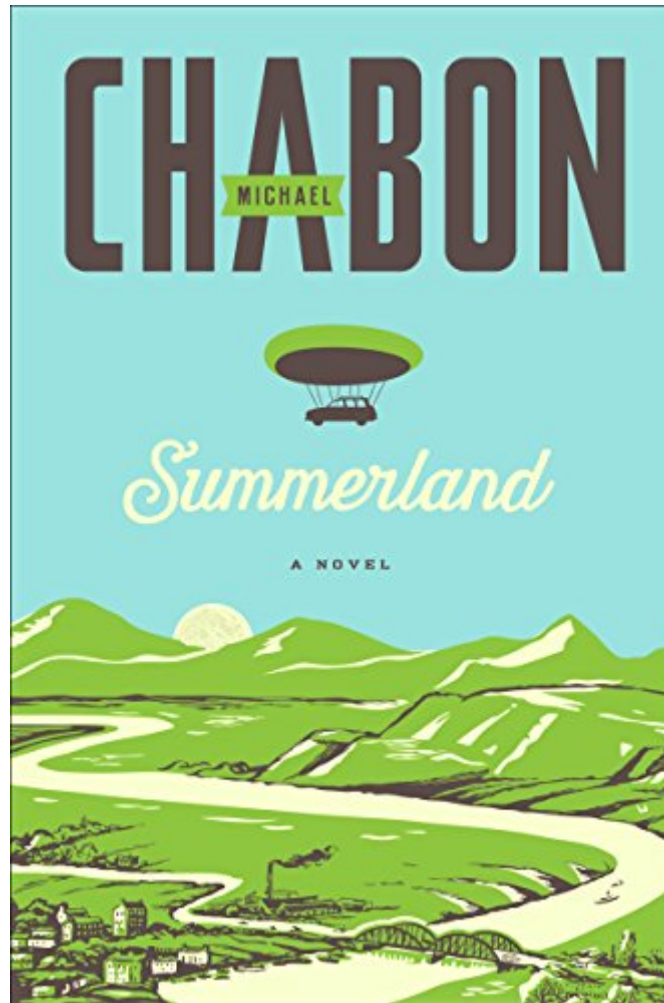




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Summerland: A Novel



Synopsis

From the Pulitzer Prize winning Michael Chabon comes this bestselling novel for readers of all ages that blends fantasy and folklore with that most American coming-of-age ritual: baseball. Now in a new edition, with an original introduction by the author. Ethan Feld is having a terrible summer: his father has moved them to Clam Island, Washington, where Ethan has quickly established himself as the least gifted baseball player the island has ever seen. Ethan's luck begins to change, however, when a mysterious baseball scout named Ringfinger Brown and a seven-hundred-and-sixty-five-year-old werefox enter his life, dragging Ethan into another world called the Summerlands. But this beautiful, winter-less place is facing destruction at the hands of the villainous Coyote, and it has been prophesized that only Ethan can save it. In this cherished modern classic, the New York Times bestselling, Pulitzer Prize winning author brings his masterful storytelling, dexterous plotting, and singularly envisioned characters to a coming-of-age novel for readers of all ages.

Book Information

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Coming of Age

Customer Reviews

Very different from other Chabon novels, it is nonetheless excellent because of his writing is superb.

Just didn't catch my imagination as I thought it would.

I would give this wonderful book 10 stars if I could. Just beautiful.

Terrific story by a writer who clearly loves baseball and mythology. My eight-year-old daughter loves it. If you are very unfamiliar with baseball and don't want to have it as part of the story then this might not be the book for you. Otherwise, it's a fun, very well written book with themes and characters that go well beyond baseball or anything else.

There were two factors that I thought would make this book good: Michael Chabon is a great writer, and baseball was a big part of the plot. Even though the book was billed as a young adults book, I thought it would be entertaining. I was wrong. Summerland is too long and just too unimaginative to entertain an adult.

I loved Chabon's "Kavalier & Clay" and was really excited when I read he was writing a book for young adults. I felt really mixed about the result. First off, I think it's unfair to make the immediate comparison to the young wizard at Hogwarts. Those books are just in a different and unstoppable class of their own. That said I think Chabon's fantasy of a boy named Ethan Feld who has to save the world through baseball has moments of charm and imagination. The alternative world that Ethan travels to is inhabited by all kinds of mythical creatures such as werewolves, giants, and even a Sasquatch. But for me I didn't find the story all that compelling. Yes, there's a villain who's more or less the devil, but we barely see him or his nasty deeds so he never is quite as ominous as he should be. Plus there's never a real concern that Ethan and his friends won't complete their various tasks, and at the end of the day everything will be fine. On another note, since the book relies so much on the playing of baseball, if you're not a fan you may find that element a turn off. It's a fine young adult book. But beyond Potter I'd try Phillip Pullman's world for a richer and deeply imagined world.

What a fun book! Even more fun since I am pretty well versed in the fables and Norse mythology that it is based on. Quite an engaging tale, even for an adult. I had a lot of fun reading this :-)

I wanted to read a nice book about baseball, since I'm writing something that has a bit of baseball in it. The fantasy aspect of the book was a surprise, but it was fun.

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