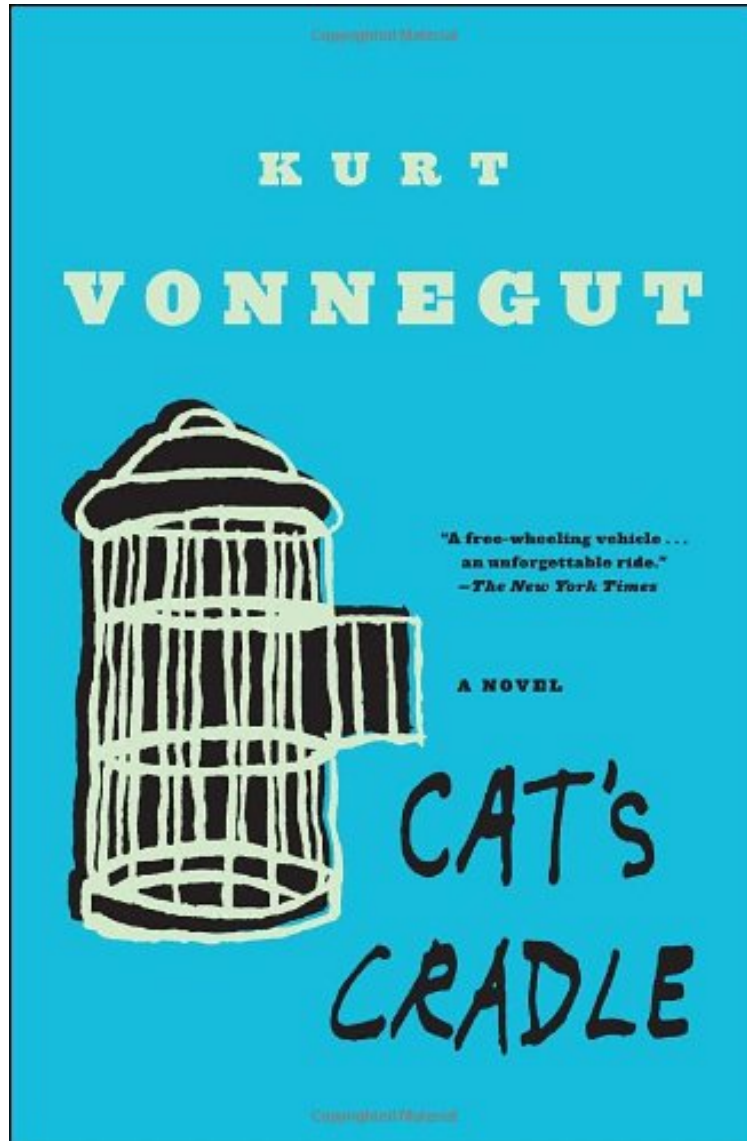


(Free) Cat's Cradle: A Novel

Cat's Cradle: A Novel

Kurt Vonnegut

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Kurt Vonnegut : Cat's Cradle: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cat's Cradle: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of Kurt Vonnegut's BestBy Kindle CustomerI've been a Kurt Vonnegut fan since I met his work in Slaughterhouse Five. This novel joins the others as being an excellent read. It's short chapters give it a format that seems almost like a superb collection of short stories. And I've enjoyed Vonnegut as a short-story artist in 'Welcome to the Monkey House'. Vonnegut's irreverant fiction keeps me spellbound.1 of 1

