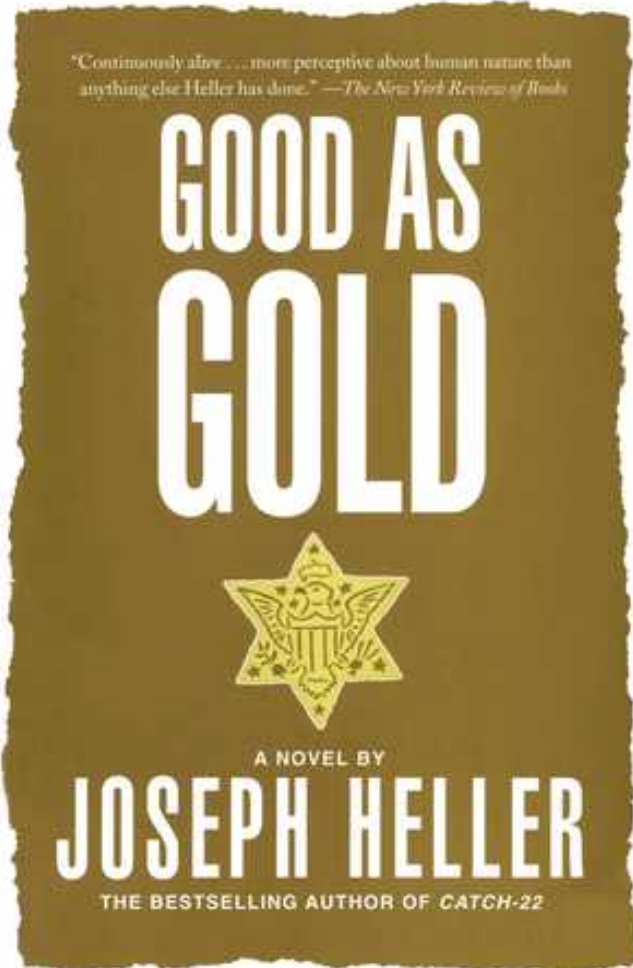

Joseph Heller

Good as Gold



Title: Good as Gold

Author: Joseph Heller

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 445

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0684839741

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 8.7 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Bruce Gold, a middle-aged, Jewish professor of English literature, finds himself on the brink of a golden career in politics -- and not a moment too soon, as Gold yearns for an opportunity to transform a less-than-picture-perfect life: His children think little of him, his intimidating father endlessly bullies him, and his wife is so oblivious that she doesn't even notice he's left her. As funny as it is sad, *Good as Gold* is a story of children grown up, parents grown old, and friends and lovers grown apart -- a story that is inimitably Heller.

Insightful reviews

Richard Kramer: So far loving this. Heard Heller's daughter interviewed on NYT Book Review podcast. Tanenhaus said something about this being laugh out loud funny and after twenty pages he's been proven right. The first scene is an excruciating Jewish family dinner. Now Kissinger is somehow in the mix. I want to take the phone off the hook or turn it off or whatever you do these days. I want to get into bed with some kugel and read this and laugh and wince. I haven't read Heller since SOMETHING HAPPENED came out and I was a teenager and felt like a big grownup. I'd like to read that again. There are many things I would like to do again. How many of them will I get to do? Now I'm depressed.

Sherrie Gingery: I loved this book! There were several times I laughed out loud. I rate *Good as Gold* as good as *Catch-22*, albeit the plot is not nearly as complicated as some of Heller's earlier works.

A must read for anyone likes satire and sharp dialogue.

Peterboh: This is one of my favorite Heller's books. It is really funny, I especially liked the White House politics. It is way better than "Something Happen".

Jennifer: I enjoyed *Catch-22* so it was once a provided that i would learn "Good as Gold". this is often extra a few examine the Jewish adventure in the course of what i guess is the Seventies as Bruce Gold makes an attempt to have all of it and be all he can be. Have a beautiful new wife, occupation in govt and most significantly respect. in fact this stuff do not come effortless and in real Heller type the shenanigans take place with Gold's lack of ability to be trustworthy to 1 lady and proceed to fall in love usually and not to keep in mind that there's prejudice everywhere. The discussion is notable and jogs my memory of what I enjoyed so much approximately *Catch-22* with the sarcasm and seriousness and likewise constant contradictions that come from govt officials. specifically from the nature Ralph as he keeps to vow then renege positions and probabilities to Gold within the similar sentence. Awesome. The previous few chapters appear type of rushed jointly and naturally whatever tragic has to ensue sooner than Gold can discover his existence isn't really so undesirable (good, committed wife; clever children; huge family) that he finally ends up (hopefully) cleansing up his act. Plus, I felt the overemphasis and one bankruptcy committed strictly to Kissinger was once a piece a lot por moi. i believe if this e-book have been scale down by means of a hundred or so pages then it could've been improved so as to seize every little thing in a extra concise manner. But, Heller

continues to be one in every of my faves for his satire and realism.

