



A Pocketful of Rye

A.J. Cronin

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The poignant sequel to "A Song of Sixpence."

The clinic stood high on an Alpine slope. Lush meadows, studded with autumn crocus, sloped steeply down. Across the valley, above the pinewoods, the high peaks were already dusted with snow. Like a toy railway, the line to Davos twisted and turned up along the mountain side.

Laurence Carroll breathed in the pure, clear air. A wonderful place, a not-too-demanding job as resident doctor to the convalescent children flown out from England; it was a million miles from his Scottish childhood, the struggles to qualify and the grinding, poverty-stricken years as a young GP in the Welsh mining valleys. He was relaxed. Happy.

But, soon to arrive at Zurich, a woman he had once known well, now a widowed mother, was to bring with her all the turmoil and anguish of his early years, flooding back into his casually ordered life.

A Pocketful of Rye Details

Date : Published December 12th 1976 by Amereon Limited

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Author : A.J. Cronin

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From Reader Review A Pocketful of Rye for online ebook

Candy says

short novel; read in one evening; first A.J. Cronin novel I've read; interesting story; one concern that has bugged me is an apparent genetics error made by the author concerning blood type---won't go in to specifics because that would amount to a spoiler....

Dorcas says

Not my favorite Cronin. Following on the heels of "A Song of Sixpence", it's disappointing to see what a jerk our hero has become. That there seems to be some hope of a turnaround by the end of the novel simply isn't enough to restore him in my mind. A pity. The world deserves better than Dr. Laurence Carroll.

Paula says

Wonderful book, the best I have read in a while. I suppose I'm old-fashioned. I love a nice ending. Other than the child's illness, it was a great ending. The main character evolved into a rather nice sort of person in the end. I loved the evolution... from skeptic, to possible believer.

Rita says

AJ Cronin is always engaging. I started his books in high school.

Roshni says

This was a bit dampened by the fact that I remembered who did it in the middle of the book, but still a good, quick read.

Trisha Owens says

Really enjoyed this book..story of Dr. Lawrence Carroll in a small Swiss Clinic that has a matron. It is cunning, and about conscience, and life and the struggles to continue living...has some sadness, some love.

Ace McGee says

Returning to my glory days of 12th grade, I Picked up and quickly read this sequel to AJ Cronin's Song of Sixpence, a book included in my "author study".

Easy to read. The reader is quickly involved with the protagonist. Good story. Why did It feel so simple?

Ace McGee says

Fast read. Reader quickly becomes involved with protagonist. Feels very simple.

Mark Geiger says

This is a good book anyway, but it hit home quite hard for me. The story of a man that has to come to grips with how he has lived his life, own up to what he has done, whether intentionally or not, and where to go from there. I really identified with the character, and this book was instrumental in me finally making a move to address some of the issues in my life, not the least being the search for some sort of meaning.

A powerful read personally, a good book overall.

Tittirossa says

Nostalgia delle letture adolescenziali (mia zia li aveva tutti, e io ne leggevo un paio ogni estate). E' facile, avvincente, col giusto grado di sentimento*, nè troppo lungo, nè troppo corto, e il bene trionfa sempre ma non il lieto fine.

*Cronin mostra empatia soprattutto e soltanto per i protagonisti maschi, che della vita interiore delle femmine non sembra proprio curarsi!

Pat says

enjoyed the author's whimsical way of writing.

J V Woods says

Easy reading

A grown-up Cronin. Read this in two days; much like his other books but strange to see him using the occasional swear word. Also some sex which in other books is barely alluded to. Again a pity Bello manages to miss obvious spelling mistakes and the layout of some of the pages near end is abysmal. Don't they use the justify tab?

Bea Alden says

AJ Cronin is a wonderful storyteller, and a best-seller in his day (1930s thru 1960s). This particular book is "the intensely moving story of a doctor fighting to cure the sickness in his own soul."

First read in 1988 - just re-read and enjoyed once more. The protagonist is essentially an anti-hero; a not-very-nice man who learns against his will to become a better person.

Jane says

Like the Andrew Greeley of his time.

Meg says

started last night, finished today. great pacing.

i enjoyed following laurie's evolution and appreciative of the ending. i think it tied up perfectly! i think i'll search online for other books by cronin & glad this one was recommended to me.

Julie says

The best thing about this book is the main character, who knows he's behaving badly and is mostly okay with it.

Ron says

Continuing with my "comfort food reading" reading old favorites from many, many years ago. This is the sequel to A Song of Sixpence, and has Laurence Carroll working at a small Swiss sanitarium. From Amazon:Continuing the adventures of his "A Song of Sixpence" hero Dr Laurence Carroll, a Pocketful of Rye is a wonderful novel of intrigue, and medical drama as only A.J. Cronin can write them! 254 pages ,hard cover.
