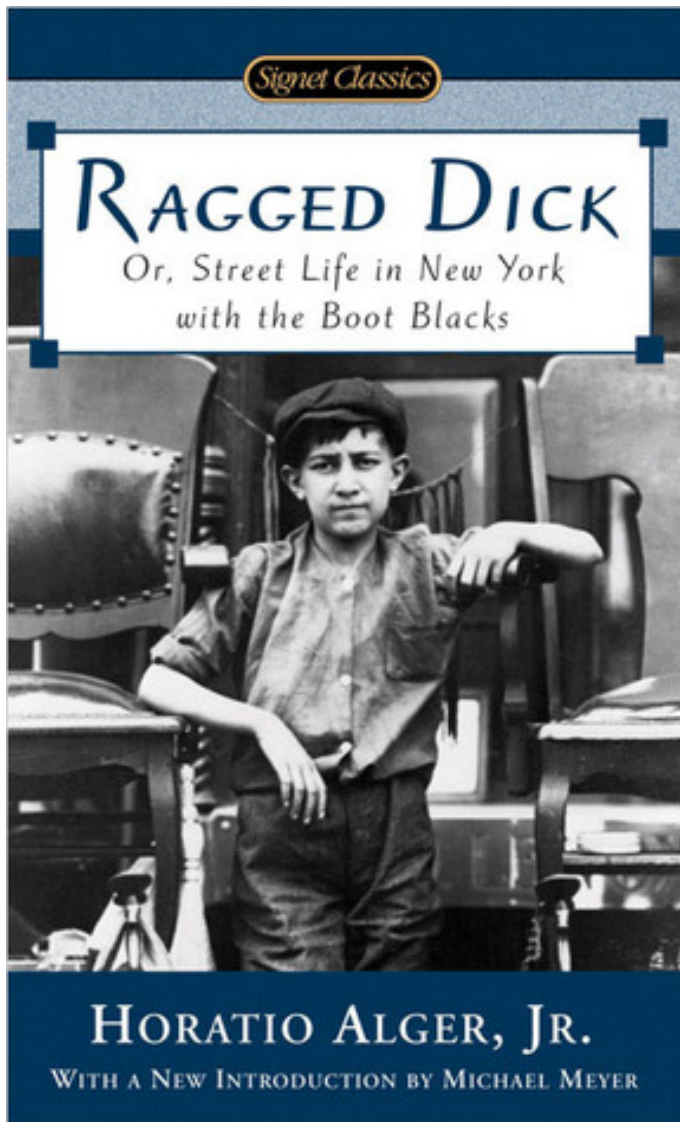

Horatio Alger Jr.

**Ragged Dick: Or, Street Life in New York with the Boot Blacks
(Ragged Dick series #1)**



Title: Ragged Dick: Or, Street Life in New York with the Boot Blacks (Ragged Dick series #1)

Author: Horatio Alger Jr.

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Description

A plucky street boy who smokes, gambles, and speaks ungrammatically, Dick is also honest and hardworking. A quintessential novel of adventure, romance, and coming-of-age, it is also an exhilarating tale of one boy's metamorphosis from dirty street urchin to gentleman.

Insightful reviews

aj lemasters: The first half of the story I was bored out of mind. However, I am not the kind of person to put down a book. Even if it makes me miserable. Magically at the half way point of "Ragged Dick," I actually began to enjoy the story. Maybe because I embraced the cheesy preachiness. "Ragged Dick" is an excellent read if you're looking for a mindless, slightly entertaining, predictable read as you ride the train to work.

Jim: Alger's most famous 'rags-to-riches' story isn't quite as dramatic of an ascent as I expected. Still, it's interesting reading, as it certainly helped to construct the rigid and contradictory set of moral values still (ostensibly) dominant in the US today. The protagonist possesses self-reliance, self-sacrifice, industriousness, scrupulous honesty, charity, fiscal responsibility--and as a relief to the reader, street smarts and incisive wit. Parts of the book also serve as a detailed travelogue of Manhattan in the 1860s when central park was still being constructed and the tallest building in the city was the Trinity Church.

