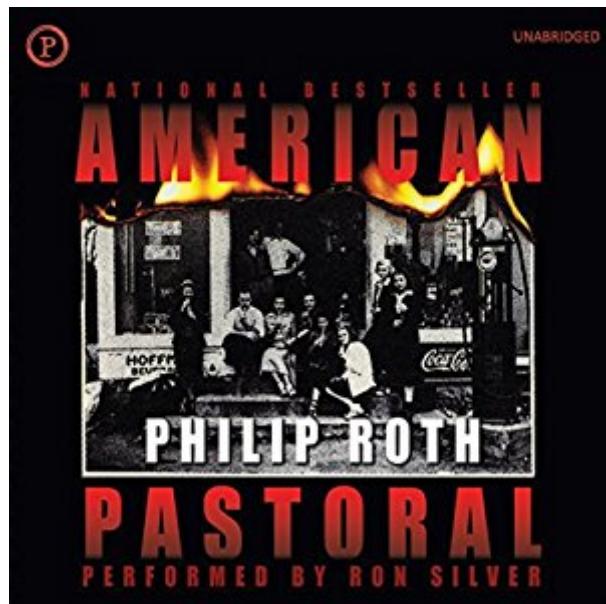


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# American Pastoral



## Synopsis

Winner of the Pulitzer PrizeNow a major motion picture starring Ewan McGregor, Jennifer Connelly, and Dakota FanningHere is Philip Roth's masterpiece—an elegy for the American century's promises of prosperity, civic order, and domestic bliss. Roth's protagonist is Swede Levov, a legendary athlete at his Newark high school, who grows up in the booming postwar years to marry a former Miss New Jersey, inherit his father's glove factory, and move into a stone house in the idyllic hamlet of Old Rimrock. And then one day in 1968, Swede's beautiful American luck deserts him. For Swede's adored daughter, Merry, has grown from a loving, quick-witted girl into a sullen, fanatical teenager—a teenager capable of an outlandishly savage act of political terrorism. And overnight Swede is wrenched out of the longed-for American pastoral and into the indigenous American berserk. Compulsively readable, propelled by sorrow, rage, and a deep compassion for its characters, American Pastoral gives us Philip Roth at the height of his powers. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours and 32 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Phoenix Books

Audible.com Release Date: December 16, 1999

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00005461J

Best Sellers Rank: #46 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Terrorism #2853 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary #3151 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

## Customer Reviews

This was a very intense novel. Having lived through the 60's and now being a parent and a grandparent, it certainly struck some tender chords. At times the novel was emotionally difficult to read, but it is one I continue to think about now that I have completed it.

This book wont be for everyone but I loved it. The characters were fantastic and it really made you

think about parenting and mental illness in a different way. Whilst this is a long book with a lot happening, I find it hard to describe to people as the real quality of the book is in the prose, the characters and a very believable but bizarre storyline. The ending might disappoint some but I found it perfect. You can feel the madness in the writing so the abrupt ending becomes part of the story. This is a book you won't forget. Highly recommended for those who love literature.

Roth wrote in a manner which constantly pulled at my heart. Descriptions which terrified and sent chills through out my soul. It is impossible to determine the storyline which swirls in uncontrollable examples of reality vs fantasy. Does all good have to be bad? Is it wrong to do good? Or is it all an illusion?

This book is so rich in description, character, and historical events that it truly is a wonder. A very realistic portrayal of the difficulty of achieving the American dream. A complicated story that you cannot stop reading. If you grew up in the 50s and 60s you will relate to the characters. If you are younger it will perhaps help you understand what life was like for the boomers and their parents.

Few US writers nowadays take on the subject of America in their writing and make it work. Roth is clearly at the tail end of the generation of the Great American Novelist, a writer who writes as much about the character of the United States of America as he writes about the characters in his books. Don DeLillo (Falling Man: A Novel, Underworld: A Novel and White Noise) is something of this, but DeLillo's concerns are more of the intellectual background of the US rather than its character. But this book takes on the evolution of America full force--Swede seemed to be an idyllic American. The son of a glovemaker, he was a Varsity letterman and an idol in high school who married Miss New Jersey and seemed destined to be the center of idolatry. But of course, Swede has to fall, and his fall is as much about the evolution of America as it is the exploitation of his fall. His daughter goes from daddy's little girl to a terrorist/activist responsible for four murders. And from there, Swede's life starts to fall apart, and I mean in every way imaginable. This seems almost expected, but Roth takes this crumbling to some of its deepest psychological and emotional levels. Unlike Yates' A Revolutionary Road, Roth makes you care about Swede not only through the explosion of the storybook Middle America into the Turbulent with Knowledge of Inequality 60's and onward, but because his fall is so hard. Emotionally, he is to be left with nothing, and Roth takes us there with immediate prose that grounds like broken glass into the pores of every moment. He is challenging and disturbing and spares no detail, but Roth's work is worth the wait for the depth of

pathos and character he conveys. The book seems to end a little lopsidedly, and I found the main drive of "The Human Stain" a little more compelling than this one, but Roth is certainly a writer we cannot live without. If we want to know what America has become, don't listen to the idiotic pundits on the air (on either side of the fence) think (if you can call it that)--instead, read Roth, and you will see what we have become and who we need to be. While we have entered the era of Controversial Nonfiction, Roth reminds us that the REAL news is in fiction.

A master piece. A very intriguing story about the perfect American family until their daughter becomes a political activists and blows up a post-office. The phycological analysis of the motives and way of thinking of the characters is splendid. At the same time the some more general problems of the United States of America through the 20th century are discussed as well.

Great roth fan but this was slow reading and boring

Excellent tale of the 2nd and 3rd generation Jewish experience in American. At the same time discussing the collapse of Americas younger generations values. The difference between those who fought in the 2nd World War. I did think the ending was too abrupt!!

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