



A Sport and a Pastime: A Novel (FSG Classics)

By James Salter

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"As nearly perfect as any American fiction I know," is how Reynolds Price (*The New York Times*) described this classic that has been a favorite of readers, both here and in Europe, for almost forty years. Set in provincial France in the 1960s, it is the intensely carnal story?part shocking reality, part feverish dream ?of a love affair between a footloose Yale dropout and a young French girl. There is the seen and the unseen?and pages that burn with a rare intensity.

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A Sport and a Pastime: A Novel (FSG Classics) By James Salter Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"A tour de force of erotic realism, a romantic cliff-hanger; an opaline vision of Americans in France . . . *A Sport and a Pastime* succeeds as art must. It tells us about ourselves." - *New York Times Book Review*

From the Inside Flap

"A Sport and a Pastime is as nearly perfect as any American fiction

I know," Reynolds Price wrote of James Salter's 1967 novel that tells of the mismatched love affair between Phillip Dean, a Yale dropout adrift in Europe, and Anne-Marie Costallat, a young French shopgirl. An erotic tour de force, licentious yet pure, it is also a hymn to provincial France and has been admired and quoted from since its first publication. Its stunning knowledge and insight have the power to change lives.

It brings a kind of splendor to the life that refuses to bow to convention or mores, and, like Cavafy's poems, evokes the illicit in a way that endows it with an astonishing beauty. Brilliantly written and overwhelming in its effect, it remains a triumph on every level.

About the Author

James Salter was the celebrated author of six novels (*The Hunters*, 1957; *The Arm of Flesh*, 1961; *A Sport and a Pastime*, 1967; *Light Years*, 1975; *Solo Faces*, 1979; and *All That Is*, 2013) and three books of stories (*Dusk and Other Stories*, 1988; *Last Night*, 2005; and *Collected Stories*, 2013), as well a memoir, *Burning the Days* (1997). He also had a successful Hollywood career, most notably as the screenwriter of *Downhill Racer* (1969). Born in New Jersey in 1926 and raised in New York City, he attended West Point during World War II and served as an officer and a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force from 1945 to 1957. He drew on his combat experiences in Korea for his first two novels, though it was not until the controversial but now-classic *A Sport and a Pastime* that he considered that he had come close to measuring up to his own standards. He was a recipient of the 1989 PEN/Faulkner Award and the 2012 PEN/Malamud Award. He died in Sag Harbor, New York, in 2015.

Users Review

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