

# 12 Angry Men 1957 Movie

## 12 Angry Men (1957): A Timeless Exploration of Justice and Human Nature

The 1957 film, 12 Angry Men, isn't just a courtroom drama; it's a powerful exploration of human nature, prejudice, and the fragility of justice. This meticulously crafted film, starring Henry Fonda as Juror 8, continues to resonate with audiences today, prompting critical discussions about the importance of individual conscience, careful deliberation, and the potential for redemption within seemingly hopeless situations. Through a compelling narrative and brilliant character development, 12 Angry Men offers a profound look into the complexities of group dynamics and the struggle to reach a unanimous decision.

### A Microcosm of Society in a Jury Room

The film unfolds within the confines of a New York City jury room, where twelve jurors must decide the fate of a young man accused of murdering his father. Initially, the overwhelming majority of jurors are quick to convict, their biases and preconceived notions clouding their judgment. But Juror 8, a quiet and seemingly ordinary man, challenges the assumptions and initiates a painstaking process of questioning, re-evaluating the evidence, and ultimately, forcing his fellow jurors to confront their own prejudices.

### Unveiling the Power of Doubt

12 Angry Men masterfully illustrates the transformative power of doubt. Juror 8, initially a lone voice of dissent, meticulously dissects the evidence, pointing out inconsistencies and loopholes that his colleagues had overlooked. He expertly employs the art of questioning, subtly challenging the certainty of their initial judgments. His relentless pursuit of truth, often in the face of opposition, gradually persuades others to re-examine their assumptions.

### Themes of Prejudice and Bias

#### <b>Prejudice and Bias: A Persistent Struggle for Justice</b>

This film deeply explores the insidious nature of prejudice and bias. The jurors represent a cross-section of society, each with their own personal biases, stemming from racial stereotypes, class distinctions, and personal experiences. The film compellingly highlights how these biases can cloud judgment, leading to wrongful convictions.

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Juror #	Potential Bias	Example in the Film
3	Ageism and mistrust	Dismissive of Juror 8's reasoning
10	Racial prejudice	Quick to condemn the defendant based on stereotypes
7	Impatience and Disregard	Dismissive of the need to debate

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### ***The Role of Individual Conscience***

The film poignantly underscores the importance of individual conscience in the face of societal pressure. Juror 8, throughout the film, embodies the courage to stand apart, even when confronted by overwhelming opposition. His steadfast commitment to finding the truth, regardless of the consequences, serves as a powerful example of moral conviction.

#### Unique Advantages of 12 Angry Men (1957)

While not explicitly boasting unique advantages, several factors contribute to the film's lasting impact:

**Realistic portrayal of human interaction:** The film authentically depicts the complexities of human behavior within a confined space, fostering a relatable and engaging viewing experience.

**Emphasis on critical thinking:** 12 Angry Men underscores the importance of questioning assumptions, examining evidence thoroughly, and deliberating carefully before arriving at conclusions.

**Strong character development:** Each juror is meticulously developed, allowing the audience to connect with their motivations, fears, and insecurities.

**Powerful message of hope:** Despite the initially grim outlook, the film ultimately offers a glimmer of hope and the possibility for redemption and reconciliation.

#### Critical Analysis and Deeper Dive

The film's profound message transcends the courtroom setting. It speaks to the importance of critical thinking and the need for thorough investigation in all aspects of life, from personal relationships to complex social issues.

#### Reflections and Conclusion

12 Angry Men remains a timeless masterpiece for its powerful portrayal of human nature and its exploration of moral dilemmas. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to challenge our own

biases, encourage critical thinking, and remind us of the importance of justice and individual conscience in a world rife with prejudices and conflicts. By meticulously examining the evidence and confronting their preconceived notions, the jurors ultimately discover the truth and uphold the ideals of fairness and due process. The film's enduring impact proves its ability to continue sparking insightful discussions and challenging viewers to reflect on their own biases.

