

harold robbins the carpetbaggers

Harold Robbins the Carpetbaggers: An In-Depth Exploration of the Classic Novel and Its Impact

Introduction to Harold Robbins and "The Carpetbaggers"

Harold Robbins the Carpetbaggers is a phrase that immediately evokes the iconic 1961 novel by Harold Robbins, a prolific American author known for his provocative and glamorous storytelling. "The Carpetbaggers" is considered one of Robbins's most influential works, capturing the tumultuous era of post-Civil War America and the subsequent rise of Hollywood and business tycoons. This novel not only cemented Robbins's reputation as a master storyteller but also played a significant role in shaping American popular culture's perception of ambition, wealth, and power during the mid-20th century.

Overview of "The Carpetbaggers"

Plot Summary

"The Carpetbaggers" chronicles the life of Jonas Cord, a young man who rises from humble beginnings to become a wealthy and influential figure in the entertainment industry and beyond. The story spans several decades, exploring themes of greed, love, betrayal, and political ambition. Robbins weaves a narrative filled with complex characters and scandalous affairs, set against the backdrop of America's rapid economic growth and social change.

The novel traces Jonas Cord's journey from his early days in the South, navigating the aftermath of the Civil War, to his ventures into Hollywood and the high-stakes world of business and politics. Throughout, Robbins delves into the personal struggles and moral ambiguities faced by his characters, reflecting the darker side of the American Dream.

Historical and Cultural Context

Published during a time of significant social upheaval, "The Carpetbaggers" resonated with readers interested in stories of ambition and enterprise during America's postwar boom. The title itself alludes to the term "carpetbagger," historically used to describe Northerners who moved to the South after the Civil War, often perceived as opportunists. Robbins's use of this term symbolizes the novel's themes of opportunism and the ruthless pursuit of success.

The book offers a vivid portrayal of Hollywood's golden age, the rise of television, and the political landscape of America from the 1920s through the 1950s. Its detailed depiction of these eras provides insight into the social dynamics and economic forces that shaped modern America.

Themes and Motifs in "The Carpetbaggers"

Ambition and Power

At its core, the novel explores the relentless pursuit of success. Jonas Cord's ascent exemplifies how ambition can drive individuals to achieve greatness but also lead to moral compromise. Robbins portrays the allure of power and wealth, emphasizing that these pursuits often come with ethical dilemmas.

Glamour and Scandal

Robbins's narrative is rich with depictions of Hollywood's glitz and the scandalous lives of its stars. The novel exposes the darker, often hidden, facets of fame and fortune, highlighting the seductive nature of Hollywood glamour and the cost of living in the fast lane.

Love and Betrayal

Interpersonal relationships form a significant part of the story, illustrating how personal and professional lives intertwine. Themes of love, betrayal, loyalty, and revenge are woven throughout, adding depth to the characters' journeys.

Political and Social Commentary

Robbins subtly critiques American capitalism, the influence of political power, and the social stratification of the era. The novel reflects on how economic success can be intertwined with corruption and moral decay.

Characters in "The Carpetbaggers"

- **Jonas Cord:** The protagonist, an ambitious entrepreneur who builds an empire from modest beginnings.
- **Hannah:** Jonas's love interest, whose complex relationship with him underscores themes of loyalty and sacrifice.
- **Preston Drake:** A rival businessman embodying corporate greed and rivalry.
- **Alice Abbott:** A Hollywood starlet whose life reflects the glamour and tragedy of fame.
- **Various political figures and industry insiders:** Representing the intertwined worlds of politics, business, and entertainment.

Impact and Legacy of "The Carpetbaggers"

Controversy and Criticism

Upon its release, "The Carpetbaggers" faced both acclaim and controversy. Critics praised Robbins's vivid storytelling and insight into American capitalism, but some accused the novel of sensationalism and moral ambiguity. The book's candid depiction of sex, greed, and corruption pushed the boundaries of acceptable literature at the time.

Adaptations and Cultural Influence

The novel was adapted into a successful film in 1964, starring George Peppard as Jonas Cord. The movie further popularized the story, reaching audiences who may not have read the book. Robbins's depiction of Hollywood's golden era influenced subsequent portrayals of the entertainment industry in popular culture.

The themes of "The Carpetbaggers" have continued to resonate, inspiring other works that explore similar topics of ambition, morality, and societal change.

