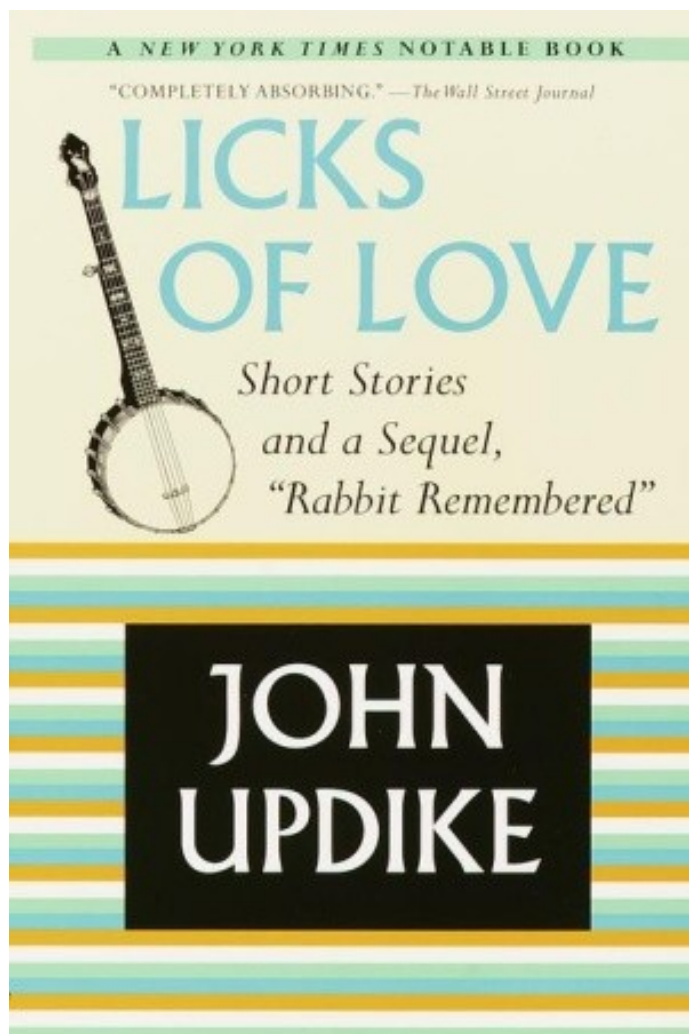

John Updike

Licks of Love: Short Stories and a Sequel, "Rabbit Remembered" (Rabbit Angstrom #5)



Title: Licks of Love: Short Stories and a Sequel, "Rabbit Remembered" (Rabbit Angstrom #5)

Author: John Updike

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Description

In this brilliant late-career collection, John Updike revisits many of the locales of his early fiction: the small-town Pennsylvania of *Olinger Stories*, the sandstone farmhouse of *Of the Farm*, the exurban New England of *Couples* and *Marry Me*, and Henry Bech's Manhattan of artistic ambition and taunting glamour. To a dozen short stories spanning the American Century, the author has added a novella-length coda to his quartet of novels about Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom. Several strands of the Rabbit saga come together here as, during the fall and winter holidays of 1999, Harry's survivors fitfully entertain his memory while pursuing their own happiness up to the edge of a new millennium. Love makes Updike's fictional world go round—married love, filial love, feathery licks of erotic love, and love for the domestic particulars of Middle American life.

Insightful reviews

Alexis: I was very surprised (and relieved, in a way) to discover this book after finishing what I thought was the last of the Rabbit series. I enjoyed reading what was left of his legacy from the female perspectives that were so overshadowed by his presence (and narration) while he was alive--but I missed him--because part of what made the previous books so great was being so close to his voice. It wasn't really necessary for Updike to go back in to this world and demystify Nelson, Janice, ect., but I appreciated the effort as a fan. I did enjoy Updike's commentary on 90's pop-culture coming through, at least from an archival perspective.

Seth Whaland: I didn't actually read the short stories in this book. I read "Rabbit Remembered" to complete the Rabbit series. It was a fitting end, as the year 2000 is about to hit. 50 years worth of Rabbit Angstrom. Pretty impressive.