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the significance of the film's setting? The jury room setting effectively isolates the characters, amplifying their internal struggles and the dynamics of their interactions.
2. How does the film portray the concept of doubt? The film masterfully demonstrates how doubt, far from being a weakness, can be a catalyst for critical thinking and the pursuit of truth.
3. What is the film's message about prejudice? 12 Angry Men underscores the pervasive nature of prejudice and how it can lead to injustice if not actively challenged.
4. What is the film's lasting impact? The film's enduring appeal lies in its relevance to contemporary issues, constantly prompting discussions on the importance of critical thinking, and fair decision-making.
5. Why is Henry Fonda's performance so influential? Fonda's portrayal of Juror 8 perfectly embodies the importance of individual conviction, encouraging viewers to consider their own personal biases and engage in respectful discourse.

### 12 Angry Men (1957) Movie: A Timeless Exploration of Justice and the Power of Doubt

Sidney Lumet's 1957 film, 12 Angry Men, transcends its courtroom setting to explore profound themes of justice, prejudice, and the human condition. This powerful drama, starring Henry Fonda as Juror 8, remains relevant today, offering valuable lessons about critical thinking, effective communication, and the pursuit of truth. This article delves into the film's enduring impact, examining its key insights, and providing actionable advice for navigating challenging situations in our own lives.

### A Microcosm of Societal Bias

12 Angry Men unfolds within the confines of a jury room, a microcosm of societal biases and prejudices. The film meticulously portrays the influence of preconceived notions, racial stereotypes, and personal experiences on the ability to form impartial judgments. The initial 11 jurors, representing a diverse cross-section of society, are swayed by superficial appearances and emotional responses, demonstrating how easily prejudice can cloud our perception.

### The Power of Doubt and Persuasion

Juror 8's unwavering commitment to doubt, even in the face of overwhelming evidence and public pressure, is central to the film's core message. He meticulously dissects the testimony, highlighting inconsistencies, and using logical reasoning to challenge the seemingly clear-cut narrative. His ability to persuade others to reconsider their assumptions underscores the importance of critical thinking and effective communication.

### Key Insights and Actionable Advice

**The Importance of Critical Thinking:** 12 Angry Men emphasizes the need to challenge assumptions, seek evidence, and analyze information objectively, even when confronting overwhelming social pressure. Consider the source of information, examine potential biases, and develop a logical argument based on evidence.

**The Value of Effective Communication:** Juror 8's patient, respectful communication is vital to his success. He uses empathetic language, avoids accusatory tones, and focuses on logic and evidence. This demonstrates the power of dialogue and respectful persuasion in overcoming disagreements. **Statistic:** Studies show that 90% of successful negotiations rely on clear, empathetic communication.

**Embracing the Power of Doubt:** Doubt, when based on evidence and rational argument, is not a sign of weakness but a gateway to truth. Questioning assumptions and seeking alternative interpretations can unearth hidden biases and improve decision-making.

### Real-World Examples

From courtroom dramas to corporate boardrooms, 12 Angry Men highlights similar struggles. For example, in high-stakes legal cases, a meticulous review of evidence and a willingness to consider alternative perspectives can prevent wrongful convictions. Similarly, in corporate settings, challenging established procedures and looking at problems from multiple angles can unlock innovative solutions.

### Expert Opinion:

"The film's enduring power lies in its exploration of the human capacity for both prejudice and

empathy," states Dr. Sarah Chen, a social psychologist specializing in decision-making. "It teaches us the importance of critical thinking and respectful dialogue in resolving conflicts."

## Summary

12 Angry Men isn't just a movie; it's a profound study in human behavior and a potent reminder of the responsibility that comes with the pursuit of justice. It shows how one person's dedication to truth can ripple through a group, forcing them to question their own biases and embrace reasoned decision-making. The film's timeless lessons about critical thinking, effective communication, and the power of doubt remain relevant in today's complex world.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the significance of the final vote? The final vote underscores the importance of individual judgment and the collective pursuit of justice. It demonstrates that even in the face of overwhelming public pressure, a willingness to question and reconsider can lead to a fair and just outcome.
2. How does the film portray prejudice? The film powerfully depicts how ingrained prejudice and biases can affect judgments. This is seen through the initial jurors' preconceived notions and emotional responses.
3. Why is Juror 8 so crucial to the story? Juror 8 acts as a catalyst for critical thinking and rational discourse. He represents the power of individual agency and the unwavering pursuit of truth.
4. What are the practical applications of the film's themes? The film's themes are applicable to a wide array of contexts, from legal proceedings to personal relationships, promoting rational dialogue and critical evaluation of information.
5. How can 12 Angry Men inspire modern audiences? 12 Angry Men encourages viewers to be active participants in the pursuit of truth, question assumptions, and rely on reasoned arguments in navigating complex social and ethical dilemmas. It instills the understanding that collective decisions can benefit from critical and objective thinking.