Pat Anderson: I take it Joseph Heller did not like Henry Kissinger! relatively an outstanding bite of this e-book is given over to a diatribe opposed to Nixon's Secretary of nation yet there's extra to the publication than that. Gold's relatives will get a section tiresome, in particular his father and brother, yet relatives dynamics are usually like that. There are a few laugh-out-loud moments, like in *Catch-22*, and this booklet is nowhere close to as miserable as whatever Happened. If the publication is intended to be satire it does not stumble upon rather well and the protagonist, Gold, comes throughout as whiny and excessively sorry for himself. no longer a foul e-book yet now not nice either. and people endless parentheses made me are looking to kill myself! You get approximately 3 pages all in parentheses after which Heller simply keeps the sentence, which, by way of that time, you've gotten forgotten, the place he left off! An completely infuriating sort of writing.

David Lentz: "Good as Gold" is as good as Heller will get within the rarefied air of "Catch 22" and "Something Happened." Clearly, this novelist ranks among the best American satirists and plays a very good provider to readers insofar as satirists not just communicate fact to deprave strength yet shrink it through rendering it laughable. One is apt much less to worry and consent to sinister forces which turn into imbecilic. the idea for the narrative is set a Jewish highbrow named Gold who's invited to develop into Secretary of nation and the tragicomic sequence of occasions which lead him to a call aspect in regards to the value of striving for substantial or even absolute power. Like "Catch 22" it truly is govt paperwork and ineptness which capture the most important blows of Heller's narrative. The antics of Congress offer a sufficiently considerable context for the absurdity of strength portrayed in "Good as Gold." One wonders what tragic flaws exist in those that search energy relentlessly on a grand scale: is it egomania, narcissism, greed, materialism, wealth, regulate or all the above? Is our Congress with a few remarkable exceptions no longer commonly a countrywide Museum of Egomania? The discussion during this novel is witty and snicker out-loud pithy in its portrayal of these who pursue with a unmarried minded obsession their will to energy in the constitution of government. Why is not the will to strength understood for the inherent human defects that its pursuit proves so ubiquitously? do not we've got good enough examples from human background which make this element evident, even obvious, specially while self-interest and conceitedness turn into significant within the noxious stew of greed using the need to power. Are boastful humans in simple terms capable of observe it retrospectively after their descent, even if pressured or unforced, into humility? Is greed obtrusive merely after wealth is pushed into poverty? Is humanity an important casualty and blind spot for those who pursue wealth especially on a grand scale? how much cash and tool are enough? Has someone learn Goethe's "Faust"? Heller's moment premise for the unconventional is to write down a booklet approximately what it ability to event being a Jew in the US within the twentieth century. His portrait of lifestyles in big apple between a longer Jewish family members is telling and intriguing. it's a narrative concerning the event of bigotry, stereotyping and profiling. The discussion during this novel is de facto masterful and Heller pulls no punches. Like Yossarian we discover in Gold a guy bewildered through the absurdity of the society during which he's immersed. during this feel Gold turns into an everyman attempting to make experience of unfathomable forces in daily life. Gold jogged my memory of the protagonist, John Self, of Martin Amis in "Money" in that one of many maximum absurdities is why he behaves as he does. If Gold have been malevolent, his

villainy by means of advantage of his habit may thief any sympathy which a beneficent reader may perhaps bestow upon this kind of very smart yet essentially unsuitable protagonist. it's the bewilderment and ineptitude and brilliance of the protagonists of Heller's novels which intrigue readers as they're all Heller himself: a guy intellectually at struggle with himself and his personal society, a Hobbesian jungle run via fools masquerading as saviors inside of an arrogant, democratic bastion of civilization. the radical starts off slowly and should gift sufferer readers and it ends a bit of without notice with fascinating tale strains suddenly closed down as though Heller after 445 pages learned his publication used to be changing into longish and he used to be bored with writing it. Heller ranks within the Pantheon of yank writers of the extreme quality of Saul Bellow and Kurt Vonnegut. learn this nice novel for the natural comedian wit obtrusive within the tale line, characters and discussion -- then remove every little thing else that Heller generously deals to present sensible readers.

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