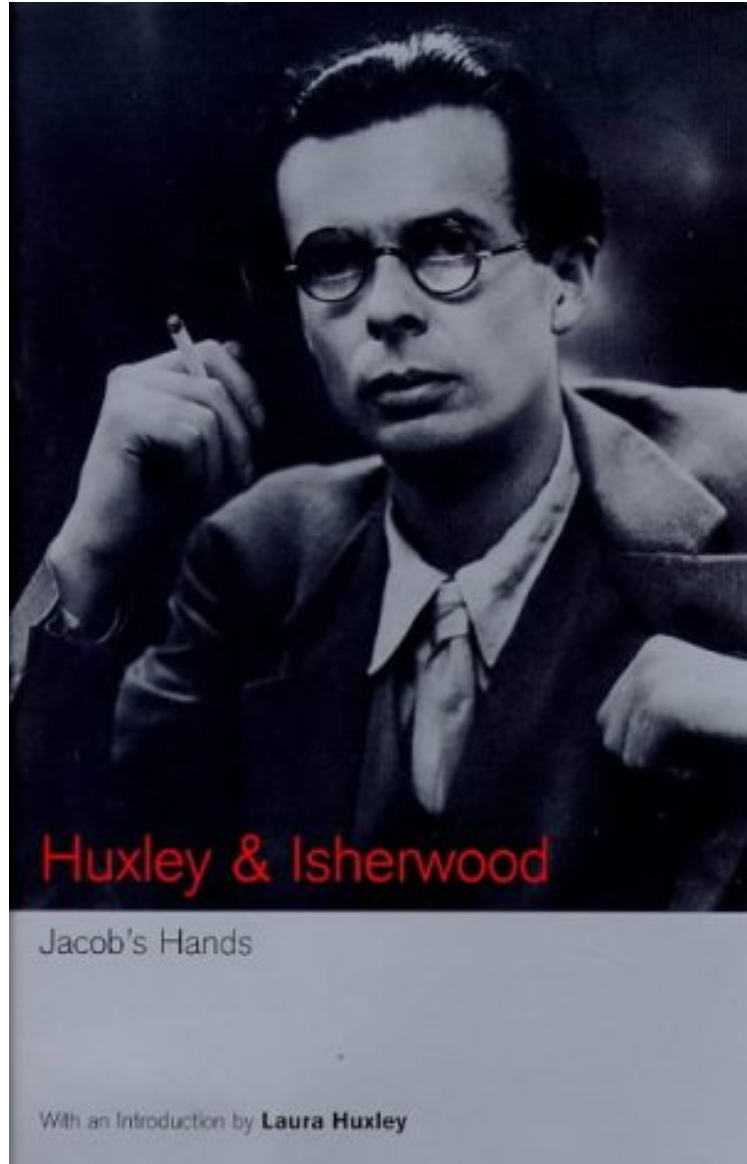


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Jacobs Hands

Aldous Huxley

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Aldous Huxley : Jacobs Hands before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jacobs Hands:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Major talents "slumming" a bit for the movies By DWD's Reviews Saying that Huxley and Isherwood are slumming by writing a screenplay is really an unfair comparison to the Hollywood of then and the Hollywood of now. Hollywood has always produced junk, but back then they were also more likely to look for those scripts that wrote about the human condition, looking to make a picture that talked about

bigger issues. The introduction and the product description on the back cover tell us that Isherwood and Huxley fled Europe for the comparative freedom of Hollywood. "Jacob's Hands" really is more of a Twilight Zone effort than a traditional novel. It can best be described as a John Steinbeck type of simple 30 year old farmhand has the power to heal animals and most people with his hands. But, this wonderful gift has a lot of burdens, too. The novel is clearly written for the movies. Lots of the description and scene-setting is done in that sparse style you'll see when reading scripts. Some of the characters are straight out of the stereotypes you'll see in movies from the 1930s (happy African American household servants and rich society women to name a couple). I found myself imagining a black and white movie in my head and found that it moved along remarkably well. It takes about as long to read as a movie would have to have watched the movie if it had been made. It was an enjoyable read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. To Be Swallowed By Stacey @ The Scenic Life The story goes that in 1997 actress Sharon Stone was reading the diaries of playwright/novelist Christopher Isherwood and discovered that Christopher has collaborated on a screenplay with novelist/essayist Aldous Huxley. She asked permission to search the estate, and in a dusty trunk was found a yellowed copy of Jacob's Hands. The best guess is that the fable had been written in the late 1930's, when (as the back jacket says), "a large sector of the intellectual community of Europe immigrated to the United States, to California in particular. What they found there was Nirvana - sunshine, freedom, mysticism, and the burgeoning movie industry." The two great thinkers met amidst this illethical Utopia and wrote this work together. This is a short book, an easy read in an hour's time. As such, it is hard to say too much without giving it all away. Jacob is a good, honest, decent, sound, strapping young man. The kind of man that sees no ill will in others because he has none in himself. He learns as a farmhand on a California ranch that he has the power to heal. The power makes other love him, suspect him, and ultimately exploit him. He loves Sharon, the daughter of his former boss on the ranch. He meets Earl, a young millionaire with need of his healing powers. The three of them form a triangle that sort of reminds me of the ending of Ethan Frome (don't ask me why, though, since it's kind of a stretch). The overriding theme, I believe, of the book is this question: is it more important to heal the soul or to heal the body? Are they ultimately connected or mutually exclusive? There is also some discussion of how sometimes we hold on to our illness, our weakness; we are wont to let them go. Because somehow they come to define us, and we survive more with the fear than we can live without it. There is a brief introduction to the book by Aldous' wife, Laura Archera Huxley. It is useful in the fact that she gives some background into Aldous' thoughts on healing and the moral and religious implications of such a gift. It helps to set an informed backdrop to this interesting and thought-provoking fable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Aldous Huxley and Christopher Isherwood collaboration By A Customer I discovered this while teaching Honors for three years. Our focus was to read a sampling of both Orwell and Huxley. Well, Sharon Stone "discovered" this book in the ancestral Huxley estate while filming a short story in England. At the time, I thought that this might well be her one claim to fame, but she has resurfaced as a fine actress. An amazing read and a film script within a book, we come across a farm couple from North Dakota who have escaped the Dust Bowl (Most of us went to Seattle or Yakima, Washington) and their farm hand/cowboy discovers that he has the power to HEAL! This goes beyond just you basic "Hot Hand", which is still popular up here, but he must then decide how to use these powers. A strong female heroine, also, and just a sad, sad and poignant book. My students, sadly, no longer believe in any sort of "Magic", so most really didn't "GET" the book! (Honors Students are awfully narrow, surprisingly!) Anyone with ANY appreciation of literature will love this short novel: it's a newly discovered masterpiece! Buy this book NOW from .com! Use it in your classes and pass it on to friends!