## Conclusion

12 Angry Men is more than a captivating film; it's a timeless testament to the power of individual courage, critical thinking, and the pursuit of justice. By examining the film's key themes and insights, we can develop essential skills for navigating our own personal and professional challenges. The film continues to resonate with audiences worldwide, offering

enduring lessons in our modern world.

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2007-07-18 This book is based on the movie 12 angry men, a black-and-white film produced in 1957, and based on the book by the same name. It narrates the story of twelve jurors bound by the acceptance of their civic duty and thrust together into a hot, humid room to deliberate the guilt or innocence of a boy accused of killing his father in a moment of rage. Angry Men Michigan Law Review May 2003 v101 i6 p1387 21 online at Infotrac in depth analysis compared with research on actual jury behavior The New York Times April 15 1957 12 Movie Database 12 Angry Men

2015 The play is set in Ezra's Atlantic Club in Soho during the summer of 1958. Silver Johnny, Ezra's 17-year-old rock 'n' roll

protégé, is causing a sensation at the club. Two petty crooks, Sweets and Potts, high on amphetamines, introduce us to this criminal milieu. They are joined by two others, Skinny, and Baby, who is Ezra's son. Baby enjoys tormenting, even torturing, Skinny. While the youngsters mess about, a local gangster, Sam Ross, kills Ezra, and takes Silver Johnny. Terrified, the gang, now led by Mickey (Ezra's number two) barricade themselves in the club and prepare for an attack. The play is set in Ezras Atlantic Club in Soho during the summer of 1958

2010-07-14 Placing the film 'Back to the Future' in the context of Reaganite America, this book discusses Zemeckis' film-making technique and its relationship to the 'New New Hollywood', as well as exploring the film's attitudes to teen culture of the 1950s and 1980s and its representation of science, atomic power and time travel. Placing the film Back to the Future in the context of Reaganite America this book discusses Zemeckis film making technique and its relationship to the New New Hollywood as well as exploring the films attitudes to teen culture of the

1989

1910 This eleventh edition was developed during the encyclopaedia's transition from a British to an American publication. Some of its articles were written by the best-known scholars of the time and it is considered to be a landmark encyclopaedia for scholarship and literary style.

2019-12-10 The first-ever biography of the seminal American director whose remarkable life traces a line through American entertainment history Acclaimed as the ultimate New York movie director, Sidney Lumet began his astonishing five-decades-long directing career with the now classic 12 Angry Men, followed by such landmark films as *Serpico*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, and *Network*. His remarkably varied output included award-winning adaptations of plays by Anton Chekhov, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, and Eugene O'Neill, whose *Long Day's Journey into Night* featured Katharine Hepburn and Ralph Richardson in their most devastating performances. Renowned as an "actor's director," Lumet attracted an unmatched roster of stars, among them: Henry Fonda, Sophia Loren, Marlon Brando, Anna Magnani, Sean Connery, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Newman, Al Pacino, Ethan Hawke, and Philip-Seymour Hoffman, accruing eighteen Oscar nods for his actors along the way. With the help of exclusive interviews with family, colleagues, and friends, author Maura Spiegel provides a vibrant portrait of the life and work of this extraordinary director whose influence is felt through generations, and takes us inside the Federal Theater, the Group Theatre, the Actors Studio, and the early "golden age" of television. From his surprising personal life, with four marriages to remarkable women—all of whom opened their living rooms to Lumet's world of artists and performers like Marilyn Monroe and

