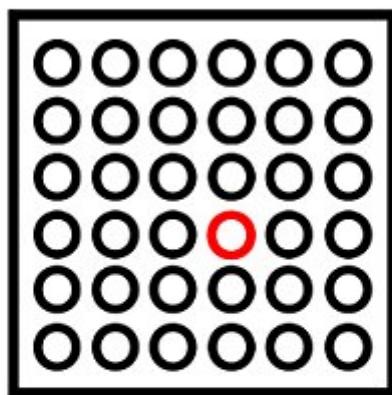


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The Outsider

COLIN WILSON



THE **OUTSIDER**

"It leaves the reader with a heightened insight into a crucial drama of the human spirit." - *Atlantic Monthly*



Synopsis

As relevant today as when it originally published, THE OUTSIDER explores the mindset of characters who exist on the margins, and the artists who take them there. Published to immense acclaim, THE OUTSIDER helped to make popular the literary concept of existentialism. Authors like Sartre, Kafka, Hemingway, and Dostoyevsky, as well as artists like Van Gogh and Nijinsky delved for a deeper understanding of the human condition in their work, and Colin Wilson's landmark book encapsulated a character found time and time again: the outsider. How does he influence society? And how does society influence him? It's a question as relevant to today's iconic characters (from Don Draper to Voldemort) as it was when initially published. Wilson's seminal work is a must-have for those who love books and are fascinated by that most difficult to understand of characters.

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Customer Reviews

More people have read "Harry Potter" books than Colin Wilson books. So what you might say..True, and that would be qualifying you as an outsider. However, the fact that people seem to not be

interested in themselves, what they are, and what's their "place" in this world or this reality(ies) is interesting. Isn't it? Wilson, in the "Outsider" lays out a study that asks many pivotal questions, questions that most people would label as existentialist. He defines the outsider as a person that "sees too deep but can't help it", a person that instinctively feels he doesn't fit in, becomes troubled by that, and sets out on a personal journey of discovering himself and his position in everything else. To do this, Wilson studies the message many outsiders have "transmitted" throughout history, may they be philosophers, authors, dancers, painters, artists in general. He looks for parallels amongst them as he tries to interpret and define them, looks for common (but also for uncommon) points, but more importantly looks to detect what it is exactly that disatisfies them about the world they find themselves in. And he does an extraordinary job at achieving his mission (defining the Outsider is a mission for those familiar with Wilson's works) while inducing provoking thoughts to the reader whether he's an outsider or not. He also explores the methods of the outsiders he studies. In the end they all emerge as an official club and this is more startling than it might sound. It's the "commonness" among outsiders that's interesting in my opinion. But, possibly the biggest issue is why does society keep producing Outsiders? Does that mean that as long as Outsiders keep being produced something is "wrong"?

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