



## The Adventures of Augie March (Penguin Classics)

By Saul Bellow

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**The Adventures of Augie March (Penguin Classics)** By Saul Bellow

***“The Adventures of Augie March is the great American Novel. Search no further.”*** –Martin Amis

As soon as it first appeared in 1953, this novel by the great Saul Bellow was hailed as an American classic. Augie, the exuberant narrator-hero is a poor Chicago boy growing up during the Great Depression. A “born recruit,” Augie makes himself available for a series of occupations, then proudly rejects each one as unworthy. His own oddity is reflected in the companions he encounters—plungers, schemers, risk-takers, and “hole-and corner” operators like the would-be tycoon Einhorn or the would-be siren Thea, who travels with an eagle trained to hunt small creatures. This Penguin Classics edition, with an introduction by celebrated writer and critic Christopher Hitchens, makes a literary masterpiece available to a new generation of readers.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"[Bellow's] body of work is more capacious of imagination and language than anyone else's...If there's a candidate for the Great American Novel, I think this is it." –Salman Rushdie, *The Sunday Times* (London)

From the Inside Flap

Introduction by Martin Amis

### About the Author

**Saul Bellow** was praised for his vision, his ear for detail, his humor, and the masterful artistry of his prose. Born of Russian Jewish parents in Lachine, Quebec in 1915, he was raised in Chicago. He received his Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1937, with honors in sociology and anthropology, and did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. During the Second World War he served in the Merchant Marines.

His first two novels, **Dangling Man** (1944) and **The Victim** (1947) are penetrating, Kafka-like psychological studies. In 1948 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent two years in Paris and traveling in Europe, where he began his picaresque novel **The Adventures of Augie March**, which went on to win the National Book Award for fiction in 1954. His later books of fiction include **Seize the Day** (1956); **Henderson the Rain King** (1959); **Mosby's Memoirs and Other Stories** (1968); **Mr. Sammler's Planet** (1970); **Humboldt's Gift** (1975), which won the Pulitzer Prize; **The Dean's December** (1982); **More Die of Heartbreak** (1987); **Theft** (1988); **The Bellarosa Connection** (1989); **The Actual** (1996); **Ravelstein** (2000); and, most recently, **Collected Stories** (2001). Bellow has also produced a prolific amount of non-fiction, collected in **To Jerusalem and Back**, a personal and literary record of his sojourn in Israel during several months in 1975, and **It All Adds Up**, a collection of memoirs and essays.

Bellow's many awards include the International Literary Prize for **Herzog**, for which he became the first American to receive the prize; the Croix de Chevalier des Arts et Lettres, the highest literary distinction awarded by France to non-citizens; the B'nai B'rith Jewish Heritage Award for "excellence in Jewish Literature"; and America's Democratic Legacy Award of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the first time this award has been made to a literary personage. In 1976 Bellow was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature "for the human understanding and subtle analysis of contemporary culture that are combined in his work."

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