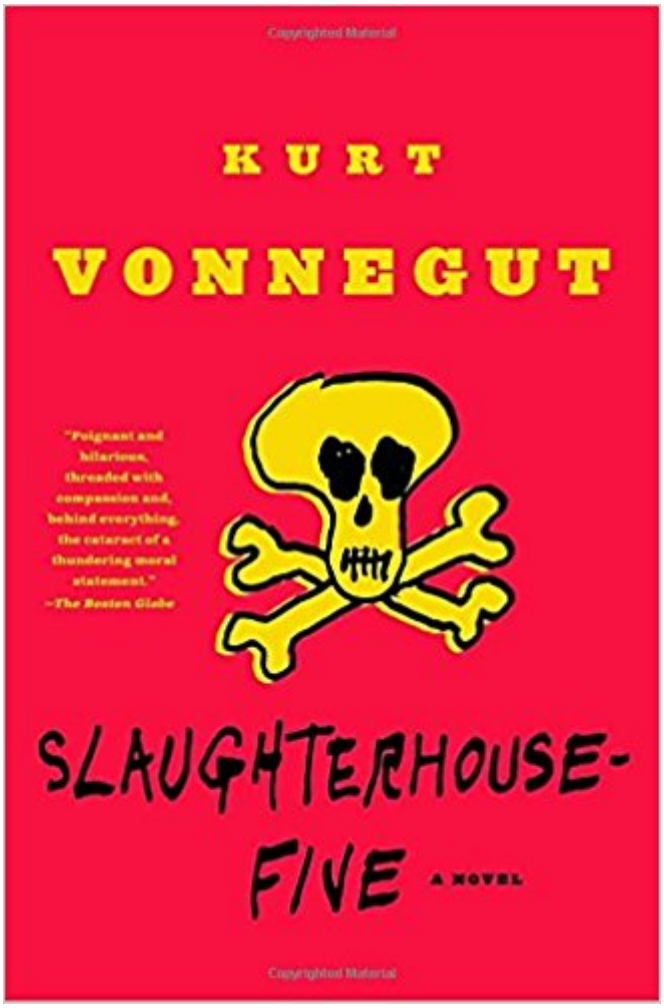
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Slaughterhouse-Five: A Novel (Modern Library 100 Best Novels)



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Synopsis

Slaughterhouse-Five, an American classic, is one of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s great antiwar books. Centering on the infamous firebombing of Dresden, Billy PilgrimÃ¢â ¬â„¢s odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we fear most.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kurt Vonnegut’s absurdist classic Slaughterhouse-Five introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut’s) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden. Don’t let the ease of reading fool you--Vonnegut’s isn’t a conventional, or simple, novel. He writes, "There are almost no characters in this story, and almost no dramatic confrontations, because most of the people in it are so sick, and so much the listless playthings of enormous forces. One of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters..." Slaughterhouse-Five (taken from the name of the building where the POWs were held) is not only Vonnegut’s most powerful book, it is as important as any written since 1945. Like Catch- 22, it fashions the author’s experiences in the Second World War into an eloquent and deeply funny plea against butchery in the service of authority. Slaughterhouse-Five boasts the same imagination, humanity, and gleeful appreciation of the absurd

found in Vonnegut’s other works, but the book’s basis in rock-hard, tragic fact gives it a unique poignancy--and humor. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"Listen: Billy Pilgrim has become unstuck in time." So begins Vonnegut’s absurdist 1969 classic. Hawke rises to the occasion of performing this sliced-and-diced narrative, which is part sci-fi and partially based on Vonnegut’s experience as a American prisoner of war in Dresden, Germany during the firebombing of 1945 that killed thousands of civilians. Billy travels in time and space, stopping here and there throughout his life, including his long visit to the planet Tralfamador, where he is mated with a porn star. Hawke adopts a confidential, whisper-like tone for his reading. Listening to him is like listening to someone tell you a story in the back of a bus—the perfect pitch for this book. After the novel ends, Vonnegut himself speaks for a short while about his survival of the Dresden firestorm and describes and names the man who inspired this story. Tacked on to the very end of this audio smorgasbord is music, a dance single that uses a vintage recording of Vonnegut reading from the book. Though Hawke’s reading is excellent, one cannot help but wish Vonnegut himself had read the entire text. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

A rambling yet intense depiction of the horrors, inhumanity, and extreme disorientation of war...a page turner that begins slowly but grips and engages the reader. Kurt Vonnegut paints vivid images in the mind - images that sometimes border on the ludicrous, and yet convey a strong sense of the insanity that war brings.Written in a sometimes distracting fashion, with a distinctive style that is both unsettling and rhythmic, this is not a story for the squeamish. The author weaves in the fantastic, tales of alien civilizations and time travel, into what is convincingly a memoir of the great war experiences, and specifically, the firebombing of a German city near the end of the war. His descriptions are graphic and compelling, though the narration jumps from viewpoint to viewpoint, from setting to setting, and one time period to another at random.And so it goes, as the author loves to repeat so very often.

