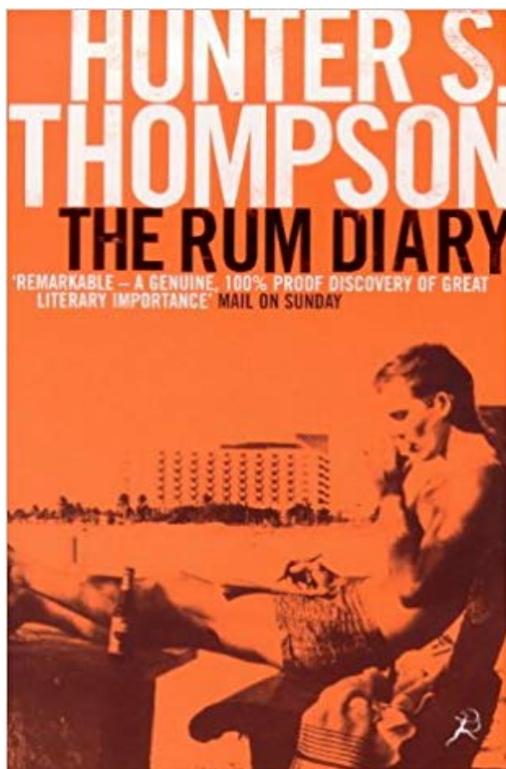


The Rum Diary *by* HUNTER S. THOMPSON



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Reviews of the *The Rum Diary* *by* HUNTER S. THOMPSON

Ziena

The writing is slick, yet lacking the 'in your face' gonzo style of Hunter's later work. Regardless it's a beautifully constructed almost 'travel fiction' with a weary tone and surprising level of self-awareness considering Hunter's age when he commenced it (likely the influence of his many rewrites and struggles in publishing).

Definitely worth a read not only for fans of Hunter, but perhaps fans of those who influenced him too (Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Faulkner). As his style is certainly reminiscent of them at times.

Enjoyable and memorable with some of my favourites of all of his words and phrases:

"Like most others, I was a seeker, a mover, a malcontent, and at times a stupid hell-raiser. I was never idle long enough to do much thinking, but I felt somehow that some of us were making real progress, that we had taken an honest road, and that the best of us would inevitably make it over the top. At the same time, I shared a dark suspicion that the life we were leading was a lost cause, that we were all actors, kidding ourselves along on a senseless odyssey. It was the tension between these two poles - a restless idealism on one hand and a sense of impending doom on the other - that kept me going."

Cerekely

I came here first by watching the movie made in 2011. His personality as Paul Kemp was conjoined with playfulness, a sense of restlessness and the young heart of an adventurer. With that he's still content as a character.

Although the movie on the surface seems to be an act of a man getting drunk with his friends and no different than movies such as "The Hangover". There was something about the movie that made it different, and it was Thompson's own experience as the character that made it his own.

While the movie contained scenes and content different than the book itself, it was filled with beautiful scenery shots and film-ship.

But let's get back to the book itself, although it doesn't have that "Edge" of beauty such as the movie itself, it portrayed a much deeper sense of thought and first-person point of view in a narrative form. Making the book more of a "Thinker" rather than a "viewer".

Although one line from the movie "Human beings are the only creatures on Earth who claim a God, and the only living thing that behaves like it hasn't got one. Does the world belong to no one but you?" - Paul Kemp ~ The Rum Diary. It struck me as an audience, like lightning. Though the book never mentioned this line nor any philosophical thoughts as Paul Kemp did in the movie, it was able to portray a sense of corruption of the innocence within the book with Paul Kemp lingering between helping Zimburger write a "inappropriate" column to gain tourism and Chenault (To have inferred) to be raped or sexually assaulted in both the book and the movie.

Overall, the sense of elegance and classic flavors mixed with modern action definitely hooked me to it!

Though the story line lingers here and there and gets quite confusing at points it still stands as a very well thought out structure.

JoJogar

Not the most interesting novel topic wise. Basically a story about the formation of an American Newspaper in San Juan and the staff who run it. Don't be put off though the writing style of Hunter S Thompson sets this book apart. HST takes a rather boring subject matter and turns it into a fun read with witty and entertaining commentary about....life and just being there.

This guy has a true gift. I really adore his writing style.

After reading this book I ordered 5 other books by HST.

I am a fan.

Skillet

Hunter Thompson was such a great writer. This novel was not what I expected, but I really, really liked it. It was a story about a young newspaper writer's time in Puerto Rico in the late 1950's, giving a lot of insight into why so many Puerto Ricans fled to New York at the time. Interesting,

realistic stories of life there at that time, full of craziness, drinking, sex and life in general.

Kiaile

First I saw the movie which was hilarious & had some outrageous moments that were not in the book ; that being said , it was enough to get me curious about the "real story" HST created that Depp & Co. whittled down to 90 + minutes . The details of Hunter's escapades in San Juan while being a reporter for The Daily News are VERY well told here & absolutely required reading if you like Gonzo Journalism . Hunter's cast of characters are edgy , strange , desperate , half crazy denizens in a 1959-60's Puerto Rico that is brilliantly painted in words in this amazing book . His running dialogue/description of the odd goings on will have you grinning & in awe of his command of the English language ! The expanding shaky tropical boomtown environment he & his compadres were operating in creates a fabulous backdrop for this book . Fantastic uplifting read I would recommend to anyone with a sense of humor ! HARDIE MCGEHEE - singer/songwriter

Jerdodov

I read this book first while I was at San Juan, Puerto Rico a couple of year ago.

Now I purchased the Kindle edition and re-read it.

Although Puerto Rico is not the same now as it was when the story happened I could feel the atmosphere. And brought back the memories of those places where I also stayed.

The amount of rum consumed at the book is amazing - but perfectly OK at the Caribbean. But you must be prepared for it otherwise it can be a shock.

I do not want to talk about the story - it is less important for me this time - only about the feeling.

Since I liked to be there and the book brought these memories back - I had no other choice but like the book, too.

4.5 stars

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