Robbins's Literary Significance

Harold Robbins is often credited with pioneering the "blockbuster" novel, characterized by its large scope, sensational content, and appeal to mass audiences. "The Carpetbaggers" exemplifies this style, blending drama, romance, and social critique.

His work helped shape the genre of American commercial fiction and influenced writers who sought to explore similar themes of wealth and power.

Conclusion: Why "The Carpetbaggers" Remains Relevant

Harold Robbins the Carpetbaggers stands as a testament to the complexities of American ambition and the seductive allure of success. Its vivid characters, intricate plotlines, and commentary on societal values continue to captivate readers and scholars alike. The novel's portrayal of Hollywood, politics, and business offers a compelling mirror to American history and culture.

Whether viewed as a sensational saga or a critical exploration of the American Dream, "The Carpetbaggers" remains an essential piece of American literary and cultural history. It exemplifies Robbins's talent for storytelling and his ability to capture the zeitgeist of an era marked by rapid change, opportunity, and moral ambiguity.

Further Reading and Resources

- [Harold Robbins Official Website](#)
- "The Carpetbaggers" Novel (1961) - Available in print and digital formats
- Film adaptation: "The Carpetbaggers" (1964)
- Critical analyses of Robbins's work in literary journals and cultural studies

For anyone interested in American literature, Hollywood history, or stories of ambition and power, "The Carpetbaggers" by Harold Robbins offers a compelling and insightful read that continues to influence and inspire decades after its publication.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of Harold Robbins' novel 'The Carpetbaggers'?

'The Carpetbaggers' follows the life of Nevada Gray, a young woman who becomes involved in the aviation industry and the glamorous, often tumultuous world of Hollywood and business during the post-World War II era.

Why is 'The Carpetbaggers' considered a controversial book?

The novel is known for its explicit depiction of sex, violence, and greed, which sparked controversy upon its release and has kept it a subject of debate for its candid portrayal of American ambitions and moral ambiguity.

How did Harold Robbins' 'The Carpetbaggers' influence American literature and pop culture?

The book popularized the genre of glamorous, sensational storytelling about wealth, power, and ambition, influencing future bestsellers and adaptations in film and television, and helping establish Robbins as a leading author of the era.

Has 'The Carpetbaggers' been adapted into other media?

Yes, 'The Carpetbaggers' was adapted into a film in 1964, starring George Peppard and Carroll Baker, which brought further popularity to the novel and its themes.

What are common themes explored in 'The Carpetbaggers'?

The novel explores themes of greed, ambition, corruption, sexuality, and the American Dream, highlighting both its allure and its darker side.

Is 'The Carpetbaggers' still relevant today?

Yes, its themes of ambition, greed, and moral complexity remain relevant, and it continues to be studied and discussed as a reflection of American culture and the pursuit of success in the 20th century.

Additional Resources

Harold Robbins The Carpetbaggers: An In-Depth Look at a Literary Phenomenon

Introduction

Harold Robbins The Carpetbaggers—these words evoke the image of a controversial and influential novel that not only captivated readers in the 1960s but also sparked debates about morality, ambition, and the American Dream. As a cornerstone of American popular fiction, Robbins' The Carpetbaggers stands as a testament to the author's ability to blend scandal, glamour, and historical context into a compelling narrative. This article offers a comprehensive exploration of Robbins' The Carpetbaggers, examining its background, themes, impact, and enduring legacy within the literary landscape.

The Origins of Harold Robbins and the Birth of The Carpetbaggers

Harold Robbins: A Brief Biography

Before delving into the novel itself, it's essential to understand the man behind it. Harold Robbins (1916–1997) was a prolific American author renowned for his sensationalist fiction that often explored themes of sex, wealth, and power. His books frequently drew from his own experiences in Hollywood and the business world, giving his stories a gritty authenticity.

Robbins' career was marked by a series of successes and controversies. Starting as a nightclub singer and later working in the film industry, Robbins had firsthand exposure to the glamour and corruption of Hollywood and high society. This background heavily influenced his writing style—fast-paced, vivid, and provocative.

The Genesis of The Carpetbaggers

Published in 1961, The Carpetbaggers was Robbins' most ambitious work at the time. The novel was inspired by the tumultuous post-World War II era, capturing the rise of American capitalism and the transformation of Hollywood into a global entertainment empire. Robbins aimed to craft a sweeping saga that intertwined the personal ambitions of a fictional character, Jonas Cord, with the larger socio-economic shifts of the era.

