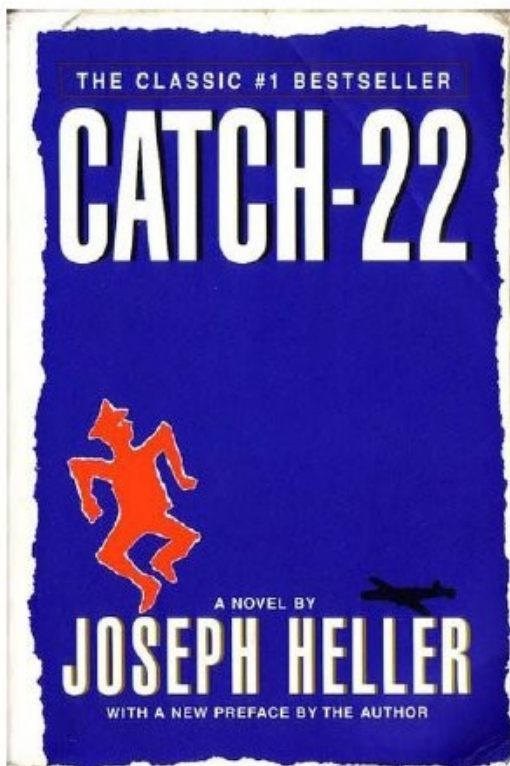




BAVARIAN BARBARIAN

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BARBARIAN'S BOOK OF THE MONTH



Catch-22

by *Joseph Heller*

Heller's manic, bleak, blackly humorous, and brilliant novel has become a classic of American literature. Set during World War II, it tells the story of an Air Force bombardier, Yossarian, who is convinced--quite rightly, of course--that people are trying to kill him. The famous "catch" is that the terrified Yossarian can't be grounded because his fear of dying proves that he is sane--and so he is assigned to more and more bombing missions. Heller makes the horrors of war into comedy with the help of a Dickensian cast of characters. Based on Heller's own war experiences, CATCH-22 was published in 1961 and was considered shocking because it viewed World War II as anything but the glorious, romantic adventure depicted in many postwar movies and books. Heller's novel became one of the defining texts for Vietnam War protestors in the late '60s and early '70s because of its fierce, irreverent denunciation of war and bureaucracy.

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