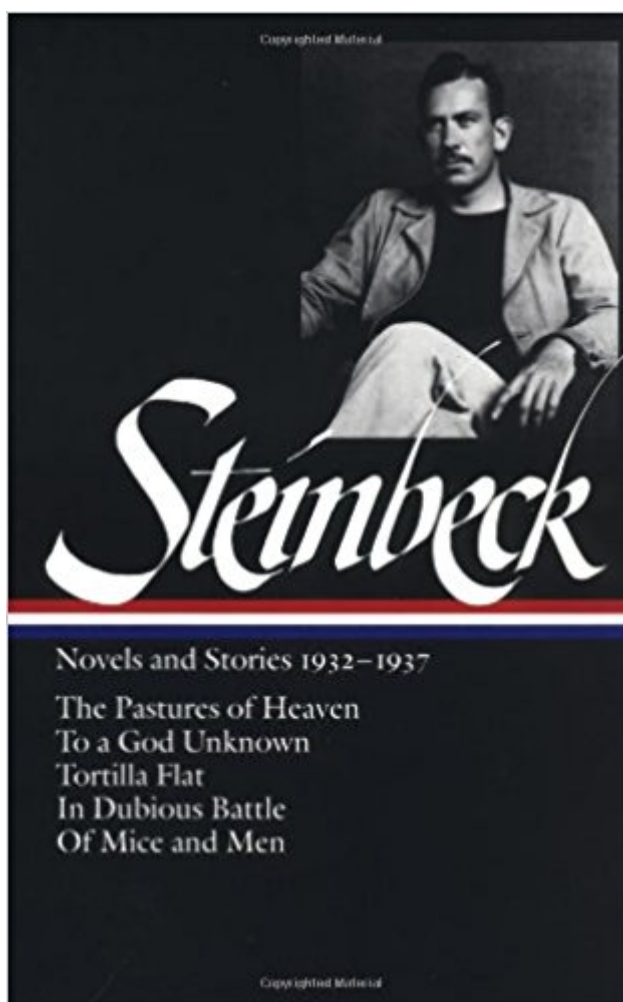


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John Steinbeck : Novels And Stories, 1932-1937 : The Pastures Of Heaven / To A God Unknown / Tortilla Flat / In Dubious Battle / Of Mice And Men (Library Of America)





Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

"Deep down it's mine, right to the center of the world", says a Salinas Valley farmer about his land in John Steinbeck's *To a God Unknown*, and Steinbeck the writer could have said the same. From the very start of his career he evoked the landscapes and people of central California with lyrical intensity and unflinching frankness. Through his intimate rendering of that place and those people, he expressed his abiding concerns: community, social justice, and the elemental connection between nature and human society. Here for the first time in one volume are Steinbeck's early California writings. In prose that blends the vernacular and the incantatory, the local and the mythic, these five works chart Steinbeck's evolution into one of the greatest and most enduringly popular of American novelists. *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932), a collection of interrelated stories, delineates the troubled inner lives and sometimes disastrous fates of families living in a seemingly tranquil California valley. The surface realism of Steinbeck's first mature work is enriched by hints of uncanny forces at work beneath. A sense of primeval magic dominates *To a God Unknown* (1933),

as a California farmer reverts to pagan nature worship and begins a tortuous journey toward catastrophe and ultimate understanding. Steinbeck's sympathetic depiction of the raffish paisanos of Tortilla Flat (1935), a ramshackle district above Monterey, first won him popular attention. The Flat's tenderhearted, resourceful, mildly corrupt, ever-optimistic characters are a triumph of life-affirming humor. In Dubious Battle (1936) plunges into the political struggle of the 1930s, painting a vigorous fresco of a migrant fruit-picker's strike. Anticipating the collective portraiture of The Grapes of Wrath, Steinbeck poignantly traces the surges and shifts of group behavior. With Of Mice and Men (1937), Steinbeck secured his status as one of the most influential American writers. Lenny and George, itinerant farmhands held together in the face of deprivation only by the frailest of dreams, have long since passed into American mythology. This novel, which Steinbeck called "such a simple little thing", is now recognized as a masterpiece of concentrated emotional power.

I love Steinbeck's novels and stories. This book arrived early and very well packaged. Hard-bound with a flap cover to protect it, as well. You learn to appreciate back in the days where our fellow Americans live. Also, Speak Tagalog, A Basic Primer book by Juanita de Guzman Gutierrez on sale at will make you learn Tagalog the easy and quick way. Four other kids' books on sale at by Gutierrez are The Blessed One, The Just One, Full of Grace, Chosen You Forever will make your child love to read. Anyone of these books or all of them are great to have in your library and with you anywhere you go. Enjoy them all at /

Steinbeck's books are treasures, each and every one.

Beautiful book beautifully written

It's Steinbeck; come on! This volume contains two really familiar novels in it, Tortilla Flat and Of Mice and Men that should interest the average reader of the best American Writer of the Twentieth Century, but it also includes three that are perhaps not as well known and yet very much worth the read. My favorite of those three is The Pastures of Heaven, set in the Carmel Valley along time ago prior to palatial hotels and spas corrupting the beautiful northern coast of California. It's Steinbeck! Need I say more?

I have read most of these writings in the past, going back to high school in the 1940s, but I need to read them again. Good writing does not wither and die, but is burnished by the years. Steinbeck is

more readable than either Faulkner or Hemingway and is proof that obscureness is not equal to genius. His sense of humor, his understanding of our culture, and his unwavering sense of moral integrity make him one of the greatest writers our country has produced.

These categories DON'T APPLY, because they are a collection of short stories. ALL good. Some stories dark, some wonderfully earthy and fun. Just read it.

I'm reading this book to my 93 year old father and we are both enjoying it. The stories are Steinbeck's earlier work. Not as good as the Grapes of Wrath, but enjoyable. It's hard to find books that just tell a good story without lurid sex scenes in them. If anyone knows of other books suitable for a daughter to read to her father, I'd like recommendations.

Outstanding!

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