

Being There.



The book "Being there" is written by Jerzy Kosinski, and first I would like to write that this was almost the best book that I have read. It was written in a, sort of mysterious way. I myself didn't really find out if the main character, Chance, was intelligent or not, if he understood what situation he was involved in or if he acted the way he did, only because he didn't know better.

The main character is a gardener in a house he has never been outside. If Chance isn't in the garden, he is in his room watching television or does something else, alone. He has no contact with the outer world than through the television. Kosinski describes his situation by a wall between the garden and the street: nobody can see what's going on on the other side, and nobody cares. Not even the sound reaches through the wall. With other words: Chance lives in his own world and he doesn't bother.

One day, his master dies and Chance has no employer anymore. Where is he going now? Nobody knows and Chance doesn't care. He stays as long as he can in the house, but when a lawyer asks him to leave he just takes his stuff and walk out in the street. And if I remember right, he recognize it from the television and he doesn't worry at all. He just walks and waits for something to happen.

And it does. When he is about to pass the street, a limousine hits him and he injures one leg. Out from the limousine comes a woman, EE or Elisabeth Eve, she is the wife of the famous and important Benjamin Rand, the chairman of the First American Financial Corporation, a very high person that is in close contact with the president.

What happens next is that Chance meets the president and manage to express himself in a very 'smart' way,

he compares a garden and the financial situation of the country.

Later EE falls in love with him and many strange things happens. Chance is transfered up in the society and in the end he is asked to replace Benjamin, as the chairman.

I think that it is a very interested book and worth reading.



A few words about Kosinski. He was born in Poland and managed to 'escape' to US, where he got married, worked, was educated, and lived life alone after his wife death.