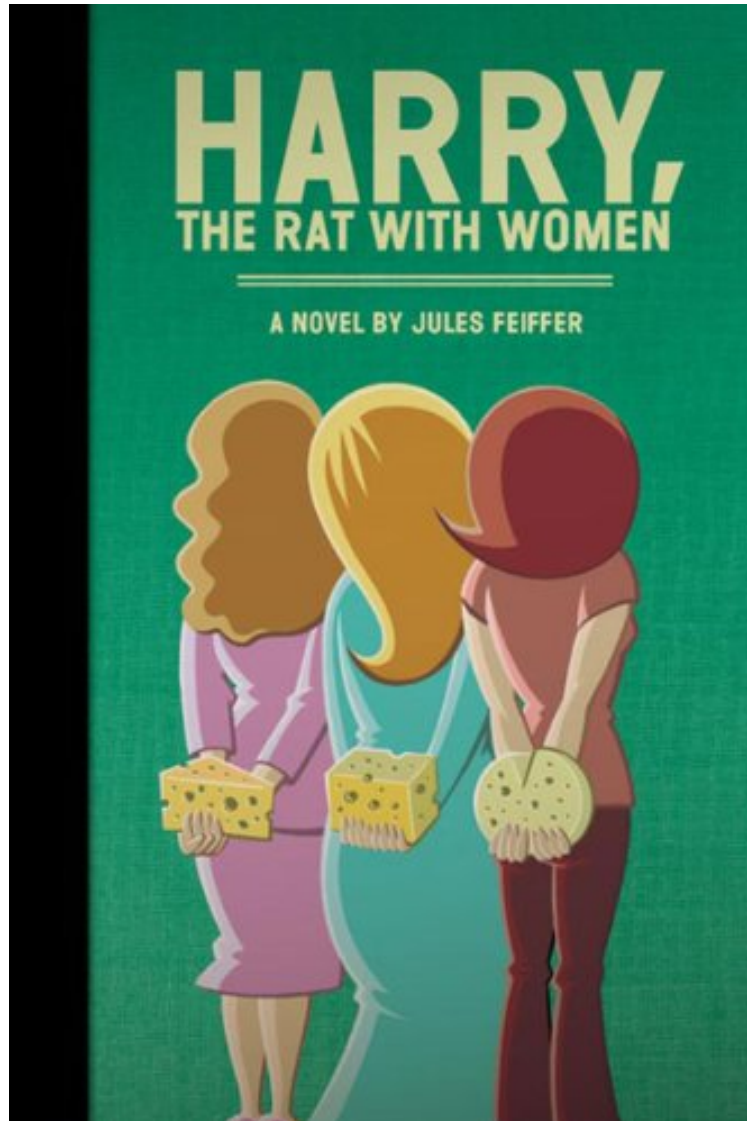


[Pdf free] Harry, The Rat with Women

Harry, The Rat with Women

Jules Feiffer

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Jules Feiffer : Harry, The Rat with Women before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harry, The Rat with Women:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. PerfectionBy The Honest Conn ManI ran across this book around 40 years ago and was delighted to find that it's back in print.The book opens with two definitions -- one about love and another about an amoeba. Both stress unity.And then we meet Harry, loved by all who meet him and loved by Harry himself.What seems an idea worthy of a short story, Feiffer somehow turns into a near-perfect novel. There is just one

idea, a unified theory of love, and that idea is masterfully worked to comic effect from the first page to the last. Harry's life is followed in all its perfection from his birth and perfect parents to his being the pet of all his teachers and the idol of all his classmates to his finally falling in love with another . . . because she reminded him of himself and seemed to give him more of himself. All goes well until Harry slips up and makes his one mistake half way or more into the novel -- a single inexplicable act that wasn't all about Harry. From there, things unwind quickly. This book is a little masterpiece that provides huge fun and an unforgettable read. It's the literary equivalent of a composer coming up with one inventive variation after another on a simple theme -- Feiffer's equivalent to the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Prescient insightful and funny By NagonMom This is a book that made me laugh out loud. Jules Feiffer captures details of gender related warfare adroitly, and his character is an amazing construct. This really needs to be a movie. With this title. Harry's innocent narcissism resides in many in America, male and female. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Always a good read! By Edward Dougherty Read the book 40 years ago when I was in college. It is still a good read today.

A satirical novel about the downfall of a narcissistic lothario. Jules Feiffer's first satirical novel follows the humorous, existential rise and fall of a narcissistic lothario, Harry, from influential high-society hanger-on to suicidal cipher. Harry is "blessed" by his family's endless bounty of love and hope, raised to believe he is the embodiment of perfection beautiful, infallible, irresistible. So great are their expectations that he will provide for them in the future that he is given everything he could ever need. He is kept comfortable and protected at every step of his childhood: "The Harry Fund" is established by his relatives to ensure that he need not worry about money in his younger years, as they are certain the returns on this "investment" will be exponential. Harry, of course, develops an extraordinarily "healthy" ego. Everyone else is so focused on his development that he can only focus on himself as well. Maturing into adulthood, he gorges on the love and attention of others while never reciprocating. Those around him, in their insecurity, find this terribly attractive especially women. The physical beauty and aloofness he radiates appears as strength and Harry finds he can use women to maintain his decadent lifestyle in the midst of New York elite social circles. When one woman can no longer serve him, he simply moves on to the next; burning through their money with abandon. Feiffer's brilliant modern fable comments less on the anomie of narcissism and more on the insecure desire of the world to find a charismatic messiah. Persuaded to become the attractive face on an idealistic political movement, Harry, finally, realizes the immense power and effect he can have on others. He also realizes that he has not truly experienced and that he is incapable of human connectedness. The novel reaches its crescendo when Harry attempts to leave his oblivious, self-obsessed ways behind: he begins to lose himself his entire personality shatters; his looks begin to fail; women reject him! Originally published in 1963, *Harry the Rat With Women* is a typically scathing satirical tour de force in the tradition of *Little Murders* and *The White House Murder Case*, a wry, hilarious commentary on the American public's seemingly endless love affair with chiselers and rats more relevant now than ever.

About the Author Jules Feiffer lives in New York City with his wife and child.