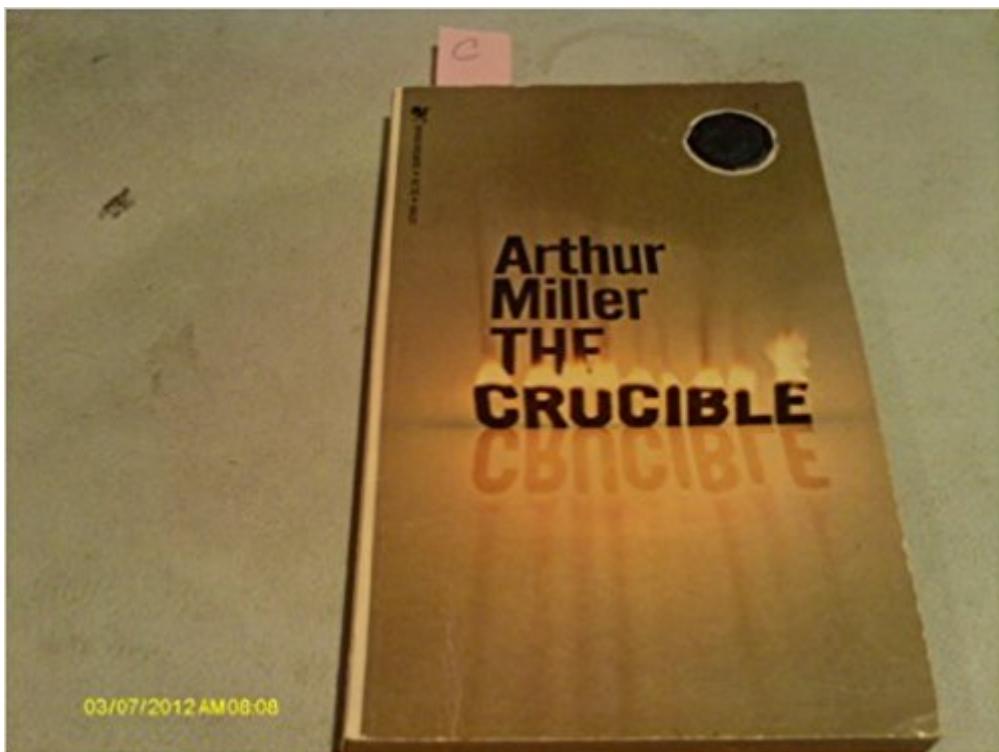


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The Crucible



Synopsis

Mr Miller's plays are rooted in a realistically critical view of American life and propelled by the intense personal conviction of a man who cares what he writes about and writes about something that matters. In The Crucible he turns for his setting to the grim days of the Salem witch trials, and brings into urgently brilliant focus an issue that still weighs heavily the progress of American civilization - the problem of guilt by association.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mr Miller's plays are rooted in a realistically critical view of American life and propelled by the intense personal conviction of a man who cares what he writes about and writes about something that matters. In The Crucible he turns for his setting to the grim days of the Salem witch trials, and brings into urgently brilliant focus an issue that still weighs heavily the progress of American civilization - the problem of guilt by association.

The Crucible by Arthur Miller is a very well written account of the Salem Witch Trials and provides an incredible portrait of the complexities of the human soul. It's hard to believe that people allowed this travesty to occur. Are there people today who would fall into this type of situation? Absolutely. That is what is so scary about the Salem Witch Hunt. We must continue to remember this event in order to make sure it doesn't happen again. I highly recommend this excellent work by Mr. Miller.

Arthur Miller completely distorted the historical record to cover himself before he appeared before HUAC. He says in his autobiographical "Time Bends" that "As though it had been ordained [by

Whom?], a copy of [Marion Starkey's "The Devil in Massachusetts" -1950 - 1 cent on plus S&H] fell into my hands, and the bizarre story came back as I had recalled it, but this time in remarkably well-organized detail" (p. 330). Her book had been read by many in the first audiences of "The Crucible" in 1953, so it's not surprising that Miller says, "What I had not quite bargained for...was the hostility in the New York audience as the theme of the play was revealed; an invisible sheet of ice formed over their heads, thick enough to skate on. In the lobby at the end, people with whom I had some fairly close professional acquaintanceships passed me by as though I were invisible....

Business inevitably began falling off in a month or so" (p. 347). His audience knew that 20 MILLION had died in the Soviet Union (40 million by some accounts), many executed after being tortured for false confessions. How many students today learn anything of that history? Are they asked to read Arthur Koestler's "Darkness at Noon" or any of Solzhenitsyn's many volumes about the history of those years? Do they see Kazin's response, "On the Waterfront," in their classes? Since the play has been required reading in our schools since 1965, why isn't Starkey's truthful account read as well? Because the play is a useful political tool to silence all critics and prevent what our founding fathers called eternal vigilance - in protection of constitutional government? Miller not only slandered those Puritan martyrs; he wrapped himself in John Proctor's saintly mantle as well - insult to injury - and proceeded to make millions. Never mind. At the end of "The Crucible" Rebecca Nurse reassures John Proctor, "Let you fear nothing! Another judgment waits us all!" But in Starkey's history, based on the record, Elizabeth (John's wife) chides an accusing Abigail, "Dear child, it is not so. There is another judgment, dear child" (p. 93 - Anchor edition). Miller must not have expected one. Marxists don't. I hope someone will finally dramatize the true story - including the wave of penitence and reconciliation that broke over Massachusetts once a formerly wild Harvard student, born-again reading one of Cotton Mather's sermons, replaced Parris as pastor. Until that happens, may students discover the many truths Miller concealed and distorted in his self-serving drama. Alas, I didn't know the truth either until a colleague gave me a copy of Starkey's book. Read "The Fall" to see what Miller did with Marilyn Monroe. Even in "Death of a Salesman" he revised his family's story - he characteristically diminished others and gave himself more glory than he ever earned. Adolescent fantasies? Our students deserve better - they deserve the truth.

Read it in college, valued its challenges. Recently read it again and found still challenging and insightful, particularly in the modern American ecclesiastical, political, and social circumstances.

Not for the faint of heart---but particularly apropos in today's political climate of isolationism, racial

intimidation and scapegoating.

I found this book to be true in many ways. Most of the girls in the book were malicious and rude. Abigail is the worst of them all. She has no respect for herself or anyone around her. All she wants throughout the entire book is to get a man to fall in love with her, when he doesn't even like her. Anyways, it goes on and on and people can't figure out whether the girls are being serious or just playing around. Right around the end of the book, the truth finally comes out. So how does it end? You'll have to read it to find out.

While the book itself is alright, and other reviews and literary blogs will tell you more about it, the kindle edition is absolutely horribly formatted. For some reason, has made it entirely impossible to cite quotations from a kindle format book by removing page numbers and replacing them with proprietary "locations." Given that neither the APA or MLA style guides have guidelines for how to cite information in this format, buying a kindle book for use in any kind of scholarly setting is utterly pointless.

Helped my son pass his test when he wasn't allowed to bring the schools copy home! Definitely a lifesaver

I had to buy this book for an English class, I was not disappointed. It arrived so quickly that i was extremely surprised. Overall It is an amazing book, I recommend anyone read it for class or otherwise.

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