

# **Kosinski, Jerzy (1933-1991)**

## **Encyclopedia Article**

### **Kosinski, Jerzy (1933-1991)**

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

# Contents

<a href="#">Kosinski, Jerzy (1933-1991) Encyclopedia Article.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Kosinski, Jerzy (1933-1991).....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

## Kosinski, Jerzy (1933-1991)

Polish-born popular American author of two sociological studies and nine novels, survivor of the Holocaust, husband of the heiress to the U.S. Steel fortune, avid sportsman, college lecturer, sex club connoisseur—Jerzy Kosinski lived a life as fantastic as his fiction. After winning critical acclaim for *The Painted Bird* (1965) and *Steps* (1968), Kosinski turned increasingly to popular American culture—and to himself—as the subject of his novels. The wickedly satirical *Being There* (1971) became a hit film, also scripted by Kosinski; but later novels like *Cockpit*, *Blind Date*, and *Pinball*, some of which made best-seller lists, sounded false and repetitive notes with the critics. Controversy surrounding the authorship of his books plagued Kosinski in his last years, and it became the topic of his final "auto-fictional" novel *The Hermit of 69th Street* (1988). Nevertheless, Kosinski (who committed suicide in 1991) continues to be read and regarded as a major force in contemporary American fiction.

### Further Reading:

Klinkowitz, Jerome. *Literary Disruptions: The Making of a Post-contemporary American Fiction*. Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1975.

Lavers, Norman. *Jerzy Kosinski*. Boston, Twayne, 1982.

Lilly, Paul R., Jr. *Words in Search of Victims: The Achievement of Jerzy Kosinski*. Kent, Ohio, Kent State University Press, 1988.

Lupack, Barbara Tapa. *Plays of Passion, Games of Chance: Jerzy Kosinski and His Fiction*. Bristol, United Kingdom, Wyndham Hall/Rhodes-Fulbright International Library, 1988.

Sloan, James Park. *Jerzy Kosinski: A Biography*. New York, Dutton, 1996.