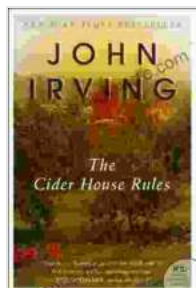


The Cider House Rules: A Riveting Tale of Identity, Morality, and the Power of Choice



The Cider House Rules by John Irving

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3531 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

X-Ray : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 612 pages

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John Irving's *The Cider House Rules* is a powerful novel that explores themes of identity, morality, and the power of choice. The story follows Homer Wells, an orphan who is raised in an orphanage and trained to be an obstetrician.

Homer is a gifted surgeon, but he is also haunted by the knowledge that he is an illegitimate child. He never knew his father, and his mother died in childbirth. As he grows older, Homer begins to question his identity and his place in the world.

Homer's journey of self-discovery is intertwined with the story of Dr. Larch, the director of the orphanage. Dr. Larch is a kind and compassionate man who has dedicated his life to helping others. He is a mentor to Homer, and he helps him to understand the importance of choice.

The Cider House Rules is a complex and thought-provoking novel that raises important questions about the human condition. It is a story about the power of choice, the importance of identity, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Major Themes

The Cider House Rules explores a number of important themes, including:

- **Identity:** Homer Wells is an orphan who is searching for his place in the world. He is haunted by the knowledge that he is an illegitimate child, and he struggles to understand who he is and where he belongs.
- **Morality:** The novel raises important questions about morality, particularly the ethics of abortion. Homer is trained to be an obstetrician, and he witnesses firsthand the pain and suffering that abortion can cause. However, he also believes that women have the right to choose what happens to their bodies.
- **Power of choice:** The novel emphasizes the importance of choice. Homer is constantly faced with difficult choices, and he must decide what is best for himself and for others.

Characters

The Cider House Rules features a cast of complex and well-developed characters. The main characters include:

- **Homer Wells:** The protagonist of the novel, Homer is an orphan who is raised in an orphanage and trained to be an obstetrician.
- **Dr. Larch:** The director of the orphanage, Dr. Larch is a kind and compassionate man who mentors Homer and helps him to understand

the importance of choice.

- **Candy Kendall:** A young woman who is pregnant with Homer's child, Candy is a complex and flawed character who is trying to find her place in the world.
- **Wally Worthington:** A wealthy and powerful man, Wally is the father of Candy's child. He is a ruthless and ambitious man who is determined to have his way, no matter the cost.

Setting

The Cider House Rules is set in Maine in the early 20th century. The novel explores the social and cultural changes that were taking place in the United States at the time, including the rise of industrialization and the changing roles of women.

Literary Devices

Irving uses a number of literary devices to create a rich and engaging narrative. These devices include:

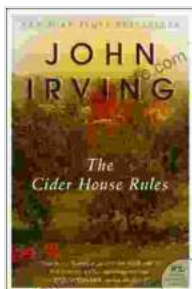
- **Imagery:** Irving uses vivid imagery to create a strong sense of place and atmosphere. The novel is full of detailed descriptions of the orphanage, the countryside, and the people who live there.
- **Symbolism:** Irving uses symbolism to explore the novel's themes. For example, the cider house is a symbol of the orphanage, and the apples are a symbol of choice.
- **Foreshadowing:** Irving uses foreshadowing to create suspense and to build towards the novel's climax.

Themes

The Cider House Rules is a novel that is rich in themes. Some of the most important themes explored in the novel include:

- **The power of choice**
- **The importance of identity**
- **The role of morality in decision-making**
- **The resilience of the human spirit**

The Cider House Rules is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that explores important questions about the human condition. It is a story about the power of choice, the importance of identity, and the resilience of the human spirit.



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