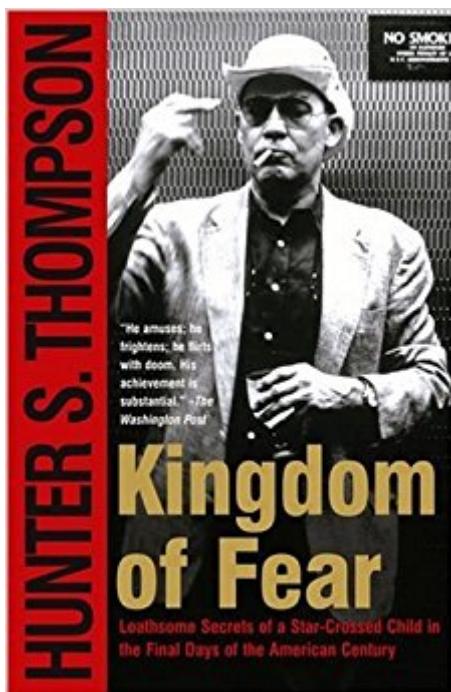


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Kingdom Of Fear: Loathsome Secrets Of A Star-Crossed Child In The Final Days Of The American Century



Synopsis

The Gonzo memoir from one of the most influential voices in American literature, *Kingdom of Fear* traces the course of Hunter S. Thompson's life as a rebel—from a smart-mouthed Kentucky kid flaunting all authority to a convention-defying journalist who came to personify a wild fusion of fact, fiction, and mind-altering substances. Brilliant, provocative, outrageous, and brazen, Hunter S. Thompson's infamous rule breaking—in his journalism, in his life, and under the law—changed the shape of American letters, and the face of American icons. Call it the evolution of an outlaw. Here are the formative experiences that comprise Thompson's legendary trajectory alongside the weird and the ugly. Whether detailing his exploits as a foreign correspondent in Rio, his job as night manager of the notorious O'Farrell Theatre in San Francisco, his epic run for sheriff of Aspen on the Freak Power ticket, or the sensational legal maneuvering that led to his full acquittal in the famous 99 Days trial, Thompson is at the peak of his narrative powers in *Kingdom of Fear*. And this boisterous, blistering ride illuminates as never before the professional and ideological risk taking of a literary genius and transgressive icon.

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Customer Reviews

Kingdom of Fear is billed as a memoir, but in essence, all of Hunter S. Thompson's books could fit into this category since his life and work have always been tightly bound together by a mythology largely of his own making. (After all, this is the man who, before earning a single dollar as a writer, began meticulously saving a copy of every letter he ever sent.) Still, this is certainly an

unconventional memoir, but then what would you expect from the father of gonzo journalism? In these pages Thompson manages to dig deep and reveal a few "loathsome secrets" without offering the kind of personal details he has always avoided. His childhood, for instance, is basically summed up in a sentence: "I look back on my youth with great fondness, but I would not recommend it as a working model to others." He does, however, reflect upon his considerable legacy, including his well-known, and admittedly exaggerated, use of controlled substances ("The brutal reality of politics alone would probably be intolerable without drugs"), as well as offer assessments of his own work, such as *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* ("It's as good as *The Great Gatsby* and better than *The Sun Also Rises*"). In this collection of twisted parables and outlaw adventures, Thompson writes about his early run-ins with agents of authority and the lessons learned; his stint in the Air Force and the beginning of his journalism career; his unsuccessful, though illuminating, bid for Sheriff of Aspen, Colorado in 1970 as the Freak Power candidate; the casualties and unintended consequences thus far in the War on Terror; and numerous examples of present-day injustice and hypocrisy--all with his characteristic mix of brutal frankness laced with humor. He also offers his own take on state of the Union: "The prevailing quality of life in America--by any accepted methods of measuring--was inarguably freer and more politically open under Nixon than it is today in this evil year of Our Lord 2002." Thompson continues to make even the most deadly serious subject matter endlessly entertaining. --Shawn Carkonen --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Hunter Thompson, author of such classics as *Hell's Angels*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail* and other journalistic endeavors, has finally penned a memoir. Well, sort of. Just as Thompson paved his own way in writing about politics, sports, news and culture throughout the 1960s and '70s, he now offers an autobiography that is typically unorthodox in style but still revealing previously unknown facts about its subject. Wavering between the uproarious and the lunatic, it's vintage Thompson through and through. Chapter one opens traditionally enough, with Thompson's mantra "When the Going Gets Weird, the Weird Turn Pro" setting the stage for the author's first brush with the law, in Louisville, 1946, when he was nine--he pushed a post office mailbox into the path of a speeding bus. He then flashes forward to the present, ranting about the absurdity of the government's post-September 11 "heightened state of alert." This mix of hilarious anecdotes and current-events tirades is the book's mainstay. Thompson shares details about being night manager of San Francisco's renowned O'Farrell Theater, covering the riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago ("Random House had agreed, more or less, to finance my education") and running for sheriff of Aspen on the Freak Power ticket,