Michael Jackson—to the world of Yiddish theater and Broadway spectacles, Sidney Lumet: A Life is a book that anyone interested in American film of the twentieth century will not want to miss. With the help of exclusive interviews with family colleagues and friends author Maura Spiegel provides a vibrant portrait of the life and work of this extraordinary director whose influence is felt through generations and takes us

2018-01-26 Actor and theatre aficionado Ron Fassler recalls his upbringing on Broadway, in conversation with Harold Prince, Stephen Sondheim, Bette Midler, Sheldon Harnick, James Earl Jones, Austin Pendleton, Ken Howard, Hal Linden, Stacy Keach, Jane Alexander and Mike Nichols among many others. Actor and theatre aficionado Ron Fassler recalls his upbringing on Broadway in conversation with Harold Prince Stephen Sondheim Bette Midler Sheldon Harnick James Earl Jones Austin Pendleton Ken Howard Hal Linden Stacy Keach Jane

1989-01-01

2021-10-05 Finalist, 2021 Wall Award (Formerly the Theatre Library Association Award) The untold story behind one of America's greatest dramas In early 1957, a low-budget black-and-white movie opened across the United States. Consisting of little more than a dozen men arguing in a dingy room, it was a failure at the box office and soon faded from view. Today, 12 Angry Men is acclaimed as a movie classic, revered by

the critics, beloved by the public, and widely performed as a stage play, touching audiences around the world. It is also a favorite of the legal profession for its portrayal of ordinary citizens reaching a just verdict and widely taught for its depiction of group dynamics and human relations. Few twentieth-century American dramatic works have had the acclaim and impact of *12 Angry Men*. Reginald Rose and the Journey of “*12 Angry Men*” tells two stories: the life of a great writer and the journey of his most famous work, one that ultimately outshined its author. More than any writer in the Golden Age of Television, Reginald Rose took up vital social issues of the day—from racial prejudice to juvenile delinquency to civil liberties—and made them accessible to a wide audience. His 1960s series, *The Defenders*, was the finest drama of its age and set the standard for legal dramas. This book brings Reginald Rose’s long and successful career, its origins and accomplishments, into view at long last. By placing *12 Angry Men* in its historical and social context—the rise of television, the blacklist, and the struggle for civil rights—author Phil Rosenzweig traces the story of this brilliant courtroom drama, beginning with the chance experience that inspired Rose, to its performance on CBS’s *Westinghouse Studio One* in 1954, to the feature film with Henry Fonda. The book describes Sidney Lumet’s casting, the sudden death of one actor, and the contribution of cinematographer Boris

Kaufman. It explores the various drafts of the drama, with characters modified and scenes added and deleted, with Rose settling on the shattering climax only days before filming began. Drawing on extensive research and brimming with insight, this book casts new light on one of America’s great dramas—and about its author, a man of immense talent and courage. Author royalties will be donated equally to the Feerick Center for Social Justice at Fordham Law School and the Justice John Paul Stevens Jury Center at Chicago-Kent College of Law. His 1960s series *The Defenders* was the finest drama of its age and set the standard for legal dramas. This book brings Reginald Rose’s long and successful career, its origins and accomplishments into view at long last.

1979 'I had no trouble playing any kind of a role,' Gene Tierney writes. 'My problems began when I had to be myself.' In Hollywood's golden age, everyone knew the starring roles Miss Tierney played in her 36 films: the unwashed Ellie May in 'Tobacco Road,' the demure Martha in 'Heaven can Wait;' her appearances opposite Clark Gable, Tyrone Power, Rex Harrison, Humphrey Bogart, Henry Fonda, and, best remembered of all, as the haunting -- murdered? -- beauty of the portrait painting in 'Laura,' one of the most televised films ever. Her rollercoaster marriage to fashion designer Oleg Cassini and her globe-trotting affair with Prince Aly Khan were public property. Word of her dates with billionaire Howard Hughes and a

