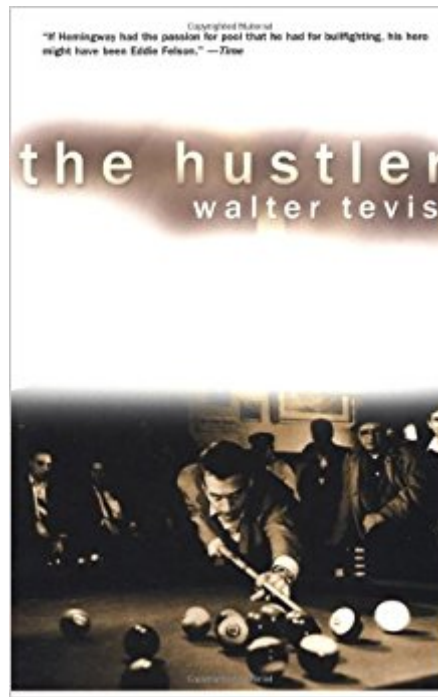


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# The Hustler



## Synopsis

When it was first published in 1959, *The Hustler* was the first—and the best—novel written about billiards in the 400-year history of the game. The book quickly won a respected readership and later an audience for the movie with the same name starring Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason. *The Hustler* is about the victories and losses of one "Fast" Eddie Felson, a poolroom hustler who travels from town to town conning strangers into thinking they could beat him at the game when in fact, he is a skillful player who has never lost a game. Until he meets his match in Minnesota Fats, the true king of the poolroom, causing his life to change drastically. This is a classic tale of a man's struggle with his soul and his self-esteem. "If Hemingway had the passion for pool that he had for bullfighting, his hero might have been Eddie Felson."—*Time* "A wonderful hymn to the last true era when men of substance played pool with a vengeance."—*Time Out*

## Book Information

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (51 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #471,958 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Billiards & Pool #17040 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary #28707 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

If art forces the participant to see reality from an unexpected point of view, or if art takes a generally accepted point of view and sharpens the edges with a light that is so bright that it is almost painful, then "*The Hustler*" is not just a work of art but a compelling tour de force of astounding power. "*The Hustler*" is not about pool players, but about how we look at life, how we make the simplest decisions. What is an acceptable performance? In our jobs? With our relationships? What compromises should we make? Must we make? How do we look at ourselves? Why and how do we lie to ourselves?"*The Hustler* is a simple book, well crafted, elegantly written, with memorable characters and compelling situations. This is art at it's best. No pretensions, just a craftsman's use

of time honored techniques that reinforce the message without intruding. Tevis presents life's dilemmas plainly, tells us what is unacceptable, makes us self-satisfied, then like all great artists, presents a little more complex dilemma, then asks us to make the choice again. Except it's not so easy this time...Reading "The Hustler" should be a rite of passage for any person that feels every decision we make, or don't make, is important. A must read. On a more personal level, I met Walter Tevis in a room called Hanger's in Pittsburgh in the early 60's. I was about 15, an unusual combination of voracious reader and aspiring 9 ball player. He told me I had a talent, that he loved the game, that he was addicted to it and its characters. He also told me he was a writer. I didn't know who he was at the time and we didn't do anything more than pass a pleasant 10 or 20 minutes.

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