The critical edition also contains a genuinely useful selection of historical texts, photos, maps and criticism.

I'm also very glad i didn't know Alger was a pedophile before reading this.

Karen Chung: I was looking for a bedtime audio book and this one came up on the Librivox site. "A Horatio Alger rags-to-riches story" is so often referenced in our culture and language that I thought I really should find out firsthand what they were like, and picked this one. It's the first in a series, and probably the best, judging from the comments of other readers. It was in later works that the plotlines became repetitive and stale - and Alger was very prolific.

Frankly, I *enjoyed* the book, quite a bit. The audio files are all around half an hour or less, making them a good choice for bedtime. You'll hear a chapter or two, then the audio device will stop automatically; longer chapters keep you awake too long or disturb your sleep. The plot may be hackneyed and not very plausible, but the story is fun and the writing is in fact very good. I really enjoyed hearing the descriptions of New York City in the 1860s, especially the parts about Central Park, which was in the middle of being constructed at this time. The language is vivid and lively, and echoed lots of what I've heard in Mark Twain's works, like "Bully!" and "Tiptop!" for 'good,', and "That wouldn't answer" for "That wouldn't do." The story mentions shillings, bills drawn on different banks, and typical scams of the period. Dick's pluck and chirpiness are a rather admirable role model - he's very articulate for an illiterate boy! (A point that stretches the plausibility of the story, but still fun.) The book includes lots of details on the finances of the characters, and the importance of dress and personal hygiene in how people form their judgments of others comes up constantly.

One little gem that I gleaned from the book and shared with my phonetician and English-teaching friends:

"The tapped /t/ in American English goes back to at least the mid-1800s:

From: Ragged Dick Or, Street Life in New York with the Boot-Blacks
by Horatio Alger, Jr. 1868.

CHAPTER IX

A SCENE IN A THIRD AVENUE CAR

The boys had turned into Third Avenue, a long street, which, commencing just below the Cooper Institute, runs out to Harlem. A man came out of a side street, uttering at intervals a monotonous cry which sounded like "glass puddin'."

"Glass pudding!" repeated Frank, looking in surprised wonder at Dick. "What does he mean?"

"Perhaps you'd like some," said Dick.

"I never heard of it before."

"Suppose you ask him what he charges for his puddin'."

Frank looked more narrowly at the man, and soon concluded that he was a glazier.

"Oh, I understand," he said. "He means 'glass put in.'"

Frank's mistake was not a singular one. The monotonous cry of these men certainly sounds more like "glass puddin'," than the words they intend to utter."

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/5...>

It did creep me out a bit to learn that Alger was a pedophile. I picked up on the homosexuality overtones in the chapter where Henry comes to stay with Dick and they share a small bed without difficulty. But we would be depriving ourselves of a lot of creative works if we let personal judgments of their creators guide us. So never mind all that and let the book stand on its own merits.

So, actually, if you're in the right mood for it, I recommend this book for an enjoyable, not very taxing leisure read.

Thom Swennes: Ragged Dick (published in 1868) is the 1st of a sequence of six books written for adolescent readers. The message of honesty and advantage gush from each web page yet regardless of this the tale catches the reader and places them squarely at the tough streets of latest York. Ragged Dick (Richard Hunter) is an orphaned boy that's creating a hand-to-mouth dwelling as a shoeshine boy at the streets of latest York. His confident angle and fast wit quickly endears him to the reader. His simple honesty and wonder elevate questions as to the story's total believability yet contemplating the specified age of the reader you could simply finish that the writer desired to provoke the message, "honesty is the easiest policy." during this age whilst kinfolk values appear to be missing within the world's early life i discovered this e-book either inspiring and refreshing. As i've got pointed out the writer wrote it for younger readers; i believe readers of every age might and probably may benefit from the exploits of Ragged Dick.