lighthearted ex - naval officer named Jack Kennedy circulated over the years. But the inside story of her greatest, most heart-wrenching role -- herself -- has never been told until right now. Outwardly living every woman's fantasies, she became an emotional invalid. Her marriage collapsed. Her romances failed. Her father became a cruel disappointment. Her first daughter was born deaf, blind, hopelessly retarded, At the crest of her career, Gene Tierny attempted suicide, suffered a nervous breakdown, and spent the next seven years in and out of sanatoriums. With candor, humor, and sometimes with anger, but never with self-pity or self-indulgence, she tells of her meteoric career, her long, slow, uneven recovery from 'the black tunnel of mental illness'; the struggles with her doctors, her treatments, her escape from confinement, her depressions, her mad impulses, herself, always herself ... and finally on to a happy remarriage and tranquillity. But the inside story of her greatest most heart wrenching role herself has never been told until right now Outwardly living every womans fantasies she became an emotional invalid Her marriage collapsed Her romances failed

2010-09-01 Why does a director choose a particular script? What must they do in order to keep actors fresh and truthful through take after take of a single scene? How do you stage a shootout—involving more than one hundred extras and three colliding taxis—in the heart of New York's diamond district? What does it take to keep

the studio honchos happy? From the first rehearsal to the final screening, *Making Movies* is a master's take, delivered with clarity, candor, and a wealth of anecdote. For in this book, Sidney Lumet, one of our most consistently acclaimed directors, gives us both a professional memoir and a definitive guide to the art, craft, and business of the motion picture. Drawing on forty years of experience on movies that range from *Long Day's Journey into Night* to *Network* and *The Verdict*—and with such stars as Katharine Hepburn, Paul Newman, Marlon Brando, and Al Pacino—Lumet explains how painstaking labor and inspired split-second decisions can result in two hours of screen magic. For in this book Sidney Lumet one of our most consistently acclaimed directors gives us both a professional memoir and a definitive guide to the art craft and business of the motion picture

2012-10-02 The first major biography of the iconic actor Henry Fonda, a story of stardom, manhood, and the American character Henry Fonda's performances—in *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Young Mr. Lincoln*, *The Lady Eve*, *12 Angry Men*, *On Golden Pond*—helped define American in the twentieth century. He worked with movie masters from Ford and Sturges to Hitchcock and Leone. He was a Broadway legend. He fought in World War II and was loved the world over. Yet much of his life was rage and struggle. Why did Fonda marry five times—tempestuously to actress Margaret Sullavan, tragically to heiress Frances

Brokaw, mother of Jane and Peter? Was he a man of integrity, worthy of the heroes he played, or the harsh father his children describe, the iceman who went onstage hours after his wife killed herself? Why did suicide shadow his life and art? What memories troubled him so? McKinney's Fonda is dark, complex, fascinating, and a product of glamour and acclaim, early losses and Midwestern demons—a man haunted by what he'd seen, and by who he was. What memories troubled him so McKinney's Fonda is dark complex fascinating and a product of glamour and acclaim early losses and Midwestern demons a man haunted by what he'd seen and by who he was

2022-11-15 In this stunning debut novel, Esi, a feisty Nigerian-Ghanaian girl growing up amid political upheaval in postcolonial Ghana, begins to question the hypocrisy of the patriarchal society that surrounds her, and the restrictions and unrealistic expectations placed on women-- Includes an excerpt from Daughter in exile

2005

2013-06-04 Now a Major Motion Picture Directed by George Clooney The #1 New York Times–bestselling story about the American Olympic rowing triumph in Nazi Germany—from the author of *Facing the Mountain*. For readers of *Unbroken*, out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the

American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal quest. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz a teenager without family or prospects who rows not only to regain his shattered self regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world