all the while inserting views on terrorism, Bush and the American justice system. Characteristically incoherent at times, yet rollickingly funny throughout, Thompson's latest proves that the father of gonzo journalism is alive and well. Photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Any youth in my generation (GenY/Millennia/whatever the term de jour is) is familiar with the Good Doctor, mostly thanks to the film adaption of "Fear and Loathing." Although a good film, the book made me a Hunter Thompson fan big time, and led me to this work of his. Other reviews say there are essays within this book that were published previously, but I have no qualm with that as I am still a neophyte with his works. The book itself is a memoir of fun times and bad times of Thompson's life, ranging from his running for sheriff to how he met his wife, Anita. A favorite part of mine are the Rules for Speeding, which are good for any contemporary rebel in the bland 21st century. That is really the heart of the book, an expansion on the real, oft-neglected theme present in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas": the death of the "American Dream," namely, the Death of Fun. Thompson would say the Death of Fun began when Nixon was elected, and I agree, however, 9/11 was the catalyst that sped things up dramatically. In name, 9/11 is mentioned briefly; a minuscule section devoted to it. Yet Thompson compares his past wild experiences with the dry-well of fun the first decade in the 21st century, and his attempts to continue the good times. Thompson grew up in the '60s, and although by no means the typical "Hippie" type, he saw life that can be lived as fun, exciting; something to dive into head first. Maybe you'll die, maybe you won't, but hell you won't figure it out til you try. I didn't realize at first, but the point of it all in relation to the Death of Fun is the decision we as a society must make, do we want to hover over our children all the time? Have increasing civil liberties taken away? Be risk-less? Or will we go back while we still can and try not to worry so damn much about something we ultimately can not control. Highly recommend for any and all, Dr Hunter S Thompson fan or not.

Hunter writes a stunning review of life in US with heightened security and dangers to our freedoms. Must read for everyone, student and average citizen. We take so much for granted and put too much faith in those we have elected to represent us. He points out our misplaced good will and consequences. Be prepared his writing style is a bit disjointed, in that his storyline hops around a bit. Other reviewers complained he repeated his personal history once again, didn't take away from the narrative in my opinion. Highly recommend this book.

Can't believe I hadn't read Hunter before. This book was eye opening and mind blowing and crazy. Probably not the best place to start reading Hunter's work, but I enjoyed the style and the attitude and I am going to read more of his stuff. I'm a big believer in the corruption of both political parties and the fact that America has failed as a democratic republic. It's too bad, it was a good idea. If you like politics, you should read this.

I'm an avid Hunter fan, and this book does not disappoint. His hilarious, cynical, paranoid, over the top, yet eerily on point prose will never be seen again, despite imitators. I have purchased this twice through . Once used through betterworldbooks and one new as a gift. I have no complaints with either.

Yeah, there's some recycled material in here, but that's like complaining about a Beatles album using some of the same great songs over and over again and those great songs never tiring. The thing with Hunter, is that anytime I read his work, I feel like I'm having a conversation with a dear friend I haven't seen in long time. I think this was his most sentimental and retrospective writing, of course done under the tapestry of our American Culture and where we are going wrong. I love this book and this writer and recommend it to any other human being.

Hst can seem unbelievable at times yet rarely are his accounts disputed. He is a fierce defendant of individual liberties, and will go out of his way to defend not only his own right to live freely but others as well. I would recommend this to anyone who wonders about the future of society, as well as anyone who has an open mind and can accept topics which may seem taboo.

A lot of crazy writings and word usage, random thoughts, some paths are dead ends and wild goose chases. It's strange but interesting at the same time- half way through it.

Only the good Dr could write the perfect memoir that totally matched his style and personality. It's a joy to read, and again be able to appreciate his amazing brilliance. He will be missed. We are indeed lucky he was here to teach us as much as he was able.

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