This is a jointly-authored film treatment, found in one of Huxley's old trunks. The story is set in the 1920s and involves a ranch worker who has the power to heal with his hands.

.com This collaborative effort between Aldous Huxley and Christopher Isherwood, from a film project they were contracted to write in the late 1930s, was discovered in a trunk at Huxley's estate by actress Sharon Stone, who was researching the author's work for a film based on one of his short stories. Jacob's Hands is a novella-length film treatment for a script about a ranch hand who, after learning that he has the gift of healing, becomes disillusioned when he discovers that mending a broken body does not always heal a tormented soul. The slim volume proves both mesmerizing and moving, and the use of the present tense lends an air of innocence and mystery to the story, while the book's emotional undercurrents and passions stir up deeper, troubling responses. Jacob's Hands is a complex, disquieting modern fairy tale unlike anything else by either author, and a fascinating artifact of their Hollywood careers. --Michael Bronski From Publishers Weekly Forgotten in a trunk for six decades and uncovered by actress Sharon Stone, who flirted with the idea of producing it, this sentimental screen story, or novella, revisits the 1920s with a nostalgic eye. Gentle, simple-souled Jacob Erickson works on a ranch in the Mojave desert as a semi-magical healer of sick and injured animals. When Sharon, the boss's crippled but stage-struck daughter, asks shyly adoring Jacob to heal her, too, he obliges and she flees the ranch. Eighteen months later, they meet again in L.A.: he's a workman, healing children who are brought to him at a small church; she works in a burlesque theater? the reality pit stop of her stage dreams. Seeing money in Jacob's powers, the theater's unscrupulous managers blackmail Sharon into

convincing Jacob to go into the healing business with them. Sharon and Jacob should go back to the clean pure desert and do some good, but they are trapped by Jacob's compassion for one of his patients, Earl Medwin, the chronically ill heir to a vast fortune, and by Sharon's final surrender to temptation?Earl's assiduous attentions and all that money. Written in the present tense, occasionally in summary paragraphs that seem to be standing in for dialogue, Huxley's and Isherwood's collaboration makes even *Forrest Gump* (which it resembles much more closely than, say, Isherwood's Cabaret-inspiring *The Berlin Stories* or Huxley's *Brave New World*) look morally complex. Even so, it exposes a strong spine of dramatic conflict and a definite period charm. Agent, Dorris Halsey; film rights to Arthur Axelman, Rialto Films and Dorothea Petrie. (Sept.) FYI: The book's jacket will feature an illustration by Don Bacardi, who was Isherwood's lover. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA literary curiosity. While resident in Hollywood in the 1940s, the acerbic British novelist Aldous Huxley and the playwright Christopher Isherwood collaborated on two screenplays. Though the actual screenplay of ``Jacob's Hands," the tale of a naive faith healer in the 1920s, apparently no longer exists, a narrative treatment of it was recently located among Huxley's remaining papers and is now being published. While elements of the tale are clearly reminiscent of these writers (Huxley's bemused fascination with America's pursuit of fame and fortune; Isherwood's deep interest in spirituality), the prose is at best workmanlike. That isn't surprisingthis draft was likely meant for private circulation, not publication. The story focuses on Jacob, a traumatized veteran of WWI who has fled to the Mojave Desert for solitude, but is discovered to carry an uncanny ability to heal in his handsas well as a gift for sensing the true state of someone's spirit. Used to practicing his gift on animals, he reluctantly agrees to try to help Sharon, a young crippled woman. He succeeds, becomes infatuated with her, and follows her to Los Angeles, where she has gone determined to become a star. Not surprisingly, Jacob is discovered by a huckster who uses the healer's love for Sharon (who has become a cynical, opportunistic entertainer) to turn him into a saleable commodity. Romantic complications and betrayals follow, and Jacob eventually flees back to the desert. It's hard not to imagine the film while reading this spare narrative, but equally hard to find much pleasure in the prose. A minor, if intriguing, footnote to two impressive careers. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.