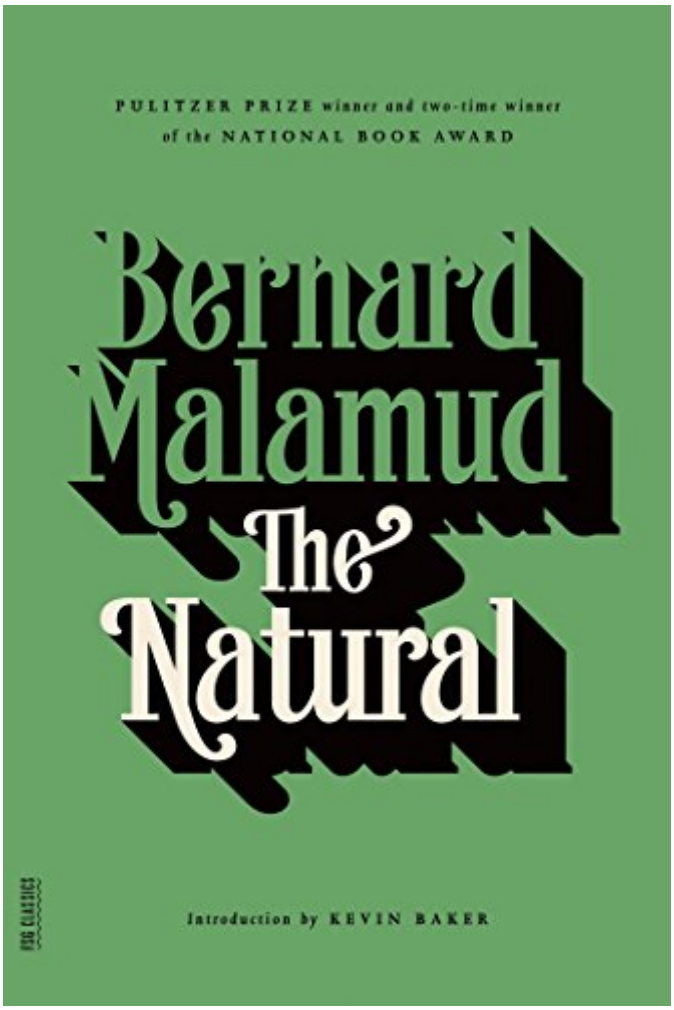
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The Natural: A Novel (FSG Classics)



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Synopsis

Introduction by Kevin BakerThe Natural, Bernard Malamud’s first novel, published in 1952, is also the firstÃ¢â ¬â •and some would say still the bestÃ¢â ¬â •novel ever written about baseball. In it Malamud, usually appreciated for his unerring portrayals of postwar Jewish life, took on very different materialÃ¢â ¬â •the story of a superbly gifted "natural" at play in the fields of the old daylight baseball eraÃ¢â ¬â •and invested it with the hardscrabble poetry, at once grand and altogether believable, that runs through all his best work. Four decades later, Alfred Kazin’s comment still holds true: "Malamud has done something whichÃ¢â ¬â •now that he has done it!Ã¢â ¬â •looks as if we have been waiting for it all our lives. He has really raised the whole passion and craziness and fanaticism of baseball as a popular spectacle to its ordained place in mythology."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I personally did not like this book, it was a required read by my sport literature professor.

Good book but at times dull

The book is as advertised; somewhat mystical and lyrical. Roy's character never changes, which the reader should expect from a man in his 30s who has suffered dearly in his life for one mistake in his youth. The book set a wonderful path for the movie to follow, right up to the end. I won't give away the ending, but be prepared.

The story is well written. The playful innocence of the sport and its hero (ignorant, but loveable, despite his failures in character) will be interupted by corruptness and reality of the world. The story is a little full of prejudices and cliches (good versus evil, teamspirit versus egotrip, great looking and therefore evil women and versus natural, but nice women ,etc). I especially liked the descriptions of the fans. The simpel truth is that die-hard fans usually act a little weird. All in all, I enjoyed reading the book.

The Natural has been my favorite movie since the first time I watched it. I don't normally read the book after seeing the movie, but I had just bought a new Kindle and wanted to start off with a great book. While the book offerd more insight, it generally followed the storyline of the movie. Then...the ending.

Coming in to reading this novel I had first watched the movie. After reading the book I was shocked it wasn't the feel good novel I expected at all rather it made Roy Hobbs more human than hero. The book was filled with Hobbs mistakes and in the end the outcome was completely unexpected. However I do respect the book much more than the movie. The book did a much better job at making Hobbs a human rather than someone who never made mistakes therefore I would recommend this book to anyone.

The most depressing novel I've ever read, yet so well written I could not put it down.

Good book. Still a classic.

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