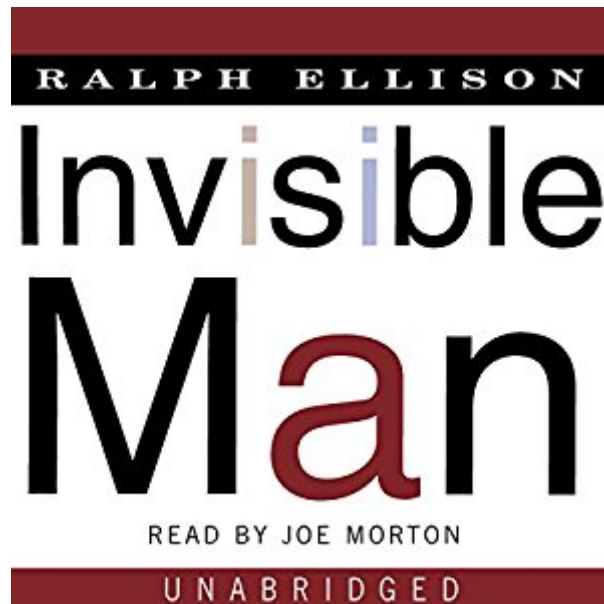




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Invisible Man: A Novel



Synopsis

Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is a monumental novel, one that can well be called an epic of 20th-century African-American life. It is a strange story, in which many extraordinary things happen, some of them shocking and brutal, some of them pitiful and touching - yet always with elements of comedy and irony and burlesque that appear in unexpected places. After a brief prologue, the story begins with a terrifying experience from the hero's high-school days; it then moves quickly to the campus of a "Southern Negro college" and then to New York's Harlem, where most of the action takes place. The many people that the hero meets in the course of his wanderings are remarkably various, complex and significant. With them he becomes involved in an amazing series of adventures, in which he is sometimes befriended but more often deceived and betrayed - as much by himself and his own illusions as by the duplicity and the blindness of others. *Invisible Man* is not only a great triumph of storytelling and characterization; it is a profound and uncompromising interpretation of the anomalous position of blacks in American society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a must read and it's on many lists from band books, to award winning lists, and for a very good reason. Must Read. What's it about? Read it. It doesn't start off slow, he hits the ground running and like a fish keeps you hooked. He shows why he became the invisible man. Awesome.

Although I have only just gotten past chapter 10, I am already captivated by this book. The story explores the plights of racial inequality and civil rights in a satirical manner, making it hilarious at

times albeit in a dark sense. I would recommend this book for anyone who loves a complex story; it does take a while to get through, but already I can tell that it is worth a second read.

This book is hands down my favorite novel I have ever read. I originally read it as a high school senior as part of a class project, only because it was the most quoted book on the AP Lit exam. Little did I know how lucky I was to have so arbitrarily picked this particular book to read. Ellison's writing is truly poetic in every sense. Those who have read his other fiction works know that this book is quite tame and direct for Ellison's style which by no means makes it simple to read. I strongly believe that this book is best read in a group setting and with the help of spark notes to help you extract all the symbolism that is so heavily laden in the text. On the surface it may just seem as a tragic, quasi-(albeit darkly) comical story of a young black man trying to make a living in the US, but underneath there are some seriously heavy messages and political nuances commenting on the racial structure of life in the States. My personal tastes lean to Russian literature of the 19th century which tend to make great use of ambiance and literary scenery to shade and reflect the story, which could be how I managed to so thoroughly enjoy a book that I will admit does tend to spend a great deal of time talking about things which are very easy to think don't matter. My best advice is to buy the book and read it giving the proper time to digest, not to rush through the book and arrive at the conclusion utterly bewildered and believing to have wasted your time. I truly believe Ellison to be a literary master, and the entire book is purposeful in its execution. As Stravinsky purposefully uses dissonance to augment the beauty of the Firebird, Ellison bends rules and shapes the tale using all manners available to him. Well worth the read, with one caveat; patience.

A strange and wonderful book. I expected a fairly conventional look at America from a black point of view in the early 20th century. Instead, it is a poetical, political, phantasmagorical story of an individual's education in blackness, America, and the human condition. This book has been more than adequately reviewed by other contributors; I would simply suggest that it is an essential part of American literature, and essential reading for anyone who is interested in how America became what it is.

I am enjoying this book immensely. The writing is really great and I love hearing the audible as the narrator uses many different accents and voices. It is wonderful, descriptive writing about being an "invisible" goody two shoes black man living in the south.

I probably read this book for the first time in college five decades ago. My book club selected it in February because of Black History month. I found this book to be about matters of identity and of how to engage in a world which is so very far from being perfect, a path that challenges us in our youth. Ellison's mind is brilliant. The prose seemed dated and at times stilted, but discussing this with my peers was extremely enriching.

This book was written in the 1950's and was very controversial during that time however the book won several awards and was a required read when I was in high school during the 1980's. My book club decided to read the book and I am glad we did. Excellent book! The quality of the book was used but in otherwise very good condition and the seller had the book delivery in a timely manner.

I was impressed with HG Wells writings of the Invisible Man and decided to purchase more books by Mr. Wells. The writings of how the invisible man would have to live and dress is a thought provoking twist to the thought of what his life would truly be like, especially the vision aspect. As a child I thought it would be cool to be invisible but after reading this book and the effects I have decided all the movies I have watched glamourized the ability to be invisible. Great read

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