The title itself, The Carpetbaggers, alludes to the Northerners who moved South during the Reconstruction era—symbolic of outsiders seeking opportunity

amid chaos. Robbins repurposed this metaphor to depict ambitious entrepreneurs and schemers navigating the American landscape of the 20th century.

Exploring the Themes and Content of The Carpetbaggers

A Portrait of Ambition and Power

At its core, *The Carpetbaggers* explores the relentless pursuit of success. The protagonist, Jonas Cord, is a self-made man whose journey from humble beginnings to Hollywood magnate epitomizes the American Dream—albeit one that comes with moral compromises.

Robbins vividly portrays how ambition can lead to both greatness and moral decay. The novel depicts characters driven by greed, desire, and the thirst for influence, often crossing ethical boundaries. This duality creates a complex narrative that questions whether the pursuit of wealth justifies the means.

Hollywood and the American Dream

Robbins' insider knowledge of Hollywood lends authenticity to the novel's portrayal of the entertainment industry. *The Carpetbaggers* depicts Hollywood as a land of illusions, where glamour masks corruption, exploitation, and ruthless business practices.

The narrative explores:

- The rise of film moguls and their monopolistic control.
- The influence of money on art and culture.
- The intersection of celebrity and scandal.

This depiction was groundbreaking at the time, offering readers an unvarnished look behind the curtains of Tinseltown.

Sex, Scandal, and Moral Ambiguity

Robbins was known for not shying away from explicit content, and *The Carpetbaggers* is no exception. The novel features numerous scenes involving sexuality, infidelity, and personal betrayal, reflecting the hedonism of the era.

This frankness was both a selling point and a source of controversy, as critics accused Robbins of sensationalism. Nevertheless, these elements serve to deepen character development and highlight the moral complexities faced by Robbins' protagonists.

Historical and Social Context

Set against the backdrop of post-WWII America, the novel captures a period of rapid economic growth, technological innovation, and societal change. Robbins incorporates real historical figures and events, weaving them into his fictional narrative to create a rich tapestry of the era.

Themes of political influence, corporate power, and societal transformation are woven throughout the story, making the novel not just a personal saga but also a reflection of American history.

The Impact and Reception of The Carpetbaggers

Commercial Success and Cultural Influence

The Carpetbaggers was a massive bestseller, spending multiple weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and selling millions of copies worldwide. Its popularity can be attributed to Robbins' accessible writing style, sensational content, and timely themes.

The novel's success also led to a Hollywood adaptation in 1964, directed by Edward Dmytryk, starring Burt Lancaster, George Segal, and Julie Andrews. The film, like the book, was controversial for its explicit content and candid portrayal of Hollywood scandals, further cementing Robbins' reputation as a provocateur.

Critical Reception and Controversies

While commercially successful, The Carpetbaggers received mixed reviews from critics. Some praised Robbins for his storytelling prowess and insightful depiction of American capitalism, while others dismissed the novel as shallow and exploitative.

Critics argued that Robbins' focus on scandal and sensationalism overshadowed literary merit. Nevertheless, the novel's influence persisted, inspiring a wave of similar "blockbuster" fiction that prioritized entertainment over literary depth.

Legacy in Popular Culture

The novel's influence extended beyond literature and film. It helped shape public perceptions of Hollywood as a place of both glamour and corruption. Robbins' candid approach challenged the sanitized image of the entertainment industry, paving the way for more gritty portrayals in later works.

Moreover, The Carpetbaggers cemented Robbins' reputation as a master of the sensational blockbuster, inspiring countless authors and screenwriters.

The Enduring Legacy of The Carpetbaggers

A Reflection of American Ambition

Decades after its publication, The Carpetbaggers remains a compelling reflection of American entrepreneurial spirit—its heights and pitfalls. The novel captures the zeitgeist of a transformative period in American history, illustrating how ambition can both elevate and corrupt.

Robbins' portrayal of the pursuit of wealth and power resonates even today, serving as a cautionary tale as much as a celebration of the American Dream.

Critical Reevaluation and Academic Interest

Over the years, literary scholars have revisited Robbins' work, analyzing its themes, narrative structure, and cultural significance. Some view The Carpetbaggers as a pioneering work of American "potboiler" fiction that broke taboos and expanded the scope of popular literature.