Jane DeVries: Centered only on Rabbit Remembered because it REALLY did tie everything together in a good way with Nelson taking charge as the good guy.

Eliza T. Williamson: I'm hesitant and a little embarrassed to recommend a piece by John Updike--however this is often my e-book web site and for that reason I'm going to elect it. Whereas there have been definite tales during this assortment that stood out for me, particularly "My father at the verge of Disgrace", for the most part I used to be a little bored. The settings have been transparent and good crafted, the imagery used to be stark and smart yet now and then I felt like not anything occurred and that I longed for action--a little needling or damage emotions or overt aggression.

Jogle: Having learned the total 'Rabbit' series, and enjoyed them in various degrees, I needed to make an effort to learn the novella, 'Rabbit Remembered' which debuts for 1/2 this collection. I feel that's how so much readers will come to this book. 'Rabbit Remembered' offers with the aftermath of Harry Angstrom's life, not only in a reminiscence but in addition within the actual and emotional components he has left behind. Ten years have previously given that his dying and existence has persisted for the kin as much as the millennium. New lives are being shaped and Rabbit is much less and not more a feature, other than in that he's the hyperlink among the relationships. It really is relaxing as a tie up for every little thing in Harry's lifestyles yet provides

little or no to the story. The 4 unique books of the sequence Rabbit's existence opposed to the modern social and political events, culture, architecture, media and advertising of the overdue twentieth century. This maintains the subject matter yet with out the anti-hero, Rabbit himself, and his reminiscence isn't really robust sufficient to carry the tale together. Rabbit in reminiscence is integrated during this assortment because the different brief tales hold ordinarily an identical theme; love and sexual stumble upon remembered from later age. As in all brief tale collections the standard is mixed, yet i believe that Updike's strengths are in constructing intimately humanist characters, incorrect and in a improper world. This takes time in all his novels. Rabbit isn't really likeable, yet after 4 books he's loved. the fast tales by no means relatively get going and are too comparable in theme. A e-book signing journey writer reminiscing approximately earlier conquests was once so undesirable I approximately didn't end the book. there's an excessive amount of of Rabbit in different tales and characters; the conquests remembered, the mistaken getting older disappointment crying out how he relatively did love all of them in his personal way, yet virtually too ambivalent together with his likes to desire to reside all of it again. when you've got learn Updike via all of Rabbit's grownup life, this assortment is simply too much.

Rebecca F.: After completing the final novel in Updike's "Rabbit" series, i used to be a bit unhappy to determine the tale end, to assert goodbye to Rabbit Angstrom. So admittedly, I skilled a sense of candy self-indulgence while i found the "Rabbit Remembered" sequel in the back of this choice of stories. or even it was once extra "bittersweet," kind of like reconnecting with an previous boyfriend/girlfriend after many years, the thrill and heat of re-establishing that intimate connection and re-living previous highs and lows nestled along the bare fact that your tale is over, the magic you have in mind as elusive as, well, a rabbit operating via a box of tall grass. The narrative alternatives up ten years after Harry's dying and rests now with either Janice and Nelson as they convey on their lives with out their husband and father. the place in Rabbit is wealthy and Rabbit at Rest, it appeared that Updike's descriptive powers have been at their best, producing for the reader such an intimate connection to the fictitious atmosphere of the book, the natural remark and a beautiful, symbolic approach of expressing it, within the sequel, Updike attempts to hold the torch yet turns out to have run out of juice. Passages describing the elements or the previous city of Brewer simply do not hold a similar value no longer obvious via Harry's eyes, and the textual content has misplaced a few punch. i am not yes I completely purchase the entire scenarios he lays out for us the following -- like Janice having married Ronnie Harrison, Harry's daughter Annabelle rising from secrecy after Ruth dies, her having been sexually abused as a toddler via her followed father, etc. -- yet i suppose it truly is comforting to determine issues finish on a bit extra of an up-note than on the finish of the fourth novel. Now i am able to position this tale to bed.

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