



*John*

STEINBECK



*East  
of  
Eden*

PENGUIN BOOKS

## EAST OF EDEN

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California, in 1902. The town is a few miles from the Pacific Coast and near the fertile Salinas Valley—an area that was to be the background of much of his fiction. He studied marine biology at Stanford University but left without taking a degree and, after a series of laboring jobs, began to write. An attempt at a free-lance literary career in New York City failed, and he returned to California, continuing to write in a lonely cottage. Popular success came to him only in 1935 with *Tortilla Flat*. That book's promise was confirmed by succeeding works—*In Dubious Battle*, *Of Mice and Men*, and especially *The Grapes of Wrath*, a novel so powerful that it remains among the archetypes of American culture. Often set in California, Steinbeck's later books include *Cannery Row*, *The Wayward Bus*, *East of Eden*, *The Short Reign of Pippin IV*, and *Travels with Charley*. He died in 1968, having won a Nobel Prize in 1962. In announcing the award, the Swedish Academy declared: "He had no mind to be an unoffending comforter and entertainer. Instead, the topics he chose were serious and denunciatory, for instance the bitter strikes on California's fruit and cotton plantations. ... His literary power steadily gained impetus. ... The little masterpiece *Of Mice and Men* ... was followed by those incomparable short stories which he collected together in the volume *The Long Valley*. The way had now been paved for the great work ... the epic chronicle *The Grapes of Wrath*."

**BY JOHN STEINBECK**

FICTION

Cup of Gold

The Pastures of Heaven

To a God Unknown

Tortilla Flat

In Dubious Battle

Saint Katy the Virgin

Of Mice and Men

The Red Pony

The Long Valley

The Grapes of Wrath

The Moon Is Down

Cannery Row

The Wayward Bus

The Pearl

Burning Bright: A Play in Story Form

East of Eden

Sweet Thursday

The Winter of Our Discontent

The Short Reign of Pippin IV: A Fabrication

NONFICTION

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*(in collaboration with Edward F. Ricketts)*

Bombs Away: The Story of a Bomber Team  
A Russian Journal (*with pictures by Robert Capa*)

The Log from the *Sea of Cortez*

Once There Was a War

Travels with Charley in Search of America

America and Americans

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PLAYS, A DOCUMENTARY, AND A SCREENPLAY

Of Mice and Men

The Moon Is Down

The Forgotten Village

Viva Zapata!

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Steinbeck: A Life in Letters

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The Grapes of Wrath

(*edited by Peter Lisca*)

EAST  
OF EDEN  
JOHN STEINBECK

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## PASCAL COVICI

*Dear Pat,*

*You came upon me carving some kind of little figure out of wood and you said, “Why don’t you make something for me?”*

*I asked you what you wanted, and you said, “A box.”*

*“What for?”*

*“To put things in.”*

*“What things?”*

*“Whatever you have,” you said.*

*Well, here’s your box. Nearly everything I have is in it, and it is not full. Pain and excitement are in it, and feeling good or bad and evil thoughts and good thoughts—the pleasure of design and some despair and the indescribable joy of creation.*

*And on top of these are all the gratitude and love I have for you.*

*And still the box is not full.*

**JOHN**

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