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# Marjorie Morningstar



## Synopsis

A starry-eyed young beauty, Marjorie Morgenstern is nineteen years old when she leaves New York to accept the job of her dreams—working in a summer-stock company for Noel Airman, its talented and intensely charismatic director. Released from the social constraints of her traditional Jewish family, and thrown into the glorious, colorful world of theater, Marjorie finds herself entangled in a powerful affair with the man destined to become the greatest—and the most destructive—love of her life. Rich with humor and poignancy, *Marjorie Morningstar* is a classic love story, one that spans two continents and two decades in the life of its heroine. This unforgettable paean to youthful love and the bittersweet sorrow of a first heartbreak endures as one of Herman Wouk's most beloved creations.

## Book Information

File Size: 2296 KB

Print Length: 576 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company; Reissue edition (January 15, 2013)

Publication Date: January 15, 2013

Sold by: Amazon.com Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ASIN: B009NL76FE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #81,221 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #72

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Classics > Coming of Age #114

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Jewish #163

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Jewish

## Customer Reviews

This is an old favorite revisited. It is set in the thirties. It follows about 5 years of a 17 year old girl's life and then revisits her about 20 years later. She begins as a self centered teen using others for her goal of status. Then she becomes obsessed with being an actress. She gets plenty of knocks in

life as we all do. She begins to mature and finally realizes she is not going to be a star. She also gets her heart broken several times by the same man. She finally realizes that he is not the dashing charmer that she idolized.

The characters in this novel were pretty much lacking any character at all. For me, it was difficult to continue to read this story as "Marjorie" is such a self-centered, spoiled female as were the male leads in this story. I prefer strong characters WITH character. I'm a Herman Wouk fan, but this was a huge disappointment. Not my cuppa tea!

Read *Marjorie Morningstar* as a teenager in love stagestruck and was captivated. My girlfriends and I spent hours discussing it and casting the movie, for we were certain there would be one. As an older adult I was disappointed, the magic and sparkle were gone and by the end of the novel, I was real tired of Marjorie whatever her real name was - I believe that as I grew older and more cynical, I understood that the title character was flawed and not so very special. Just a girl with grand dreams but a mediocre actress. As a teen, I thought she was enchanting and ruined her life by believing in Noel and not being serious about the stage. However, if I were teaching high school literature, I would choose this book for my curriculum. There is a moral in there and Wouk is always good.

I read this book because it was mentioned in another book that I thoroughly enjoyed, *The End Of Your Life Book Club*, and also because I vaguely remember a movie starring Natalie Wood that was made from this book. My expectations were that it would be a good beach read. Was I ever surprised! This book was written over 60 years ago, but the feelings and emotions could be tied to every generation since then. I LOVED this book, although I was surprised at the ending. I won't say anymore, but if you want to read a great book with engaging dialogue and character development, then check out *Marjorie Morningstar*.

'*Marjorie Morningstar*' is more important as a historical documentation of middle-class Jewish life in New York in the 1930s, than it is as an instructive work of fiction for today's readers (and their life challenges.) It's written by a man about a young girl who starts out with limitless potential - but limited aspirations - and charts her life through disappointment and eventual resolve. Most importantly, she doesn't take the easiest path (and doesn't achieve what she purports to want for the span of the story). Still it's a look at a young woman's coming of age during a time that still offered narrow choices for most young girls.

I loved this book when I was a teenager and I decided to read it again as a senior citizen. It's a great read about young romance and growing up. It wears well. It doesn't really have "sexual content" but since it's largely about sex and first love and attraction, I had to check "some sexual content." I think the actual discussion of actual sex takes one paragraph, and it's not the least bit erotic. This would be a fantastic book for a young person on the verge of that first romance.

This was my second reading of this classic Herman Wouk...read it the first time at least 40 years ago. Loved it just as much this time around. It is the story of a young Jewish New Yorker who longs to be an actress. Trouble is while she has the beauty and some talent, it's just never quite enough. Meanwhile, she gets involved...and is smitten by...a slightly older man who fancies himself a writer. He's got his own set of issues. Herman Wouk is one of my favorite writers and while I think this book lags a bit toward the end, I will always keep it in my list of favorites.

Everyone's life is too short and too narrow to learn and experience all the pleasantly stirring emotions and insights that are within his or her capacity. Therefore we must live supplemental lives vicariously through the books we read. This was an audio book and the narration was unbelievably good! Moreover the more real life we lead, the more we can derive from the books we expose ourselves to. Marjorie Morningstar is a wild child under her authentic veneer of middle-class Jewish conventionality. Marjorie becomes love-sick over a worthless lothario. And there lies a tale of woe for her and those who love her. One of the lessons for young single men is this: If you can't make any romantic headway with a sweet young woman despite your abundance of stirling qualities and virtues, it could be that object of your attentions is irrationally love sick over a charming but useless bum. Another lesson is this: If you have a sister or a daughter who has become love-sick over a charming scoundrel there isn't much you can do about it. An additional lesson is for the charming lothario: There will come a day, and youth will pass away. What'll they say about me? When the end comes I know they'll say just a gigolo. And life goes on without me...I ain't got nobody, nobody cares for me...I'm so sad and lonely... (Lyrics by Irving Berlin- Just a gigolo) Marjorie Morningstar is a great read for anybody.

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