

Couples

JOHN
UPDIKE



1981



Couples

A NOVEL BY

John
Updike

Couples John Updike

Daniel Quentin Miller



Couples John Updike:

Couples John Updike, 1996-08-27 Trapped in their cozy catacombs the couples have made sex by turns their toy their glue their trauma their therapy their hope their frustration their revenge their narcotic their main line of communication and their sole and pitiable shield against the awareness of death Time One of The Atlantic's Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years One of the signature novels of the American 1960s *Couples* is a book that when it debuted scandalized the public with prose pictures of the way people live and that today provides an engrossing epitaph to the short happy life of the post Pill paradise It chronicles the interactions of ten young married couples in a seaside New England community who make a cult of sex and of themselves The group of acquaintances form a magical circle complete with ritualistic games religious substitutions a priest Freddy Thorne and a scapegoat Piet Hanema As with most American utopias this one's existence is brief and unsustainable but the imaginative quest that inspires its creation is eternal Praise for *Couples* *Couples* is John Updike's tour de force of extramarital wanderlust The New York Times Book Review Ingenious If this is a dirty book I don't see how sex can be written about at all Wilfrid Sheed The New York Times Book Review

Couples by John Updike John Updike, 1968 [John Updike: Novels 1968-1975 \(LOA #326\)](#) John Updike, 2020-01-07 Library of America's definitive Updike edition continues with three masterful novels on the joys and the discontents of the sexual revolution Here for the first time in one volume are three of John Updike's most essential novels the scandalous *Couples* the brilliant *Rabbit Redux* and the uproarious *A Month of Sundays* which together form an unforgettable triptych of the social turbulence that roiled America from the Kennedy to the Nixon years Written with the grace verve and style of one of literature's most sophisticated entertainers these books not only reveal Updike's genius in characterization and his formal versatility as a novelist but also delve into the complexities of sex and marriage social class and personal morality and the difficult quandaries of the flesh and the spirit As a special feature the volume also presents two short pieces that shed light on the novels and the tale *Couples* A Short Story the origin of the novel of the same name written in 1963 but deemed unsuitable for publication by The New Yorker

[Couples](#) John Updike, 2001 They are sociable articulate and unhappy they enjoy sailing basketball and skiing they play word games in the evenings and adultery all the year round Slipping in and out of affairs they and their rituals are observed by the baleful eye of their self appointed ringmaster Freddy Thorne

John Updike and the Cold War Daniel Quentin Miller, 2001 One of the most enduring and prolific American authors of the latter half of the twentieth century John Updike has long been recognized by critics for his importance as a social commentator Yet John Updike and the Cold War is the first work to examine how Updike's views grew out of the defining context of American culture in his time the Cold War Quentin Miller argues that because Updike's career began as the Cold War was taking shape in the mid 1950s the world he creates in his entire literary oeuvre fiction poetry and nonfiction prose reflects the optimism and the anxiety of that decade

An Evaluation of John Updike's *Couples* Dennis Stein, 1969 *The John Updike Encyclopedia* Jack De

Bellis,2000-09-30 John Updike is one of the most seminal American writers of the 20th century and one of the most prolific as well In addition to his best selling novels he has written numerous poems short stories reviews and essays His writing consistently reveals stylistic brilliance and through his engagement with America s moral and spiritual problems his works chronicle America s hopes and dreams failures and disappointments Though he is an enormously popular writer the complexity and elegance of his works have elicited growing scholarly attention Through several hundred alphabetically arranged entries this book provides both casual and serious readers an exceptional guide to his life and writings Whether the reader is seeking a novel summary an authoritative analysis of subjects elucidation of an allusion or a point about Updike s life or manner of composition the encyclopedia is indispensable A chronology summarizes the major events in Updike s career while an introductory essay examines his progress as a writer from his crafted light verse and informed reviews to his innovative novels and stories The entries that follow summarize Updike s books describe all major characters explain allusions identify major images and symbols analyze principal subjects discuss his life and career and draw on the most significant scholarship Entries include bibliographies and the volume closes with a list of works for further reading *John Updike* Jack De Bellis,Michael Broomfield,2007 This definitive guide to materials by and about this prolific American author consists of a printed first volume and a second volume on CD ROM The A and B sections of Volume I concern separately printed works by Updike and books to which he has contributed The volume also features over 500 grayscale images of book covers jackets broadsides and many seldom seen items It includes comprehensive listings of Updike s short fiction poems articles essays and reviews as well as extensive documentation of letters speeches dramatic works manuscripts interviews and blurbs Volume II contains entries for material about Updike and his work reviews commentary and theses several appendices media appearances work read by others works in translation exhibits and catalogs and full color versions of images appearing in the printed volume Becoming John Updike Laurence W. Mazzeno,2013 When John Updike died in 2009 tributes from the literary establishment were immediate and fulsome However no one reading reviews of Updike s work in the late 1960s would have predicted that kind of praise for a man who was known then as a brilliant stylist who had nothing to say What changed Why And what is likely to be his legacy These are the questions that *Becoming John Updike* pursues by examining the journalistic and academic response to his writings Several things about Updike s career make a reception study appropriate First he was prolific he began publishing fiction and essays in 1956 published his first book in 1958 and from then on brought out at least one new book each year Second his books were reviewed widely usually in major American newspapers and magazines and often in foreign ones as well Third Updike quickly became a darling of academics the first book about his work was published in 1967 less than a decade after his own first book More than three dozen books and hundreds of articles of academic criticism have been devoted to Updike The present volume will appeal to the continuing interest in Updike s writing among academics and general readers alike Laurence W Mazzeno is President Emeritus of

Alvernia University Among other books he has written volumes on Austen Dickens Tennyson and Matthew Arnold for Camden House's Literary Criticism in Perspective series **Understanding John Updike** Frederic Svoboda, 2018-04-01 A close look at the extraordinary literary achievements of a popular and prolific American author The winner of every major American literary prize John Updike 1932-2009 was one of the most popular and prolific novelists of his time and a major cultural figure who traced the high point and fall of midcentury American self confidence and energy A superb stylist with sixty books to his credit he brilliantly rendered the physical surfaces of the nation's life even as he revealed the intense longings beneath those surfaces In *Understanding John Updike* Frederic Svoboda elucidates the author's deep insights into the second half of the twentieth century as seen through the lives of ordinary men and women He offers extended close readings of Updike's most significant works of fiction templates through which his entire oeuvre may be understood A small town Pennsylvanian whose prodigious talent took him to Harvard a staff position at the New Yorker and ultimately a life in suburban Massachusetts where the pace of his literary output never slowed Updike was very much in the American cultural tradition His series of Rabbit Angstrom novels strongly echo Sinclair Lewis's earlier explorations of middle America while *The Witches of Eastwick* and related novels are variations on Nathaniel Hawthorne's nineteenth century classic *The Scarlet Letter* His number one best seller *Couples* examines what Time magazine called the adulterous society in the last year of the Kennedy administration following the nation's fall from idealism into self centeredness *Understanding John Updike* will give both new readers and those already familiar with the author a firm grasp of his literary achievement This outline of Updike's professional career highlights his importance in the life of the nation not only as a novelist but also as a gifted essayist reviewer cultural critic and poet

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