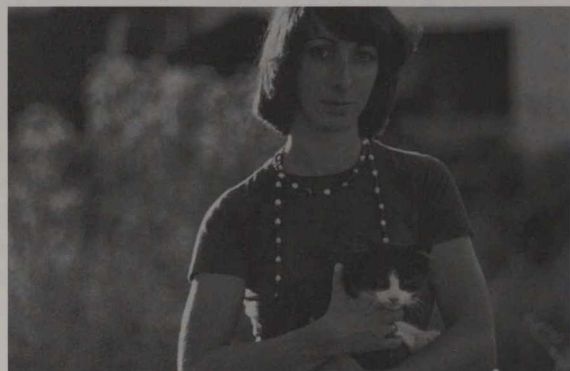


Bricks, Sticks, Stones and People

The Street. Mordecai Richler. The New Republic Book Company, Inc., \$6.95.

Mordecai Richler grew up on St. Urbain Street in Montreal before World War II, when his street, Montreal, Canada and the world were distinctly different from what they are today. *The Street* is a collection of semi-autobiographical memoirs of Richler's teenage world of the 1940's. When Mordecai was young, St. Urbain Street was wide with narrow walks, lined with fussy, brick and stone Victorian houses under the shadow of Mount Royal, and it was solidly lower class Jewish. Today it looks the same, but it is filled with new immigrants, Greek and Portuguese. The world of the poor but striving young Jews grow-

ing up together in comforting, inspiring, stifling intimacy is gone. The people of the 1940's left for other homes, other lives, other fears and new frames of reference. *The Street* is nostalgia for anyone who grew up thirty or more years ago, Jew or Gentile, in a big city anywhere in the North American continent. St. Urbain is a street of half forgotten dreams.



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