply. And so do we all. --*Melanie Rehak*

From Library Journal

Journey with the Joads for 21 hours in this first unabridged version of Steinbeck's classic. Controversial, even shocking, when it was written, the work continues to be so even today. The keen listener can hear why, because it poses fundamental questions about justice, the ownership and stewardship of the land, the role of government, power, and the very foundations of capitalist society. As history, this brings the Dust Bowl years to life in a most memorable way. Steinbeck (*Travels with Charley*, Audio Reviews, LJ 11/15/94) is a master storyteller and manages to engage the listener's sympathy with this epic story. Reader Dylan Baker, who gives each character a distinctive voice, draws the listener in. His female characters, especially the minor ones and Rose of Sharon, don't seem as authentic as his wonderful evocation of the fictional Tom, Ma, and Pa. But his voice is easy to listen to, and he is faithful to the characters' backgrounds and the plains region. The music that ends each individual tape is perfect for the story. This program is a well-produced, affordable, and worthwhile addition for any library with a serious audiobook collection. ?Nancy Paul, Brandon P.L., WI

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Review

"Steinbeck is a poet. . . . Everything is real, everything perfect."—**Upton Sinclair, *Common Sense***

“I think, and with earnest and honest consideration . . . that *The Grapes of Wrath* is the greatest American novel I have ever read.” —**Dorothy Parker**

“It seems to me as great a book as has yet come out of America.” —**Alexander Woollcott**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Mills:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book eligible *The Grapes of Wrath* (Centennial Edition)? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have other opinion?

Lori McDonald:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This *The Grapes of Wrath* (Centennial Edition) is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Ronald Smith:

The book with title *The Grapes of Wrath* (Centennial Edition) includes a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This kind of book exist new information the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world today. That is important to you to learn how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you inside new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

Willie Bergeron:

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