people found the following review helpful. Ironic humor
By Samsuddha
A book which leaves you enriched for reading it. Its a story that starts on the backdrop of the atomic bomb and finishes with an equally dire man-made science inspired catastrophe but in between is filled with ironic and idiosyncratic humor, unconventional characters and empathy for the human condition - all narrated in the backdrop of a rasta-inspired faux-spirituality. It is a heady cocktail that strips bare the pretensions of science, religion and social structures all at once (and in a reasonably small book too) without once coming across of preachy or full of it! Some may find this book to be 'meaningless', but I think that is one of themes of the book itself - it does not seek absolution for the characters or an epiphanic understanding or 'truth' for the narrator - all such pretensions are slowly slipped away and the book's cataclysmic end is a natural consequence of the ambition and apathy of different kinds of people.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
A Parable For The End of Time
By Carioca56
Cat's Cradle is arguably Vonnegut's greatest work, although I haven't read them all. It's about the end of the world, and starts on the anniversary of the end of the world for the Japanese, the day the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Our protagonist, Jonah, is writing a book about the end of the world. He ends up interviewing the offspring of the father of the atom bomb, Dr. Felix Hoenikker, an eccentric, seemingly uncaring father who, unbeknownst to most, also makes "Ice Nine" before he dies. Ice Nine causes everything to freeze. It precipitates the end of the world. Before Ice Nine takes over, and freezes the world, Vonnegut takes us on a whirlwind tour of the hearts and minds of a slew of zany characters, from Newt the midget, son of The Father of The Atom Bomb, to a secretary who disdains anyone who "thinks too much," to a philanthropist who turns out to be the complete opposite, to a zillion others (almost too many) in between. We are taken to the island of San Lorenzo, a Caribbean banana republic run by a paranoid, eccentric dictator that is totally at the beck and call of the USA, and that is where things really get weird. This book is divided into 127 very short chapters, which makes it not only easier to read and remember, but also made it easier, I'm sure, for Mr. Vonnegut to write. One of the main points of this story, if I understand correctly, is that religion, in this case "Bokonism," is pretty much a hodge-podge/hocus-pocus bed of spectacular lies. In the end, the founder of Bokonism, Bokonen, admits himself that it was all a complete joke, not to be taken seriously (how can anyone take seriously a religion where people make love by rubbing their feet together?), but I won't spoil it by telling you what happens in between. Mad scientists and their nervous secretaries, midget kung-fu, foot sex, countless hungry, skinny, stupid natives, one beautiful, "healthy" native, fat businessmen here to save the world, steep jungles, waterfalls, underground bomb shelters, earthquakes, tornadoes, fire and brimstone (don't tell Vonnegut I said that), horse faced flute playing enfant terribles, and much, much more. Oh, and I almost forgot. Ice Nine. How could I forget Ice Nine? This book is a parable for the end of time.

Cat's Cradle is Kurt Vonnegut's satirical commentary on modern man and his madness. An apocalyptic tale of this planet's ultimate fate, it features a midget as the protagonist, a complete, original theology created by a calypso singer, and a vision of the future that is at once blackly fatalistic and hilariously funny. A book that left an indelible mark on an entire generation of readers, Cat's Cradle is one of the twentieth century's most important works—and Vonnegut at his very best.

.com Cat's Cradle, one of Vonnegut's most entertaining novels, is filled with scientists and G-men and even ordinary folks caught up in the game. These assorted characters chase each other around in search of the world's most important and dangerous substance, a new form of ice that freezes at room temperature. At one time, this novel could probably be found on the bookshelf of every college kid in America; it's still a fabulous read and a great place to start if you're young enough to have missed the first Vonnegut craze. From Publishers Weekly
Vonnegut's 1963 satirical science fiction novel still manages to pack a powerfully subversive punch. The new audio release offers listeners an excellent opportunity to connect—or reconnect—with a classic text whose thematic elements—nuclear terror, the complications of science, American imperialism, global capitalism and the role of religion in public life—are remarkably relevant to our 21st-century landscape. The story line centers on a young writer's quest to research the history of the atomic bomb, which leads to a bizarre political soap opera and apocalyptic showdown on the shores of a seedy banana republic in the Caribbean. Tony Roberts brings tremendous energy to his reading, projecting a sardonic tone perfectly suited to Vonnegut. His portrayals of the principal male figures sometimes take the form of interchangeable over-the-top carnival barkers, but given the essence of the material, such a unnuanced approach can be understood and appreciated. The audiobook includes a 2005 interview in which Vonnegut—who died April 11, 2007—discusses how his life shaped his literary craft. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A free-wheeling vehicle . . . an unforgettable ride!"—New York Times "[Vonnegut is] an unimitative and inimitable social satirist."—Harper's Magazine "Our finest black-humorist . . . We laugh in self-defense."—Atlantic Monthly