

# Sanctimony and Failure of Domesticity in Three American Suburban Novels



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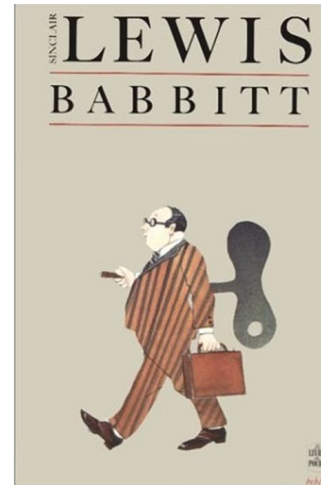
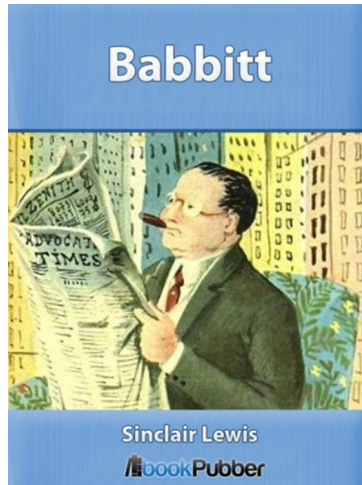
# The Paradox of a Century of Suburbia-Bashing

The representation of American suburbs has since the 1920s been largely negative since, while suburbia, on the one hand, „...stereotyped as artificial, superficial, monotonous and dysfunctional”, on the other hand, more and more Americans have been desiring the suburban version of the American dream, believing in “the popularity and promise of suburbia” and its potential to satisfy their material, cultural, and social needs. The suburban lifestyle in the United States “affords for the production of selfhood, family, neighbourhood, and wider social relations.”

John Archer, from “Everyday Suburbia,” 23-5.

# The Three Novels Surveyed

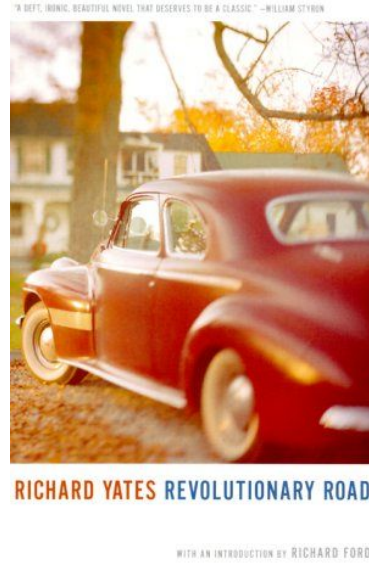
1/ Sinclair Lewis: *Babbitt* (1922 novel, 1934 film)



## 2/ Sloan Wilson: *The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit* (1955 novel, 1956 film)

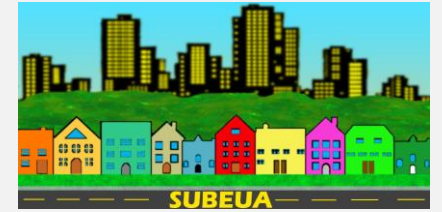


# 3/ Richard Yates: *Revolutionary Road* (1961 novel, 2008 film)





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