



The Pearl

JOHN STEINBECK

Level 3

Retold by Gregory McElwain

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جان اشتاین‌بک (۲۷ فوریه ۱۹۰۲ - ۲۰ دسامبر ۱۹۶۸) یکی از شناخته شده‌ترین و پرخواننده‌ترین نویسندگان قرن بیستم آمریکا است. او در سال ۱۹۶۲ برنده جایزه نوبل ادبیات شد. مشهورترین آثار او موش‌ها و آدم‌ها (۱۹۳۷) و کتاب برنده جایزه پولیتزر، خوشه‌های خشم (۱۹۳۹) هستند که هر دو نمونه‌هایی از زندگی طبقه کارگر آمریکا و کارگران مهاجر در دوره رکود بزرگ هستند.



John Steinbeck

آثار

- جام زرین
- چمنزارهای بهشت
- تورتل‌فلت
- نرودی مشکوک
- یادداشت‌های روسیه
- موش‌ها و آدم‌ها
- دره طویل
- خوشه‌های خشم
- ماه پنهان است
- راسته کنسروسازی
- اتوبوس سرگردان
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- مرگ ۲۰ دسامبر ۱۹۶۸
- نیویورک
- ملیت ایالات متحده

Introduction

Kino put his knife into the oyster. He opened it. And there it lay, the great pearl, perfect as the moon. It caught the light and shone like liver. It was as large as the egg of a sea bird. It was the greatest pearl in the world.

Many people dream of becoming suddenly rich. Money means that wonderful things will happen to them. Their problems will disappear, and their dreams will all come true.

But money can also bring unhappiness. After Kino finds the great pearl, he and his wife, Juana, learn this. The pearl changes their lives in ways that they never imagined.

Kino, Juana, and their neighbors are Indian Mexicans. Their people have always lived in Mexico. But about 400 years ago, people from Spain came to Mexico. They used guns to take Mexico away from the Indian people. They wanted the Indian people to speak Spanish and to act like Spaniards. The Indians felt unwelcome in their own country.

When *The Pearl* was written, in 1947, the Indian Mexicans were poorer than the Spanish Mexicans. Like Kino, they had no money to go to school. And like Kino, they had to work at difficult, dirty jobs that the Spanish Mexicans did not want to do.

In Mexico today, Spanish Mexicans are still richer than the Indian people. And if you go to a fishing town on the Mexican coast, you will see Indian fishermen. Like Kino, they work very hard for very little money.

John Steinbeck was born in California in 1902, and he grew up in the town of Salinas. He left Salinas to go to college. He went to college from 1919 to 1925, but he never graduated. In 1925, he moved to New York City for a short time. Then he returned to California to write. He was married three times and had two sons, Thom and John. Steinbeck died in New York City in 1968.

Steinbeck's first book, *Cup of Gold*, came out in 1929, and he

wrote twenty-five more books before his death. Many of his books are about people who are farmers, fishermen, or factory workers. Some of these stories take place in the area around Salinas. The people in his stories often suffer because they are poor.

His most popular books are *Tortilla Flat* (1935), *In Dubious Battle* (1936), *Of Mice and Men* (1937), *The Red Pony* (1937), *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), *The Moon is Down* (1942), *Cannery Row* (1945), *The Pearl* (1947), *East of Eden* (1952), and *The Winter of our Discontent* (1961). One of his last books was *Travels with Charley in Search of America* (1962). It is about a trip that he took across the United States with his pet dog.

„, Steinbeck won the Pulitzer Prize in 1940 for *The Grapes of Wrath*, his most famous book. It is the story of a family that lose their Oklahoma farm. They then make a difficult trip to California because they hope to find a better life there. Steinbeck also won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. Many of his books became popular movies. *The Pearl* was made into a movie in 1948.

Steinbeck first tells of a great pearl in *Sea of Cortez: A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research* (1941), a travel book that he wrote with his scientist friend, Edward F. Bicketts. During that trip, Steinbeck heard of an Indian boy in Mexico who found a large pearl. Steinbeck's story of a great pearl was first printed in the magazine *Woman's Home Companion*.

Like other Steinbeck books—*Tortilla Flat* and *Of Mice and Men*, for example—*The Pearl* is about honest, hard-working country people who fight to earn a living. *The Pearl* is still popular today, and many American high-school students study it in English classes.

People read it now for the same reasons that people read it in 1947. It is a strong story of likeable people, told in clear, simple language.