Others critique it for its moral ambiguity and sensationalism, reflecting broader debates about the responsibilities of writers in portraying society.

Influence on Modern Fiction and Media

Robbins' work, including *The Carpetbaggers*, influenced the development of the modern celebrity and Hollywood exposé genres. Its blend of biography, history, and fiction laid groundwork for later works that explore the dark underbelly of fame and wealth.

Today, the novel's themes are echoed in contemporary films, television dramas, and novels that explore similar terrain—highlighting the enduring relevance of Robbins' storytelling.

Conclusion

Harold Robbins' *The Carpetbaggers* is more than just a sensational bestseller; it is a mirror to a transformative era in American history. Through its vivid characters, scandalous content, and incisive commentary on ambition, the novel remains a significant cultural artifact. Its legacy endures not only as a testament to Robbins' storytelling prowess but also as a reflection of the complex American pursuit of success—sometimes noble, sometimes corrupt, but always compelling. As readers continue to explore its pages, *The Carpetbaggers* invites us to question the true cost of ambition and the price of the American Dream.

Harold Robbins The Carpetbaggers

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: The Carpetbaggers Harold Robbins, 2007-05-01 A sizzling tale of ambition, lust, and power in the glittering world of old Hollywood Jonas Cord coveted his father's fame, fortune, and even his young, beautiful wife. When his father died, Jonas swore to possess them all. But Rina Marlow was the celebrated screen goddess no man could master. Her sensuality inflamed and enthralled millions, but her personal life was no Hollywood fantasy. She consumed her lovers on the fiery rack of her burning desires. Rina and Jonas took Hollywood and America by storm, brawling and lusting as they carved out an empire blazoned in headlines and enemies' blood. But money, power, revenge and renown were not enough for these two. The higher they soared, the darker and deadlier their fiery passions grew. *Carpetbaggers* is a legendary masterpiece of historical fiction that boldly explores sex, power and the early days of Hollywood. This provocative classic offers a graphic depiction of the film industry and the scorching desires that drove it. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: The Raiders Harold Robbins, 1995 Jonas Cord, Jr., is tormented by his father's death, Nevada Smith reappears, and Jonas' daughter and son determine to outdo him

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: RAIDERS T.L. MILLER, 2004-09-15 Living in the threat of the third war, John Daniels follows his family tradition and begins training his child to survive. At the age of five, she is taught different styles of martial arts as well as hunting, tracking, and traps. The untimely death of the child's parents throws her into the middle of the war to use what she has learned. One day at a time, Kimber Daniels survives as she was raised to do. Anger for the people responsible for her parents' death pushes her down the path of revenge. Along the way, the vengeful

survivalist discovers she isn't alone on the path of hate and unknowingly forms what would turn out to be the most dangerous rebel group of that war. The Raiders. Nothing left to lose; the rebels wage their own war on the enemy in a fight for their home and lives. YEAR: 2420 Four hundred years after Earth's third war, Supreme Commander Radkins, self appointed leader of the Alterrian nation discovers the groups' talents. In the middle of a war he started, he develops an interest in the group and what they could offer his troops. The high-tech time he lives in has the best weapons to offer, skilled pilots as well as battle ships powerful enough to destroy planets. The technology of the years had taken away from the people however. Trained to survive a push button world, ground assaults were nothing but stories to the military of this time. Sights set on the rebels from Earth's past; Radkins develops a time ship, the Epoch-Hie, to bring the group to his war. Depending on the fact that they were traitors to their country and government, he planned to buy their services. He had no doubts that for the right price, the Raiders would help him over power and enslave the Galithians who were fighting the rebellion against him. Upon discovering Radkins plans, the rebellion is faced with yet another problem in defeating the Alterrian forces. Barely surviving as it was, they would not be able to withstand what the Raiders could do to the rebellion. Appointed to find the group, Major Kile Dorant and the pilots of Fire Squad begin the search. Reading the groups past in the history is alarming to say the least. Known as traitors, murderers, and deserters, the Raiders training and skills would undoubtedly destroy the rebellion if Radkins succeeded in using the group against them.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: *The Advocate* , 1995-08-22 The Advocate is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) monthly newsmagazine. Established in 1967, it is the oldest continuing LGBT publication in the United States.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: The Carpetbaggers Harold Robbins, 1977