Mister: Wow. simply wow. This booklet is perhaps intended for a more youthful viewers and that i definitely want I had learn it whilst i used to be younger. however it has been many years in view that I learn a ebook that made me suppose so encouraged while i used to be finished. In brief, Ragged Dick starts off his brief story as a tender vagabond in ny City. He retains an almost perpetual jovial air approximately him regardless of his harsh daily dwelling as a shoeshiner. not like many boys in his circumstances, he's decidedly virtuous as he abhors dishonesty and theft. this isn't for loss of temptation, as he info events the place he got here with regards to stealing. In addition, Dick is generous. He is helping others while he can. This seems to be regularly as, having lived at the streets, he's partial to many of the skill conmen use to swindle others within the city. On a number of occasions, Dick steps in to discover restitution for a few bad person who has been conned or thwarts a con in progress. At the outset of the story, Dick's faults are listed. regardless of his meager means, he's a spendthrift, frequently utilizing all of his day-by-day profits on cigars and gambling, perpetuating his circumstances. However, early on he makes buddies with Frank, a tender boy from out of city who lives a greater way of life than him. Frank's uncle does not have time to offer him a travel of town and Dick, with an ever willing eye for business, deals to take the boy around. in the course of their tour, Frank learns the situations of Dick's existence and so they constructed an in depth bond. Frank sees in Dick the aptitude to be a superb guy sooner or later and encourages him to proceed his sincere living. whereas the come upon with an individual of higher skill with him makes Dick acutely aware of his personal station in life, Dick resolves to turn into knowledgeable and keep his money, starting the gradual ascension up the social ladder. And that is primarily what units Dick's existence on "The street to Respectability." Dick ardently adheres to his promise, incomes and saving, getting an education, and carrying on with in his process honesty and generosity. a number of occasions progressively bring up up Dick's station ever so a bit of until eventually we succeed in the tip of the tale with desire for his future. Yes, the tale is simplistic and maybe overly optimistic. but while feels so actual and inspirational that i will not aid yet love it. i actually wanted this publication right away in my existence as i have been lovely down approximately everything. yet "Richard Hunter, Esq." serves as a version i will be able to adhere to, and optimistically locate someplace i will slot in in life. i've got no disgrace in my adoration of this little novella.

Gale: "Gamin Overcoming Adversity within the City" Set at the callous streets of submit Civil warfare big apple this 130-page novelette introduces readers to a brand new style through providing a cocky road lad dubbed Ragged Dick. This new style protagonist, usually known as

“Our Hero,” is certainly one of a loose military of boot blacks, fending for themselves almost friendless in a opposed city. owning highway smarts past his years, in addition to a beneficent nature, Dick proves immediately likeable--for his beauty (when now not grime-covered) and his saucy repartee in saucy urban dialogue. regardless of being illiterate and homeless he ekes out a hand-to-mouth existence—allowing himself meager night and culinary pleasures as his source of revenue permits. Dick additionally earns the honour and empathy of readers by way of his beneficent activities towards boys more youthful and extra helpless than himself. with out grownup information he has been cheerfully surviving on his personal considering that he used to be seven. via encounters with a number of dignified and prosperous gentlemen—mostly his customers--Dick gets unforeseen kindness and invaluable recommendation on the right way to enhance his lowly station in life. quickly it turns into his aim to paintings hard, store up and get an schooling somehow—in order to make himself “respectable” a few day. Christian ethics are expressed via numerous characters who exhort him to perform an ethical and humane lifestyle. As Dick has many adventures which indicate the perils of urban highway life, this ebook can also have served as a cautionary story for boys who have been contemplating working away—assuming they can read. Alger signifies that luck could be in attaining via dint of tough work, own dedication, honesty and fresh living: no gambling, frequenting track halls, drinking, smoking, stealing or lying. keen boys may perhaps infer that they too may be the authors in their own, usually-elusive, stable Luck! (September 1, 2012. I welcome discussion with teachers.)

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