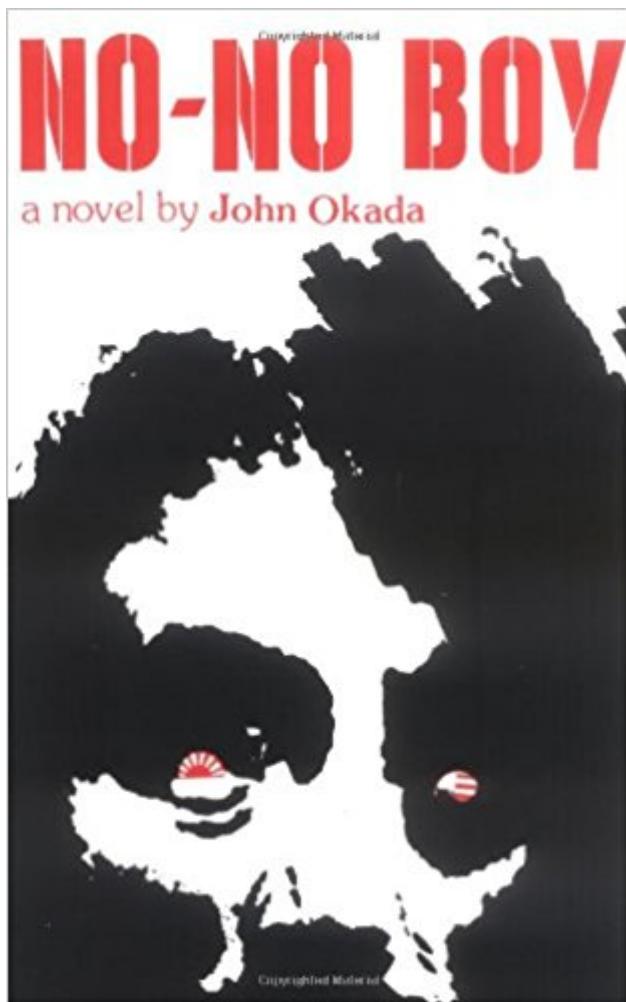


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No-No Boy (Classics Of Asian American Literature)



Synopsis

"No-No Boy has the honor of being the very first Japanese American novel," writes novelist Ruth Ozeki in her new foreword to John Okada's classic of Asian American literature. First published in 1956, No-No Boy was virtually ignored by a public eager to put World War II and the Japanese internment behind them. It was not until the mid-1970s that a new generation of Japanese American writers and scholars recognized the novel's importance and popularized it as one of literature's most powerful testaments to the Asian American experience. No-No Boy tells the story of Ichiro Yamada, a fictional version of the real-life "no-no boys." Yamada answered "no" twice in a compulsory government questionnaire as to whether he would serve in the armed forces and swear loyalty to the United States. Unwilling to pledge himself to the country that interned him and his family, Ichiro earns two years in prison and the hostility of his family and community when he returns home to Seattle. As Ozeki writes, Ichiro's "obsessive, tormented" voice subverts Japanese postwar "model-minority" stereotypes, showing a fractured community and one man's "threnody of guilt, rage, and blame as he tries to negotiate his reentry into a shattered world." The first edition of No-No Boy since 1979 presents this important work to new generations of readers.

Book Information

Series: Classics of Asian American Literature

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: University of Washington Press (February 1, 1978)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780295955254

ISBN-13: 978-0295955254

ASIN: 0295955252

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.4 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #32,045 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Japanese #18 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies #74 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Asian American

Customer Reviews

Asian American readers will appreciate the sensitivity and integrity with which the late John Okada wrote about his own group. He heralded the beginning of an authentic Japanese American literature. (Gordon Hirabayashi Pacific Affairs) Nisei will recognize the authenticity of the idioms Okada’s characters use, as well as his descriptions of the familiar Issei and Nisei mannerisms that make them come alive. (Bill Hosokawa Pacific Citizen) [This new edition] brings Okada’s groundbreaking work to a new generation—an internee and enlisted man himself, [Okada] wrote in a raw, brutal stream of consciousness that echoes the pain and intergenerational conflict faced by those struggling to reconcile their heritage to the concept of an American dream. (Nancy Powell Shelf Awareness 2014-01-00)

John Okada was born in Seattle in 1923. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II, attended the University of Washington and Columbia University, and died of a heart attack at the age of 47. No-No Boy is his only published novel.

Overall, the book was pretty good. The only grievance I had was that the main character talked way too much about how he is neither Japanese nor American and how his sacrifice for his family and his crazy mother made him this way. And it is a little depressing cause 2 deaths occur as well as other events. The book is pretty easy to read, and conveys a great message to its readers. I highly recommend this book to whoever feels like one group of persons should not be in this country (*cough cough Trump supporters*). An amazing lesson was displayed about how we should not be intolerant or racist against a group of people, especially if they don't mean us harm.

Amazing novel that introduces the Asian American experience from a new angle. Extremely timely as Japanese internment has been featured in the news lately. The writing is very blunt and brutal, and I felt emotionally jarred by it. This is the kind of story which sticks with you long after you finish reading. I felt like I was sitting next to Mr. Okada hearing him retell his life's story to me. Loved it! I wish it was required reading for high schoolers!

Very good book if you're looking for something that is different, but unsure of what to try. Provides a different perspective on a part of history we've all learned about in school.

I think that Mr. Okada has written a very pertinent piece to the overall illustration of the Japanese american experience in America. I think this is in direct opposition, or, perhaps, the competing

minority view of this experience in america. This is the non-model minority story that highlights the humanity and diversity of opinion among all people, and specifically, in this, in post ww2 Japanese american community in Seattle.

Had to read this for a Asian history class. Very good and easy read. Gives one the inside perspective on what it was like to be a "no-no" boy after WWII in America as well as some other perspectives from Japanese-American post-war life.

Another mandatory college read. Aside from that, this book wasn't all too bad. The fun part is deciphering it and catching it's small metaphors/comparisons/etc. There are plenty of good symbols! I had to dissect certain parts of the book for my class, however I enjoyed doing so. If you're reading this just for fun, I suggest trying to catch some of the symbolism used in the book. The characters serve specific purposes, although the main character sounded consistently whiny from the beginning to the end-ish bit of the book. I wouldn't read it again though. I got everything I feel was necessary to get out of this book.

Great book! I have yet to finish it but it truly is an amazingly written book. I don't enjoy the main character but it definitely puts into perspective how the times must have been during this era for Japanese people. Great read.

Arrived quick and worked for my class. Thank you.

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