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: **The Looters** Harold Robbins, Junius Podrug, 2008-08-26 Money and ego turn the quest for art into a deadly business in which the super-rich battle to possess the rarest and most beautiful objet d'art on Earth: the golden death mask of the Queen of Babylon.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: **Cinderella and the Carpetbagger** Grace Robbins, Rarus Brandi, 1934-09-15 When she pulled *The Carpetbaggers* off the shelf, looking for a good read to while away the weekend, Grace Palermo never imagined that she would soon meet the book's international best-selling author, let alone spend the next thirty years of her life with him. When Grace and Harold met, his career was already well established, but over the next thirty years, his fame would become legendary, as did their lifestyle together. This engrossing memoir spans the 60s, 70s, and 80s, in all their hallucinogenic and freewheeling splendor. The couple was at the center of a globetrotting jet set, with mansions in Beverly Hills, villas and yachts in the South of France and Acapulco, known for their lavish and sometimes orgiastic parties. Their life together rivaled that of the characters in Harold's books, but in the privacy of their home things weren't always as they seemed. Not only does Grace Robbins reveal what it was like to live alongside the prince of sex and scandal, but she also takes us on a journey of rollicking good fun, be it through anecdotes of a chance meeting with Pablo Picasso, a lifetime friendship with James Baldwin, or a racy evening in Hamburg with composer Frederick Lowe. With charm, introspection, and humor, Grace lays open her fascinating, roller-coaster ride, Cinderella tale--and the secrets she harbored for some forty years.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: **79 Park Avenue** Harold Robbins, 2011 A tale from master storyteller Harold Robbins ... Marja starts out a tough girl from the mean streets of New York. Ambitious and driven, over time she rises from street urchin to stripper, later re-inventing herself as Maryann Flood, the queen of an empire of pleasure. From her posh Park Avenue office, Maryann provides access to exciting and sensual women to sate the desires of New York's most powerful men. All is well--until Maryann runs afoul of the law and leaves her empire facing destruction. Arrested for procurement, blackmail, and bribery, she must face prosecutor Mike Keynes, who stands to benefit greatly by bringing her down--and who is facing a dilemma himself. He loves Maryann, and she loves him in return. Now he faces a choice: set aside his personal feelings for the sake of justice, or fall under Maryann's seductive spell and betray his life's work. The inspiration for the highly rated 1977 miniseries of the same name, *79 Park Avenue* tells a sizzling

tale of lust, power, and corruption.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: The American Popular Novel After World War II

David Willbern, 2013-04-05 Through the perspectives of selected best-selling novels from the end of World War II to the end of the 20th century—including *The Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Godfather*, *Jaws*, *Beloved*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, and *Jurassic Park*--this book examines the crucial issues the U.S. was experiencing during those decades. These novels represent the voices of popular conversations, as Americans considered issues of family, class, racism and sexism, feminism, economic ambition, sexual violence, war, law, religion and science. Through the windows of fiction, the book surveys the Cold War and anti-communism, the prefeminist era of the 1950s and the sexual revolution of the 1970s, forms of corporate power in the 1960s and 1980s, the traumatic legacies of slavery and Vietnam, the American fascination with lawyers, cops and criminals, alternate styles of romance in the era of late capitalism, our abiding distrust of science, and our steadfast wonder about the Great Mysteries.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: Our Times A. N. Wilson, 2011-01-04 When Queen

Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953, many proclaimed the start of a new Elizabethan Age. Few had any inkling, however, of the stupendous changes that would occur over the next fifty years, both in Britain and around the world. In *Our Times*, A. N. Wilson takes the reader on an exhilarating journey through postwar Britain. With his acute eye not just for the broad social and cultural sweep but also for the telling detail, he brilliantly distills half a century of unprecedented social and political change. Here are the defining events and characters of the modern age, from the Suez crisis to Vietnam, from the Beatles to Princess Diana. Here are the Angry Young Men, the rise of pop culture and celebrity, industrial unrest and the Winter of Discontent, the Thatcher era and the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union. This book propels the reader from postwar austerity, to the end of the British Empire and the emergence of America as a superpower, to the multicultural Britain of today. With *Our Times*, Wilson triumphantly concludes the acclaimed trilogy that opened with *The Victorians* and was followed by *After the Victorians*. *Our Times* makes compelling reading for anyone interested in the forces that have shaped our world.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: The Adventurers Harold Robbins, 2010 A story of revolution and danger in the sultry jungles of South America. As a young boy, Diogenes Alejandro Xenos witnesses the murder of his mother and sister by a band of marauders. As Dax grows to adulthood, he channels his fear and hatred into a desire for revolution, swearing revenge on those in power as he upsets the status quo.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: The Jewish Phenomenon Steve Silbiger, 2000-05-25 With truly startling statistics and a wealth of anecdotes, Silbiger reveals the cultural principles that form the bedrock of Jewish success in America.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: Engulfed Bernard F. Dick, 2021-09-22 From *Double Indemnity* (1944) to *The Godfather* (1972), the stories behind some of the greatest films ever made pale beside the story of the studio that made them. In the golden age of Hollywood, Paramount was one of the Big Five studios. Gulf + Western's 1966 takeover of the studio signaled the end of one era and heralded the arrival of a new way of doing business in Hollywood. Bernard F. Dick reconstructs the battle that reduced the studio to a mere corporate commodity and traces Paramount's devolution from freestanding studio to subsidiary—first of Gulf + Western, then of Paramount Communications, and currently, of Viacom-CBS. Dick portrays the new Paramount as a paradigm of today's Hollywood, where the only real art is the art of the deal. In modern Hollywood, former merchandising executives find themselves in charge of production on the assumption that anyone who can sell a movie can make one. CEOs exit in disgrace from one studio, only to emerge in triumph at another. Corporate raiders vie for power and control, purchasing and selling film libraries, studio property, television stations, book publishers, and more. The history of Paramount is filled with larger-than-life people, including Billy Wilder, Adolph Zukor, Sumner Redstone, Shari Redstone, Sherry Lansing, Barry Diller, Michael Eisner, Jeffrey Katzenberg, and more.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: Literature Suppressed on Sexual Grounds Dawn B.

Sova, 2006 Literature Suppressed on Social Grounds, Revised Edition discusses writings that have been banned over the centuries because they offended or merely ignored official truths; challenged widely held assumptions; or contained ideas or language unacceptable to a state, religious institution, or private moral watchdog. The entries new to this edition include the Captain Underpants series, *We All Fall Down* by Robert Cormier, and *Jake and Honeybunch Go to Heaven* by Margaret Zemach. Also included are updates to the censorship histories of such books as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Of Mice and Men*.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: *Adrian Mole: The Prostrate Years* Sue Townsend, 2018-01-02 The final chapter in the beloved chronicles of an angsty Brit begun in *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾* is “a tour de force by a comic genius” (Daily Mail). Am I turning into one of those middle-aged men who think the country has gone to the dogs and that there has been no decent music since Abba? Hard to believe! Adrian Mole is pushing forty, a beleaguered bookseller looking back through the wistful eyes of an unrecognized intellectual and, admittedly, pretty much of an Everyman. But he’s also looking forward, despite a few things: His five-year-old daughter is showing alarming Stalinist traits; his son is fighting the Taliban and he’s worried sick; his unfaithful wife is keeping a diary of her own and it’s all rather heartbreaking; frequent urination has made him fear trouble “down there;” and his mother is penning a misery memoir that is one gross slog of a lie (born an aristocrat in a Norfolk potato field, indeed!). Then one day he receives a phone call out of the blue from the great and only love of his life: Pandora Braithwaite. “Do you think of me?” she asks. Only ever since he was 13¾ . . . Adrian Mole’s epic and hilarious chronicle of angst over a quarter century has sold more than twenty million copies worldwide, and been adapted for television and staged as a musical—truly “a phenomenon” (The Washington Post). This final volume is “like rediscovering an old school friend on Facebook” (Time Out), and “if [it] isn’t the best book published this year, I’ll eat my bookshelf” (Daily Mail).

