



Infinite Jest

By David Foster Wallace

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A gargantuan, mind-altering comedy about the Pursuit of Happiness in America set in an addicts' halfway house and a tennis academy, and featuring the most endearingly screwed-up family to come along in recent fiction, *Infinite Jest* explores essential questions about what entertainment is and why it has come to so dominate our lives; about how our desire for entertainment affects our need to connect with other people; and about what the pleasures we choose say about who we are. Equal parts philosophical quest and screwball comedy, *Infinite Jest* bends every rule of fiction without sacrificing for a moment its own entertainment value. It is an exuberant, uniquely American exploration of the passions that make us human - and one of those rare books that renew the idea of what a novel can do.

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Infinite Jest By David Foster Wallace Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In a sprawling, wild, super-hyped magnum opus, David Foster Wallace fulfills the promise of his precocious novel *The Broom of the System*. Equal parts philosophical quest and screwball comedy, **Infinite Jest** bends every rule of fiction, features a huge cast and multilevel narrative, and questions essential elements of American culture - our entertainments, our addictions, our relationships, our pleasures, our abilities to define ourselves.

From Publishers Weekly

With its baroque subplots, zany political satire, morbid, cerebral humor and astonishing range of cultural references, Wallace's brilliant but somewhat bloated dirigible of a second novel (after *The Broom in the System*) will appeal to steadfast readers of Pynchon and Gaddis. But few others will have the stamina for it. Set in an absurd yet uncanny near-future, with a cast of hundreds and close to 400 footnotes, Wallace's story weaves between two surprisingly similar locales: Ennet House, a halfway-house in the Boston Suburbs, and the adjacent Enfield Tennis Academy. It is the "Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment" (each calendar year is now subsidized by retail advertising); the U.S. and Canada have been subsumed by the Organization of North American Nations, unleashing a torrent of anti-O.N.A.N.ist terrorism by Quebecois separatists; drug problems are widespread; the Northeastern continent is a giant toxic waste dump; and CD-like "entertainment cartridges" are the prevalent leisure activity. The novel hinges on the dysfunctional family of E.T.A.'s founder, optical-scientist-turned-cult-filmmaker Dr. James Incandenza (aka Himself), who took his life shortly after producing a mysterious film called *Infinite Jest*, which is supposedly so addictively entertaining as to bring about a total neural meltdown in its viewer. As Himself's estranged sons?professional football punter Orin, introverted tennis star Hal and deformed naif Mario?come to terms with his suicide and legacy, they and the residents of Ennet House become enmeshed in the machinations of the wheelchair-bound leader of a Quebecois separatist faction, who hopes to disseminate cartridges of *Infinite Jest* and thus shred the social fabric of O.N.A.N. With its hilarious riffs on themes like addiction, 12-step programs, technology and waste management (in all its scatological implications), this tome is highly engrossing?in small doses. Yet the nebulous, resolutionless ending serves to underscore Wallace's underlying failure to find a suitable novelistic shape for his ingenious and often outrageously funny material.

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From Library Journal

Wallace's second novel is not for the faint-hearted or the weak-wristed. Wallace (*The Girl with Curious Hair*, LJ 7/89) throws everything he knows-and he knows plenty-into this river of stories. If you can stand the extreme length, ignore the footnotes, and have a bed-desk to rest this tome on, this book can be fun. Wallace sandwiches more than you'd ever want to know about a private tennis boarding school, Quebec separatists, a drug-and-alcohol addict's halfway house, potheads, and other topics-both trendy and not-in-between E-mail messages, admissions reports, headlines, and other real-life documents, or pseudo-documents. Too much happens here even to begin to summarize, but the author has a wicked sense of humor and a wonderful eye for capturing the odd juxtapositions of modern life. Besides his lack of conciseness, Wallace's other main weakness is dialog: nobody talks as cleverly as most of his characters do. Distinct, idiomatic, wild, and crazy, this book is destined to have a cult following. Recommended for most fiction collections.

Doris Lynch, Monroe Cty. P.L., Bloomington, Ind.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andrew Wilson:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Infinite Jest. Try to stumble through book Infinite Jest as your pal. It means that it can being your friend when you feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let's make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Ryan Connors:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world could share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the publications. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write on their book. One of them is this Infinite Jest.

Nicole Norris:

Typically the book Infinite Jest has a lot details on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

Joseph Vargas:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to your account is Infinite Jest this guide consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some research when he makes this book. This is why this book appropriate all of you.

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