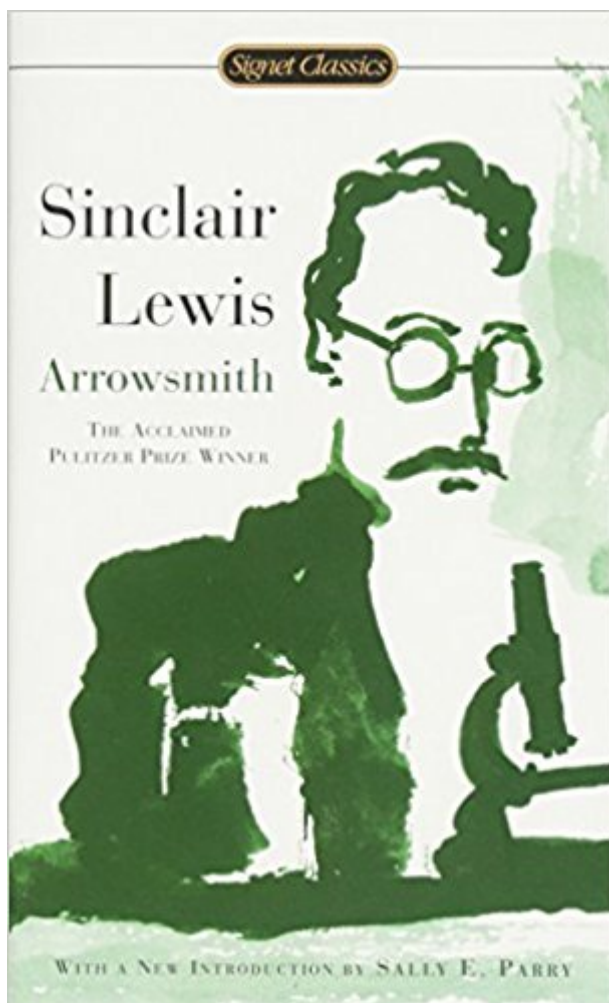


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# Arrowsmith



## Synopsis

With an afterword by E. L. Doctorow, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of one man's pursuit of intellectual freedom in the face of ignorance and corruption, from the author of *Babbalanza*, the most widely read of Sinclair Lewis's novels, is the incisive portrait of a man passionately devoted to science. As a bright, curious boy in a small Midwestern town, Martin Arrowsmith spends his free time in old Doc Vickerson's office avidly devouring medical texts. Destined to become a physician and a researcher, he discovers that societal forces of ignorance, greed, and corruption can be as life-threatening as the plague. Part satire, part morality tale, Lewis's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel illuminates the mystery and power of science while giving enduring life to a singular American hero's struggle for integrity and intellectual freedom in a small-minded world. With an Introduction by Sally E. Parry and an Afterword by E. L. Doctorow

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As the son and grandson of physicians, Sinclair Lewis had a store of experiences and imparted knowledge to draw upon for *Arrowsmith*. Published in 1925, after three years of anticipation, the book follows the life of Martin Arrowsmith, a rather ordinary fellow who gets his first taste of medicine at 14 as an assistant to the drunken physician in his home town. It is Leora Tozer who makes Martin's life extraordinary. With vitality and love, she urges him beyond the confines of the mundane to risk answering his true calling as a scientist and researcher. Not even her tragic death can extinguish her spirit or her impact on Martin's life. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Voted "Exceptional Recording" --Talking Books Magazine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Arrowsmith is a fictional study of a different sort of man, one devoted to pure scientific investigation caught up in a world of administrative and cultural trifles. His unconventional personality, like those of other characters in the novel, are well developed and deeply hulled. would call Arrowsmith a work of art and the only difficulty I have with the work is that it sometimes extends certain situations beyond necessary clarification and elucidation. The author's technique is descriptive as well as somewhat analytic. He points out clearly the gulf that still exists between the dedication of the professional scientist and those who are marketeers, though many are physicians as he is. Very well done.

I read Arrowsmith about forty years ago for the first time. At that time I just kind of ploughed through it. However, this time in my old age I savoured Lewis' descriptions which were interesting and meaningful, without actually being visual. I could get into the skin of protagonist and identify with him. What I found a bit lacking is Leora's character description and development. I kept waiting for this throughout the book. She didn't really have a personality, a character except being passive and almost non-existent. The book as a whole however, was a great experience. It was wasted on me when I was young and read it for the first time - really just from snobbery. I'm now looking forward to reading Babbit, what I also purchased. As an aside, I love my Kindle.

Arrowsmith is an amazing book for though it was written nearly 100 years ago, it addresses the commercialization of the healing and scientific professions in an eerily relevant way. Sinclair Lewis wasn't afraid to speak of the differences between pursuit of knowledge and pursuit of money, a theme which, unfortunately, IS out of date in today's world where we are told there is no contradiction between the profit motive and human progress.

Lewis was very informed and is quite readable.

I found Arrowsmith to be close to what today's situation. Never ending promotion of half-baked ideas and the cheerleaders who stand to make money or shared fame. Suck ups and brown nosers just haven't changed that much it the last 100 years. This is why Sinclair Lewis still is one of the

great American writers. I have also enjoyed his *Free Air*, a classic road trip. This man nails the American character every time.

for college course.

A magnificent read - surely one of the best books ever written (although that's an emotional rather than a subjective comment!). It has characters, descriptions, storylines, plot. I was gripped from the start - and loved it so much I even ordered another copy to be sent to my writer daughter in Australia. I would recommend this book to anyone.

Great classic. Funny, satirical thought inspiring.

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Arrowsmith

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