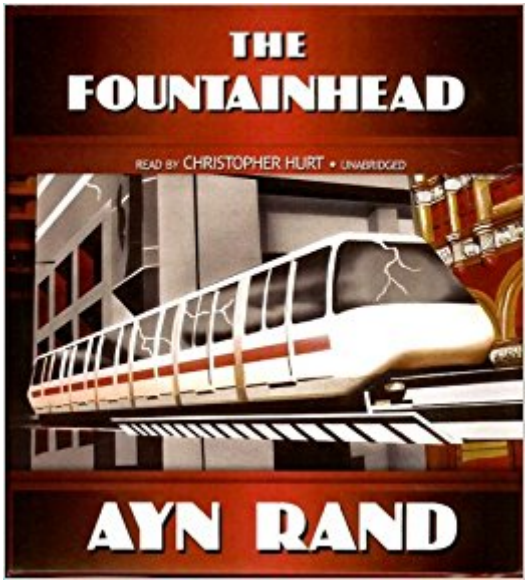
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The Fountainhead



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Synopsis

Arguably the century’s most challenging novel of ideas, The Fountainhead is the story of a gifted young architect, his violent battle with conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with the beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him. In his fight for success, he first discovers then rejects the seductive power of fame and money, finding that, in the end, creative genius must triumph. The Fountainhead is at once dramatic, poetic, and demanding. A statement of principles for its author, the novel champions the cause of individualism and remains one of the towering books on the contemporary intellectual scene.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Fountainhead has become an enduring piece of literature, more popular now than when published in 1943. On the surface, it is a story of one man, Howard Roark, and his struggles as an architect in the face of a successful rival, Peter Keating, and a newspaper columnist, Ellsworth Toohey. But the book addresses a number of universal themes: the strength of the individual, the tug between good and evil, the threat of fascism. The confrontation of those themes, along with the amazing stroke of Rand’s writing, combine to give this book its enduring influence. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

"Ayn Rand is a writer of great power. She has a subtle and ingenious mind and the capacity of writing brilliantly, beautifully, bitterly." --New York Times Book Review

The Fountainhead is the most profound book I have ever read in years. I read it when it back when I was in college and it definitely changed my outlook on life. It taught me the importance of valuing an individual's opinion whether it goes against the majority opinion or not. (That's putting it simply.) To this point there have been only a few other books that that have come close to writings of Ayn Rand, such as the Alchemist. Hollywood tried to make a movie depicting the nature of Fountainhead and of course, it did not do it justice. It is a must read.

The Fountainhead was an interesting character study in individualism vs. conformity. It is not an adventure story or story focused on plot points or characters evolving, rather it is about philosophical points that Ayn Rand wanted to make through her characters.

Ayan Rand was a genius at her craft. Whether one agrees with her philosophies is a secondary aspect to enjoying her razor-sharp perception of human behavior, articulately portrayed in her characters. Her protagonist is a beautifully-defined antithesis of the status-quo, and a representation of the ideal man with a self-contained individuality and his own unique, unshakeable principles. I loved it!

A book that I have come to expect from Ayn. I enjoy her writing. It is most interesting that as an atheist she cannot seem to really leave religion alone and there are comments concerning it throughout the book. Her views flavor her writings and sadly she is quite ignorant of religions matters. I would say that is typical of atheistic writers. Nevertheless, I read her because she has an intriguing way of developing a plot and her characters. It is sad that we do not pay more attention to her insights into socialism as it begins to permeate our own country. She could teach us something. It is obvious her hatred for communism and socialism. I am not sure how much more of her writings I will read but I have enjoyed them.

After reading through the comments (especially a lot of the "one stars"), it basically seems like the cult of personality surrounding Rand and her philosophies has led to the heated reviews of this book. It seems to me that a lot of people are raving about how brilliant her ideas are (because they agree with her) or how terrible she is (because they disagree with her). While this is fine, my comment will simply address THE CONTENTS OF THE BOOK as someone who picked it up without knowing anything about Ayn Rand and as someone writing a review strictly from what I read.While I do not agree with Rand's overall philosophies, I will simply say this: This is the best

written novel I have ever read with an enchanting and complicated story. Yes, the characters are unrealistic caricatures of the philosophies they represent. The book is an allegory - it’s supposed to be that way. All allegories from all philosophers I’ve ever read (as someone studying philosophy in university) are this way. The characters represent ideas in process of framing the philosophy of Objectivism.The book is long, and with a full course load in college it took about four months to read. Even if you think the ideas are crazy, it is still a brilliant and tasteful story that is filled with insightful allegories. The writing flows beautifully.On a final note, I must include that I learned a lot about architecture from this book. It really helped me appreciate the design and effort that goes into the buildings I enter every week and helped me see beautiful art in everyday life. It also got me started in a rudimentary ability to recognize certain styles in architecture - which is in and of itself something priceless to walk away from a book with.

The Fountainhead is an involved intriguing dialect of humans characteristics. From the lowest form of disgust to an ongoing struggle to rise and maintain a personal poise.At times the narrative’s details and descriptions are longwinded. The book brings out one’s personal feelings. As a way of examining one’s own values and principles.

I just finished reading "The Fountainhead" and found it a much easier read that Ayn Rand’s "Atlas Shrugged".While "Atlas" had the tendency to drone on long after you got the point, there was none of that in "Fountainhead".The overall story is the same however, and I wish more people would read this and comprehend the fallacies of the conventional "wisdom" with which they live their lives. This is a story of pure freedom of choice and illustrates the cancer that is liberalism of today. While on the surface it is dated and seems like a book about architecture, it is no more about that than "Atlas Shrugged" is about railroads and steel mills. The real story is about holding fast to the principles of freedom and exposing the decay of collectivism.

I’ve read only two of Ayn Rand’s books, this and Atlas Shrugged, and by far, I prefer The Fountainhead. In both, Rand’s characters represent certain ideals or stereotypes, but while these characters remain one-dimensional in AS, all of them basically one of two types, in The Fountainhead, her characters are complex, multi-dimensional and varied, and the various stories within the main storyline are all interesting and well-developed. Yes, she created characters and a story here to present her world/political views ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • and she absolutely pulled it off. Beautifully written and engaging.

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