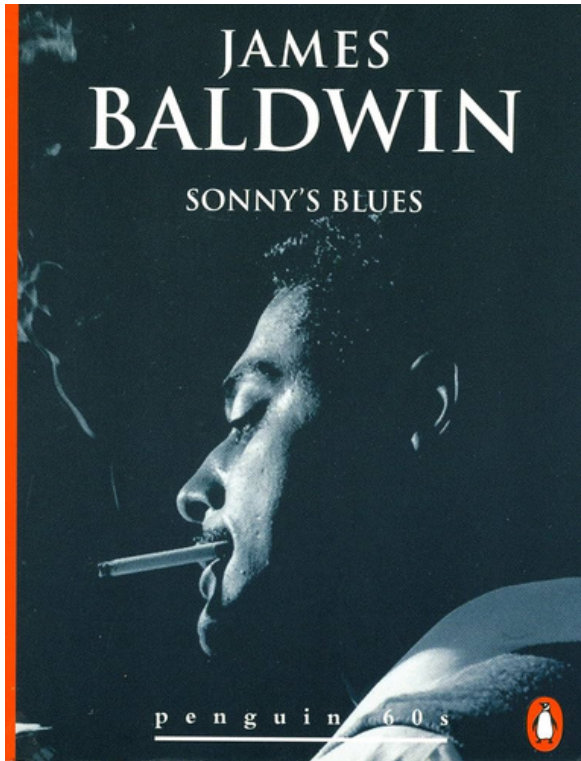




Sonny's blues

by James Baldwin

Review by Natalie



Literary fiction/social realism

What originally made you interested in reading/watching/playing this media? How did you hear about it or come across it?

This was a short story from a book of short stories that I got in one of my Early College NECC English classes. My teacher assigned many short stories for us to read and write about from this book, and this short story was one of the ones that stood out to me in particular.

Is it part of a series? If so, what series is it?

No

What is this media about? Make sure to give enough interesting details without spoiling too much!

Sonny's Blues is about the different lives and relationship between two brothers that are polar opposites. The older brother, who is the narrator, had just found out that his younger brother, Sonny, was arrested for using and selling heroin, after not speaking to him for many years. The narrator is a young high school algebra teacher in Harlem, New York, while Sonny is seen as a reckless teenager who resorted to drugs, and causing trouble to escape his suffering, which was typical for young black Americans living in Harlem. The story goes on to explore the narrator and Sonny's lives growing up together, and how they were able to reconnect after following different paths.

Who are the main characters? What makes them interesting or unique?

The first of two very important main characters is the narrator, Sonny's older brother. The narrator is unique because he is seen to have his life together, and he has a stable job and a loving family. But, what makes him interesting is that his mother told him to take good care of Sonny because he was his little brother, but he wasn't able to do that. What also makes the narrator unique is how he went about trying to connect with Sonny again, and learn what makes him happy. The second important main character is Sonny, Sonny is a very go with the flow person and wants to choose his own path of life. Sonny is very unique because he has always wanted to be a musician, he doesn't want to follow the typical way of having a stable job, and follow the expectations of life. The way he goes about it is very interesting though, he only follows what his mind believes and that has been a good and bad thing for him in the long run.

Does this media remind you of anything else you've read/watched/played?

Yes, this media reminds me a little bit of other things that I've read and watched. I have seen lots of times when siblings are complete opposites, and the older one always seems to be more put-together. In the end, they always seem to figure out a way to connect again and learn how the other is living.

What type of person might enjoy this media? For example, this book is for someone who likes Percy Jackson, someone who enjoys getting scared, someone who likes a challenge, etc.

The type of person who might enjoy Sonny's Blues is someone who likes sibling connections, the power of healing, and the power of understanding someone.

Did you like this media? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

Yes, I liked this media but it wasn't one of my favorites. Even though it wasn't one of my favorites I would still recommend it to others because it brings realization to how different everyone lives are without saying it straight forward. It also shows that siblings can be opposites even if they grow up the same way, it gets people thinking how they can affect and shape how they want to live their own life.

Do you like the cover? Does it convey what the media is about?

I am not a huge fan of the cover, I believe it doesn't fully convey what the media is about. It may be a little more understanding for other people, but I think the cover could be changed a little to fully get the point of the short story across.

Do you have any last thoughts about this media that you would like to include in your review?

Overall, I liked the short story but some things could be changed to make it even better.