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: *The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film* Alan Goble, 2011-09-08 No detailed description available for *The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film*.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: *The Predators* Harold Robbins, 1998 The last novel of Harold Robbins, finished not long before his death in 1997, traces the gaudy, reckless life of Jerry Cooper, his life in organized crime and his entrance into the world of high-powered international business. By the author of *The Carpetbaggers* and *The Betsy*.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: *Another Life* Michael Korda, 2011-12-21 In his remarkable memoir, at once frank, audacious, canny, and revealing, Michael Korda, the author of *Charmed Lives* and *Queenie*, does for the world of books what Moss Hart did for the theater in *Act One*, and succeeds triumphantly in making publishing seem as exciting (and as full of great characters) as the stage. *Another Life* is not just an adventure--the engaging and often hilarious story of a young man making his career--but the insider's story of how a cottage industry metamorphosed into a big business, with sometimes alarming results for all concerned. Korda writes with grace, humor, and a shrewd eye, not only about himself and his rise from a lowly (but not humble) assistant editor reading the slush pile of manuscripts to a famous editor in chief of a major publishing house, but also about the celebrities and writers with whom he worked over four decades. Here are portraits--rare, intimate, always keenly observed--of such larger-than-life figures as Ronald Reagan, affable and good-natured but the most reluctant of authors, struggling with his ghosted presidential autobiography; Richard Nixon, seen here as a genial, if bizarrely detached, host; superagent Irving Lazar, pursuing his endless deals and dreams of class; retired Mafia boss Joseph Bonanno, the last of the old-time dons, laboring over his own version of his life in his desert retreat; Joan Crawford, giving Korda her rules for successful living; and countless other greats, near greats, and would-be greats. Here too are famous writers, sometimes eccentric, sometimes infuriating, sometimes lost souls, captured memorably by someone who was close to them for years: Graham Greene, in pursuit of his FBI file and a Nobel Prize; Tennessee Williams, wrestling unsuccessfully with his demons; Jacqueline Susann, facing and conquering the dreaded second-novel syndrome after the stunning

success of Valley of the Dolls; Harold Robbins (who had to be guarded under lock and key and made to finish his novels), struggling to keep the IRS at bay from the deck of his yacht; Carlos Castaneda, at his most sorcerously charming, described--at last--in detail, as he really was, by one of the few people who knew him well; not to mention Richard Adams, Will and Ariel Durant, Susan Howatch, S. J. Perelman, Fannie Hurst, Larry McMurtry, and many, many more. Parts of this book that have appeared in The New Yorker over the years have brought Korda great acclaim--the chapter about Jacqueline Susann has been made into a major motion picture. Here at last, entertaining and provocative and always hugely readable, is the whole story--a book as engaging and full of life as Korda's highly acclaimed memoir of his family, Charmed Lives, about which Irwin Shaw wrote: I don't know when I have enjoyed a book more.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: Adventure, Mystery, and Romance John G. Cawelt, 2014-02-07 In this first general theory for the analysis of popular literary formulas, John G. Cawelti reveals the artistry that underlies the best in formulaic literature. Cawelti discusses such seemingly diverse works as Mario Puzo's The Godfather, Dorothy Sayers's The Nine Tailors, and Owen Wister's The Virginian in the light of his hypotheses about the cultural function of formula literature. He describes the most important artistic characteristics of popular formula stories and the differences between this literature and that commonly labeled high or serious literature. He also defines the archetypal patterns of adventure, mystery, romance, melodrama, and fantasy, and offers a tentative account of their basis in human psychology.

harold robbins the carpetbaggers: Showman of the Screen A. T. McKenna, 2016-11-01 Short, immaculately dressed, and shockingly foul-mouthed, Joseph E. Levine (1905-1987) was larger than life. He rose from poverty in Boston's West End to become one of postwar Hollywood's most prolific independent promoters, distributors, and producers. Alternately respected and reviled, this master of movie promotion was responsible for bringing films as varied as Godzilla: King of the Monsters! (1956), Hercules (1958), The Graduate (1967), The Lion in Winter (1968), and A Bridge Too Far (1977) to American audiences. In the first biography of this controversial pioneer, A. T. McKenna traces Levine's rise as an influential packager of popular culture. He explores the mogul's pivotal role in many significant industry innovations from the 1950s to the 1970s, examining his use of saturation release tactics and bombastic advertising campaigns. Levine was also a trailblazer in promoting European art house cinema in the 1960s. He made Federico Fellini's 8 (1963) a hit in America, feuded with Jean-Luc Godard over their production of Contempt (1963), and campaigned aggressively for Sophia Loren to become the first actress to win an Oscar for a foreign language performance for her role in Two Women (1960). Despite his significant accomplishments and prominent role in shaping film distribution and promotion in the post-studio era, Levine is largely overlooked today. McKenna's in-depth biography corrects misunderstandings and misinformation about this colorful figure, and offers a sober assessment of his contributions to world cinema. It also illuminates Levine's peculiar talent for movie- and self-promotion, as well as his extraordinary career in the motion picture business.

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