2017-10-24 “[A] remarkably absorbing, supremely entertaining joint biography” (The New York Times) from bestselling author Scott Eyman about the remarkable friendship of Henry Fonda and James Stewart, two Hollywood legends who maintained a close relationship that endured all of life's twists and turns. Henry Fonda and James Stewart were two of the biggest stars in Hollywood for forty years, but they became friends

when they were unknown. They roomed together as stage actors in New York, and when they began making films in Hollywood, they were roommates again. Between them they made such classic films as *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Mister Roberts*, *Twelve Angry Men*, and *On Golden Pond*; and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Vertigo*, and *Rear Window*. They got along famously, with a shared interest in elaborate practical jokes and model airplanes, among other things. But their friendship also endured despite their differences: Fonda was a liberal Democrat, Stewart a conservative Republican. Fonda was a ladies' man who was married five times; Stewart remained married to the same woman for forty-five years. Both men volunteered during World War II and were decorated for their service. When Stewart returned home, still unmarried, he once again moved in with Fonda, his wife, and his two children, Jane and Peter, who knew him as Uncle Jimmy. For his "breezy, entertaining" (Publishers Weekly) Hank and Jim, biographer and film historian Scott Eyman spoke with Fonda's widow and children as well as three of Stewart's children, plus actors and directors who had worked with the men—in addition to doing extensive archival research to get the full details of their time together. This is not just another Hollywood story, but "a fascinating...richly documented biography" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) of an extraordinary friendship that lasted through

war, marriages, children, careers, and everything else. This is not just another Hollywood story but a fascinating richly documented biography Kirkus Reviews starred review of an extraordinary friendship that lasted through war marriages children careers and everything else

2012-10-30 Cold Glory is the exciting start to a brand-new thriller series by B. Kent Anderson. When the first page of a shocking Civil War-era document is unearthed in Oklahoma, history professor Nick Journey is called in to evaluate the find--and is promptly attacked by two men armed with Special Forces weapons. Federal agent Meg Tolman's investigation into Journey's attack uncovers more troubling questions than answers. She soon finds herself joining Journey's cross-country quest to recover and protect the missing pages. A shadowy group, the Glory Warriors, have been desperately searching for this explosive document to legitimize what is nothing less than a military coup. After their first attempt to steal it from Journey fails, they follow him, knowing that he holds the key to uncovering the long-lost papers. They also set their plan into motion and begin assassinating key political figures. As the country plunges into chaos, Journey and Tolman search frantically for the remaining pages. And the Glory Warrior operatives are hot on their trail'. Cold Glory is the exciting start to a brand new thriller series by B Kent Anderson When the first page of a shocking Civil War era document is unearthed in Oklahoma history professor

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1988

2011-10-26 This is an introductory textbook that helps students understand how people think about, feel about, relate to, and influence one another. This is an introduction to the field of applied social psychology which looks at the nature of social psychological theory and how it is used to enhance our understanding of social and practical issues

2010-11-10 The central figure of this novel is a young man whose parents were executed for conspiring to steal atomic secrets for Russia. His name is Daniel Isaacson, and as the story opens, his parents have been dead for many years. He has had a long time to adjust to their deaths. He has not adjusted. Out of the shambles of his childhood, he has constructed a new life—marriage to an adoring girl who gives him a son of his own, and a career in scholarship. It is a life that enrages him. In the silence of the library at Columbia University, where he is supposedly writing a Ph.D. dissertation, Daniel composes something quite different. It is a confession of his most intimate relationships—with his wife, his foster parents, and his kid sister Susan, whose own radicalism so reproaches him. It is a book of memories: riding a bus

with his parents to the ill-fated Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill; watching the FBI take his father away; appearing with Susan at rallies protesting their parents' innocence; visiting his mother and father in the Death House. It is a book of investigation: transcribing Daniel's interviews with people who knew his parents, or who knew about them; and logging his strange researches and discoveries in the library stacks. It is a book of judgments of everyone involved in the case—lawyers, police, informers, friends, and the Isaacson family itself. It is a book rich in characters, from elderly grandmothers of immigrant culture, to covert radicals of the McCarthy era, to hippie marchers on the Pen-tagon. It is a book that spans the quarter-century of American life since World War II. It is a book about the nature of Left politics in this country—its sacrificial rites, its peculiar cruelties, its humility, its bitterness. It is a book about some of the beautiful and terrible feelings of childhood. It is about the nature of guilt and innocence, and about the relations of people to nations. It is *The Book of Daniel*. The central figure of this novel is a young man whose parents were executed for conspiring to steal atomic secrets for Russia His name is Daniel Isaacson and as the story opens his parents have been dead for many years