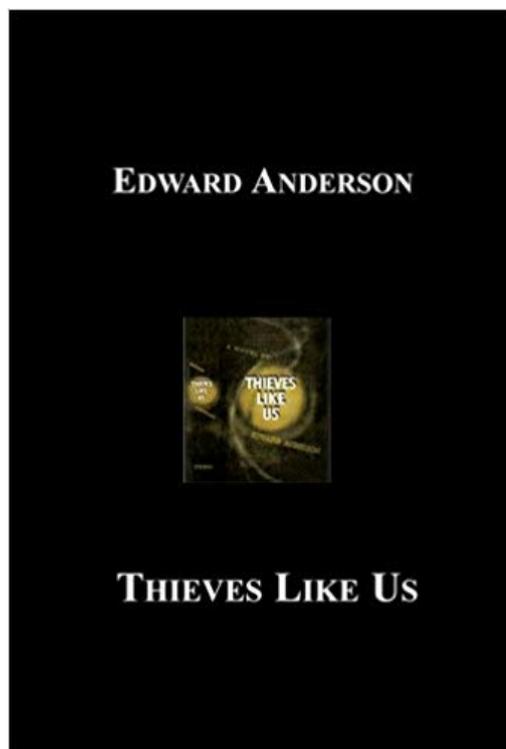


Thieves Like Us *by* Edward Anderson



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Author: Edward Anderson

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Often-filmed mini-classic about three small-timers who bust out of jail and then go on a bank-robbing spree. They grow ever more daring in their exploits, with a lead character finding a woman who'll go along, but the cops come along and catch the guys one by one. Credited with helping to invent the genre.



Reviews of the *Thieves Like Us* by Edward Anderson

Winenama

This is a review of the audio version of "Thieves Like Us", written by Edward Anderson and read by Steve Scherf

It's the late 1930's - the depression has hit America full bore. Banks are failing, people are losing their life savings and the bankers seem to have enough money to keep their extravagant lifestyles. Thieves Like Us was written by Edward Anderson, published in 1937, and represents the start of the "Noir" genre, popularized by writers like Hammett and Chandler. The story focuses on three criminals who escape from an Oklahoma prison and revert to the one thing that they know well -

robbing banks. The language that Anderson uses is vivid; representative of the pulp fiction of the time. He doesn't pull punches with the dialog, racial interaction is described as it was in the 1930's in the south, and violence is treated matter-of-factly, neither sectionalizing it, nor downplaying it. This is a classic noir novel, and to some it may feel dated, but it is very representative of the style of pulp fiction of that time, but more important, it captures the spirit of how people lived through that time.

Steve Scherf does a great job reading this. As usual, he makes it easy to distinguish the characters and nails the pace and timing perfectly. To be honest, I'm not sure I'd have enjoyed the book if I was reading it - Scherf's narration really made this a delight to listen to.

doesnt Do You

Thieves Like Us is a thoroughly downbeat, noirish tale about a trio of career criminals who escape from an Oklahoma prison and proceed to commit a series of bank robberies. The one nicknamed Bowie finds love with a poor country girl. As the two lovers set up housekeeping despite the ever present threat of discovery hanging over their heads, the reader is acutely aware that the phrase "happily ever after" is not likely to play much of a role here.

The plot of this dark Depression era work takes a relentlessly downward spiral as the characters inevitably become trapped in a spider web of their own making. Author Edward Anderson did a great job in bringing to life the rural small town settings against which the majority of the narrative takes place. Especially noteworthy is the plentiful dialogue featuring a distinctive vernacular that lends authenticity to the proceedings.

Written in the 1930s, Thieves Like Us is very much a product of its time. Its palpable sense of desperation and disillusionment fits right in with the mood of a nation struggling against hard economic conditions.

LoboThommy

Ostensibly a crime novel--a classic crime novel, make no mistake--this moves well beyond the average noir to become a tremendously affecting literary work. I was stunned to find the book's stoic beauty approaching Faulkner.

Bowie's voice will remain in your head and your heart for days. Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

Erienan

Set in the dusty plains of Oklahoma and Texas, three escaped convicts turn to what they know...bank robbery.

A little thin in the writing...not enough back story for me, not enough action with most of the bank heists, though I did like the romance (imagine that!). For me, it was just okay.

Snowskin

Fast moving and descriptive . The story of a group of bank robbers during the mid 1930 's , their desperation and ultimate downfall on the back roads of rural America.

Dishadel

In my book, this may be Robert Altman's greatest film. It's even better than Nicholas Ray's THEY LIVE BY NIGHT, which is based on the same novel, and that's saying a lot. Shelley Duvall is transcendent.

Vishura

Chicamauw is my favorite character.

Very confusing and disjointed. Hard to follow. I didn't finish it.

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