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Horatio Alger

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Horatio Alger : Cast Upon the Breakers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cast Upon the Breakers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I have enjoyed all the Horatio Alger books that I have readBy Geraldine MaynardI have enjoyed all the Horatio Alger books that I have read. The rags to riches stories that he told were so encouraging, especially for the time he wrote them.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy Roberta MooreThis is one of the late Alger books, originally published in serialized form in Argosy magazine. An educated, well-dressed boy has to earn his own way when his guardian squanders his inheritance, and he

has to go through some jobs and deal with some setbacks before he really gets on his feet. As with most of the Alger books, the young man has a mentor - and is one himself. I think people who criticize the Alger books for usually having generous mentors miss the point Alger was trying to make; he wasn't trying to say that every smart, honest, and hardworking newsboy or bootblack with achieve fame and fortune, but those who are given a chance (and have all those traits) might He himself informally adopted several boys and helped bring an end to the padrone (essentially child slavery) system in spite of threats to his life for being against it. Alger wrote this one in fairly straightforward chronological style, telling the story mainly in terms of interactions with people. He went here and had this conversation, he was called there and this letter was read, that sort of thing. There is a little detail about New York City of the time - we learn that Bleecker St wasn't always so bad as it apparently was in 1893, when this was published; Delmonico's was around, etc.. These little details left me at least wanting a little more. Most of the jobs lasted a few months, but there is never anything said of the weather or seasons, or how much time had passed in toto. I would have liked that, too. There was of course a happy ending, somewhat unlikely, but more believable than Huck Finn's or Forrest Gump's. It has to be remembered that this is juvenile fiction, a younger person may have different expectations than an adult would. Money was almost the real main character in this book, the first of the Alger books I read; how people feel about you based on whether you have it, (or they think you do - there's a comic vignette there), how to use it well, whether you have a little or a lot. The hardships the young man endures are mostly because of people with corrupt attitudes about money. I don't know if that's typical of Alger's books, but I could see more depth there than I would have expected, given the stereotype that Alger's formula was the simplistic rags-to-riches yarn for kids. Overall, it was a fun and interesting read, I may look into more of his books. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Proof that these are principles that will last forever! By Felicity Barrington This review is not for the cynics and others who hate America, (whether they live here or not): There are many of us who still believe in the 'American Dream'. Who see in America as a land of opportunity, where a person may make what he wants of himself. This is the reason for the success of movies like the Secret, and books like Think and Grow Rich. Haters of this concept don't believe in the philosophy of 'if it's to be; it's up to me' and personal growth- they believe in the 'it's not my responsibility to be successful, it's the governments, or a union, etc' to make things right. For those of us who DO believe in America and what it stands for, we need to relax from time to time, from our dedicated path to success. From time to time, I like to read a novel or two, to unwind, but there are so few are positive, uplifting, and compelling novels that also promote personal growth and success principles. So finding one or two is GREAT NEWS! However I have made a wonderful discover of a new and magnificently published selection of Horatio Alger books, so now we don't just have one or two, but many, many hours ahead of us to relax, recharge and at the same time instill in ourselves the success principles we all know and love! Cast upon the Breakers is truly inspiring! From poverty to wealth - its what we all want and want for those we love, and here, our hero faces worse odds than most of us would, from villains scammers, cheats, and more. The story read great, the novel and plot is wonderful, as Alger knows how to write well and keep his page turner on track, but what I really like best is how he interweaves HOW success happens, as well as WHY, and the METHODS used. Now don't think that just because this book was written 100 years ago its 'old' and out of date, its not, its like reading any book on personal development and full of great tips that are timeless and just as powerful today as they were when the book was first written. You WILL love this book!

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About the Author Horatio Alger Jr. (January 13, 1832 July 18, 1899) was a prolific 19th-century American writer, best known for his many young adult novels about impoverished boys and their rise from humble backgrounds to lives of middle-class security and comfort through hard work, determination, courage, and honesty. His writings were characterized by the "rags-to-riches" narrative, which had a formative effect on America during the Gilded Age. (Wikipedia)