

Rabbit Finally at Rest

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Abstract

After nearly forty years of coming and going, finally it is time for Rabbit to take a rest. John Updike recognizes the inevitable denouement better than anyone else. It is not exaggerated to say that the *Rabbit* tetralogy is also a series of historical books reflecting how American society changes economically and politically during 50s to 80s. Updike once commented that *Rabbit* was “a depressed book about a depressed man, written by a depressed man” (1990). In both Harry's and Updike's depression, we sense the secret worry coming along with the change that America has to tackle, but simultaneously, some hope remains sparkling with its feeble light. The tetralogy begins with Rabbit playing basketball, a sport that has born the most glory in Rabbit's life, and ends with Rabbit playing basketball again, so that Rabbit's glory can never come to an end.

Keywords: Updike, Rabbit, American Society