



Of Mice and Men

By John Steinbeck

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Celebrating its 75th anniversary, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* remains one of America's most widely read and beloved novels. Here is Steinbeck's dramatic adaptation of his novel-as-play, which received the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play in 1937-1938 and has featured a number of actors who have played the iconic roles of George and Lennie on stage and film, including James Earl Jones, John Malkovich and Gary Sinise. From the Nobel Prize-winning author of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *East of Eden*, this classic story of an unlikely pair, two migrant workers in California during the Great Depression who grasp for their American Dream, profoundly touches readers and audiences alike. George and his simple-minded friend Lenny dream, as drifters will, of a place to call their own—a couple of acres and a few pigs, chickens, and rabbits back in Hill Country where land is cheap. But after they come to work on a ranch in the fertile Salinas Valley of California, their hopes, like “the best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men,” begin to go awry.

Of Mice and Men also represents an experiment in form, as Steinbeck described his work, “a kind of playable novel, written in novel form but so scened and set that it can be played as it stands.” A rarity in American letters, it achieved remarkable success as a novel, a Broadway play, and three acclaimed films.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

Review

"**Of Mice and Men** is a thriller, a gripping tale running to novelette length that you will not set down until it is finished. It is more than that; but it is that. . . . In sure, raucous, vulgar Americanism, Steinbeck has touched the quick in his little story."—**The New York Times**

"Brutality and tenderness mingle in these strangely moving pages. . . . The reader is fascinated by a certainty of approaching doom."—**Chicago Tribune**

"A short tale of much power and beauty. Mr. Steinbeck has contributed a small masterpiece to the modern tough-tender school of American fiction."—**Times Literary Supplement** [London]

About the Author

John Steinbeck, born in Salinas, California, in 1902, grew up in a fertile agricultural valley, about twenty-five miles from the Pacific Coast. Both the valley and the coast would serve as settings for some of his best fiction. In 1919 he went to Stanford University, where he intermittently enrolled in literature and writing courses until he left in 1925 without taking a degree. During the next five years he supported himself as a laborer and journalist in New York City, all the time working on his first novel, **Cup of Gold** (1929).

After marriage and a move to Pacific Grove, he published two California books, **The Pastures of Heaven** (1932) and **To a God Unknown** (1933), and worked on short stories later collected in **The Long Valley** (1938). Popular success and financial security came only with **Tortilla Flat** (1935), stories about Monterey's paisanos. A ceaseless experimenter throughout his career, Steinbeck changed courses regularly. Three powerful novels of the late 1930s focused on the California laboring class: **In Dubious Battle** (1936), **Of Mice and Men** (1937), and the book considered by many his finest, **The Grapes of Wrath** (1939). **The Grapes of Wrath** won both the **National Book Award** and the **Pulitzer Prize** in 1939.

Early in the 1940s, Steinbeck became a filmmaker with **The Forgotten Village** (1941) and a serious student of marine biology with **Sea of Cortez** (1941). He devoted his services to the war, writing **Bombs Away** (1942) and the controversial play-novelette **The Moon is Down** (1942). **Cannery Row** (1945), **The Wayward Bus** (1948), another experimental drama, **Burning Bright** (1950), and **The Log from the Sea of Cortez** (1951) preceded publication of the monumental **East of Eden** (1952), an ambitious saga of the Salinas Valley and his own family's history.

The last decades of his life were spent in New York City and Sag Harbor with his third wife, with whom he traveled widely. Later books include **Sweet Thursday** (1954), **The Short Reign of Pippin IV: A Fabrication** (1957), **Once There Was a War** (1958), **The Winter of Our Discontent** (1961), **Travels with Charley in Search of America** (1962), **America and Americans** (1966), and the posthumously published **Journal of a Novel: The East of Eden Letters** (1969), **Viva Zapata!** (1975), **The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights** (1976), and **Working Days: The Journals of The Grapes of Wrath** (1989).

Steinbeck received the **Nobel Prize in Literature** in 1962, and, in 1964, he was presented with the **United States Medal of Freedom** by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Steinbeck died in New York in 1968. Today, more than thirty years after his death, he remains one of America's greatest writers and cultural figures.

From [AudioFile](#)

Gary Sinise's reading of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is nothing short of magnificent. Moving effortlessly from an eloquent, understated narrative voice to each character's quite particular presence, Sinise demonstrates a true command of the medium. At times, Sinise is so convincing that one is hard-pressed to believe that a single reader could be responsible for so many varied characterizations. Thanks to such a skilled reading, this audio edition captures every nuance of Steinbeck's austere prose and the full power of the novel's tragic denouement. Top to bottom, it's a masterful retelling of an American classic. R.W.B.
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kathy Wilson:

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