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The Outlaw Bible Of American Poetry



Synopsis

From the Beat poetry of the '50s to the spoken word of today, *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* brings readers the words, visions, and extravagant lives of bohemians, beatniks, hippies, punks, and slackers. Like Donald Allen's epochal *New American Poetry*, *The Outlaw Bible* will serve as a primer for generational revolt and poetic expression, and is an enduring document of the visionary tradition of authenticity and nonconformity in literature. This exuberant manifesto includes lives of the poets, on-the-scene testimony, seminal underground articles never before collected, photographs of clubs and cafes, interviews, and, above all, the poems.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ordered as a birthday gift for my 34-year-old son whom I see about every six months. Did not give it to him until the car was packed and hugs were exchanged. Trip time was delayed and bigger hugs were exchanged. I am a devious mom and knew how to plan this if I wanted a good visit. Have received numerous emails and calls beginning with "Mom, you've got to hear/read this." Bought it for him, not for me. He gives it 5 stars as a "must read," and I give it 5 stars as a good gift for young adult poetry readers.

I love this book, it has so much to offer. I bought this copy for my step daughter, because no way was she getting mine, with its dog eared corners on favorite pages, and highlighter marks in my favorite verses. It is an amazing collection of some of the best American poetry. It has so much to

offer! I'd recommend it to anyone who loves poetry.

This is one hell of an anthology to gnaw on. When I crack open this "bible" I immediately feel transported into smoke-filled taverns where junkies, pimps, and rebels wax poetic in all ways un-orthodox. There are some poems in here where I do feel as if I'm shaking my fist alongside their creators, shaking it at the establishment, at order. But there are poems in here that also make me cringe at how raw they are in nature and subject matter. I would say that it's a good anthology in many respects. I particularly enjoy reading A.D. Winans poems. Tom Waits is always welcome at my coffee table. I liked reading Jack Hirschman, Bob Flanagan. Those poems are emotional but they still make me think. I was dissatisfied with Hunter S. Thompson and James Dean where emotion shoots in all directions and the landings are very unclear. Ultimately, it's worth reading to clean your palate.

Let me tell you a story. Back in suburban high school, I discovered this book at Barnes and Noble and fell in love. Some poems in it are not my thing but some spoke to me in ways I can't define. My best friend then got it for me for my birthday. I subsequently lost it or something happened to it in the ensuing years of young adulthood. I bought it again. LOTS AND LOTS of poems. It's magnificent.

The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry by Alan Kaufman is a brilliant anthology, maybe the greatest anthology of new American poetry I've ever read. Part of its genius is that "Outlaw" breaks new ground, introducing poets unknown to the mainstream while showing how they belong to the Outlaw lineage begun by WC Williams and later the Beats. And I like the way "Outlaw" mixes up the poetry with mini-histories of poets live's and scenes and has lots of wild pictures of poets and motorcycles and cafes and what not. That's great. This book announces a new canon in American poetry, has the depth and insight to be taught in classrooms even, but I bet every dreaming kid too from New York to Wichita to LA is going to read this book as a manifesto of revolt and liberation and to get up and do something with your life, be a poet of life!

It's huge. It slumbers on my night table. I bought it used and it opened to James Dean's "Ode to a Tijuana Toilet". On the facing page was John Gilmore's painting of Dean, and beyond that, a photo of Dean's original typed, annotated copy of the poem, provided by Gilmore. Readers will find famous names from the worlds of music, acting, literature, and even, yes, poetry. I open it at

random and find uncommon good stuff and passages I will abandon immediately. What else would one expect from an outlaw bible? It won't bore you.

This book was ordered as part of a bundle of textbooks needed for the Fall 2012 semester. The books arrived within two days due to my Prime subscription, and were in brand new condition. I am very satisfied with my order and all of the products have been very useful in my classes this semester. I will continue to buy books from in the future!

This was a pretty good collection of poetry. about a third of it was really bad, about a third of it was okay, good poetry, but there was a third of it that was outstanding poetry. one problem i had was that many of the well-known great poets in this collection contributed work that definately wasn't their best. and i'm sure they left some out. but still, i'd say it definately needs to be in any poet's collection.

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