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Hocus Pocus

Kurt Vonnegut
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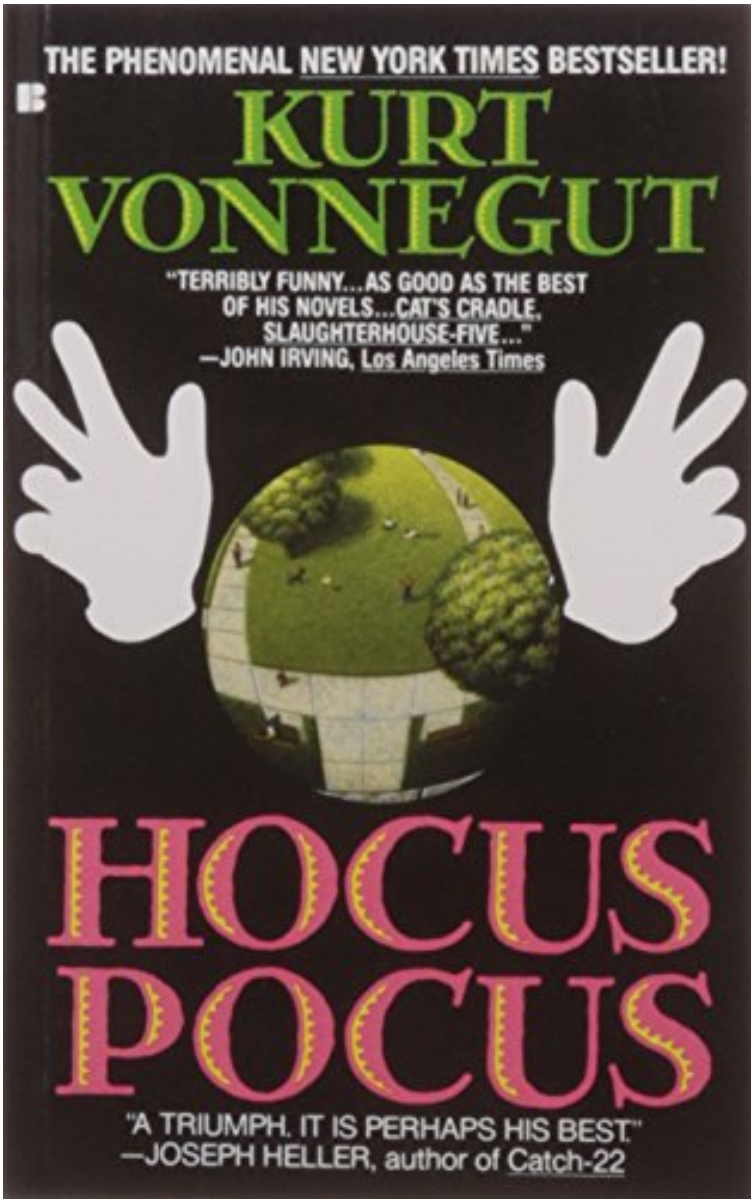

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#201688 in Books Berkley 1991-11-01 1991-11-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.71 x .90 x 4.15l, .40 Binding: Mass Market Paperback336 pagesGreat product! | File size: 43.Mb

Kurt Vonnegut : Hocus Pocus before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hocus Pocus:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. WHILE THERE IS A SOUL IN PRISON, I AM NOT FREE!By J. BlakeVonnegut resembles Picasso; outrage goaded both to produce their most noteworthy work. Since Dresden was

Vonnegut’s Guernica, his more recent novels often are compared to Slaughterhouse Five. Hocus Pocus measures up nicely. Because Vonnegut continues to protest human mistreatment of one another, this 1991 effort deserves our attention. Vonnegut is a storyteller rather than an essayist, however. This novel entertains and satisfies; many readers will choose to linger in Scipio, New York before moving on to something completely different.Many of us who left our home towns decades ago in search of gentler climates and enhanced employment possibilities still view central New York State’s hills, valleys and lakes with considerable affection. Those readers from Scipio will recognize that Vonnegut’s portrayals of the town and particularly the Attica Prison riot are poetic rather than factual.Nowadays this novel is amazing reading in the USA when countless corporations are maneuvering to avoid employing the country’s men and women; when the top 2% of the citizenry controls an obscene portion of the nation’s wealth; when a great many residents view immigrants as threats to the nation’s wellbeing rather than enriching enhancements of its society; when police are slow to behave as though Black lives matter; when the 2016 presidential primaries and elections bugger belief! Like Vonnegut, Eugene Debs Hartke views such developments as products of hocus pocus by the world’s self-absorbed, all-to-powerful elite.Hartke is an outsider with social skills. Fresh out of West Point, he inspired military conscripts to rain fire upon Vietnamese villages. Repentant in subsequent decades, he moved on to teach affluent college undergraduate dyslexics; with the same skill and caring he taught hard-core prison inmates in later years. He remembers all sexual partners fondly, over eighty women! His unwillingness to toddy to those in power, however, limits what he can accomplish. He soldiers on alone accomplishing as much as possible in a tragically imperfect world.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "How Embarrassing to be Human"By Karen WingoofAnother Vonnegut classic. Vonnegut writes: "How embarrassing to be human." And maybe that's why I so enjoy his writing. His voice is so human - his writing is so easy to relate to. He touches on human frailties common to us all, brings his wonderful sense of humor into the mix, and helps me feel a little less alone, I guess. *Hocus Pocus* had me laughing out loud in places, cringing and tearing up in others. Vonnegut is a master of his craft. A genius. I've never yet read a Vonnegut book I didn't thoroughly enjoy.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Being an American means never having to say you're sorry.By Missus or Mr.R.Kurt Vonnegut is one of the Great American Writers for a reason. This, as far as I'm aware, isn't considered one of his great works. It just goes to show how amazing he was at what he did then, because this book is wildly amusing and entertaining. I was barely able to put it down. If you've been reading Chuck Palahniuk and wondering where to go next, Vonnegut is the answer in spades. You're welcome.

From the author of Timequake, this "irresistible" novel (Cleveland Plain Dealer) tells the story of Eugene Debs Hartke-Vietnam veteran, jazz pianist, college professor, and prognosticator of the apocalypse. It's "Vonnegut's best novel in years-funny and prophetic...something special." (The Nation)

From Publishers WeeklyWhile awaiting trial for an initially unspecified crime, Vietnam vet and college professor Eugene Debs Hartke realizes that he has killed exactly as many people as he has had sex with, a coincidence that causes him to doubt his atheism. According to PW , "The cumulative power of the novel is considerable, revealing Vonnegut at his fanciful and playful best." Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorKurt Vonnegut, one of the most acclaimed American writers of the past century, died in New York City on April 11, 2007. He was the New York Times bestselling author of fourteen novels, including such literary classics as Slaughterhouse-Five, Cat’s Cradle and God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater. Penguin Group (USA) was fortunate to publish several of Mr. Vonnegut’s books, including the novels Timequake and Hocus Pocus as well as a collection of short fiction, Bagombo Snuff Box.