This book is fantastic. The style in which this book is written is truly unique and captivating. I think this should be required reading in schools. The book does have an anti war approach which some may not like. But everyone should be against war, it is a last resort and should be treated that way. War is a disgusting thing. When it is necessary however, everyone should be supportive of those that are doing the fighting and the dying. You don’t have to support the cause but you should

support the people making the sacrifice. Sorry, back to the book. It is terrific and I guarantee you will find yourself smiling and laughing out loud several times throughout this book! You might even learn a little bit of history because the bombing of Dresden isn't a very popular subject in American History.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“There are almost no characters in this story, and almost no dramatic confrontations, because most of the people in it are so sick and so much the listless playthings of enormous forces. One of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• -Slaughterhouse FiveI had tried to read this book a few times, put off by the dry listless opening and apparent lack of direction. It didn't particularly help things that reading ebooks on a tiny screen is sort of terrible. But one day I had decided to trudge on past the 4% mark and finally make a dent in this story. It wasen't long before I was hooked. I can see why Kurt Vonnegut is such a big name.The tone doesn't change and the direction doesn't sort. And it's wonderful. Where the narrative leads and the character it follows shortly after out introduction to the narrator fit with it so well that anything else wouldn't seem the least bit right. It's something particularly hard to explain but easy to understand if experienced.The philosophy presented in this book has got to be my favorite part about it all-even more than our sweet little punching bag of a protagonist (though every character seems to be a punching bag of life's whim honestly). I really can't recommend this enough. I can't believe this was free.

This book was so good, and so different from anything I've read. I am truly glad I finally read this! Vonnegut's anti-war message seems pretty clear, but is draped wonderfully in the fantasy of time travel. His protagonist, Billy Pilgrim, is both likable and pitiable at once. This is an enjoyable, quick read!

Prepare yourself for a wild ride if you have never before read Kurt Vonnegut. I had not but had heard that his works were classics. And where better to start, I thought, than with Slaughterhouse-Five, a book that most people -- including my own children -- read in high school.Well, I hadn't. And I had never talked to anyone about the book prior. So imagine my surprise, just starting out with the nameless narrator discussion how he had come back from World War II, gotten married and become somewhat successful and decided that he had to write a book about his experiences during the bombing of Dresden. While it isn't stated, I assumed that the narrator was Vonnegut himself.Then we switched to Bill Pilgrim, a man who had done a lot of what

the narrator had mentioned. But who had an accident and apparently became 'unstuck in time.' Back and forth, Pilgrim rides from the current to the past, re-experiencing the war, the aftermath and trying to explain it all.Disorienting? Definitely. Confusing? Certainly. Humorous? You bet! And in a way I didn't expect -- enjoyable. I never served in a war and my father didn't discuss his experiences either, but through Vonnegut's writing, you do understand what they could have felt, what they experienced and how it was to return to the 'so called normal life' afterwards and to feel a disconnect with all that is around you.I'm glad that I came to it without any opinions on what it would be and how I should feel about the writing. Since starting the book ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • as I often find myself ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • I've read articles about Vonnegut and about the book. On reports of the book being banned -- well, I feel the same as I do for any book. Its not to everyone's taste but is there anything in here that is profane? Only war itself. This is a book that questions people and in that, it is a tour de force.

Kurt Vonnegut weaves a satirical perspective on World War 2, carefully keeping an air of authenticity and morality. Vonnegut drags the viewer around the estranged timeline of Billy Pilgrim, setting up a very unique and engaging premise. Through this unique telling, the morality and fundamental flaws of the ideal and practice of war are brought into light, forming a stronger sense of purpose through very deliberate and satirical commentary. Slaughter House Five offers a broadened analysis of seemingly commonsensical World War 2, serving as an entertaining and magical perception of human conflict.

Maybe Tralfamadore would be a great place to live. Or maybe that is just where your mind goes when you have witnessed a tragic event like the bombing of Dresden Germany. Vonnegut combines sci-fi with history. Some humor, fortunately. Sometimes you just gotta read one of theclassics.

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