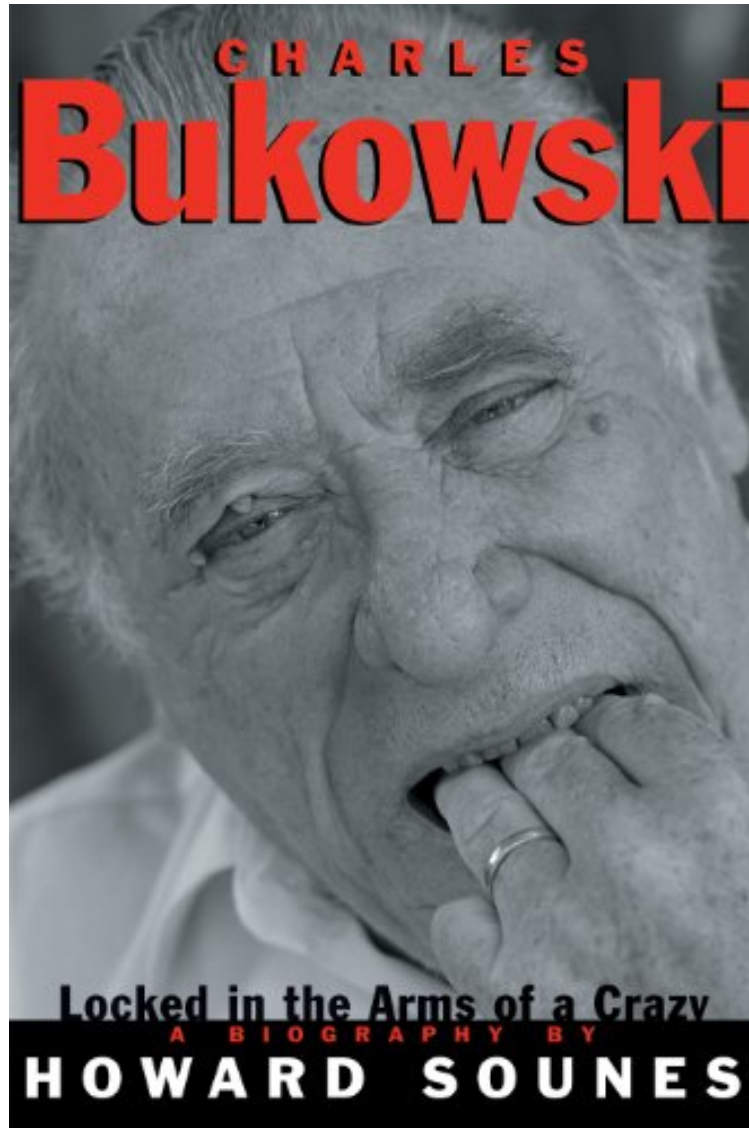


(Read and download) Charles Bukowski: Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life

Charles Bukowski: Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life

Von Howard Sounes

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #823640 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2007-12-01Erscheinungsdatum:
2007-12-01File Name: B005012O5I | File size: 58.Mb

Von Howard Sounes : Charles Bukowski: Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charles Bukowski: Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not bad, but not so goodVon Mark TerrillBukowski was a big guy, with a big life, who left behind an even bigger body of work, and is certainly worthy of a biography of commensurate measure. Unfortunately, neither Neeli Cherkovski's

Bukowski: A Life, nor Sounes' book measure up to this task. The greatest single challenge facing any Bukowski biographer is the transparency of Bukowski's already legendary existence. The semi-autobiographical nature of Bukowski's work (more than forty-five books of poetry and prose, plus hundreds of magazine publications), along with three posthumous volumes of his correspondence, as well as Russell Harrison's excellent book of essays on Bukowski, *Against the American Dream*, provide Bukowski's readers with almost all they need to know about his rough-and-tumble existence and the critical parameters of his writing. Sounes, an English journalist who lives in London, never met Bukowski, and has relied mostly on interviews with Bukowski's surviving family, friends, foes, work colleagues, ex-girlfriends, and widow. He has obviously done his homework, having hunted down documents relating to Bukowski's family and employment history, his draft record, and criminal convictions, in a search that went from Los Angeles to Andernach, Germany (Bukowski's birthplace), and back again. From all of this source material, Sounes has woven a highly readable narrative that chronicles (albeit somewhat hurriedly) the life and times of the "dirty old man of American letters." Unfortunately, the end product resembles a long, breezy magazine article about a colorful and controversial character, based on the pretense of the "underdog overcoming adversity," with Bukowski's drinking, fighting and womanizing at the forefront. Absent is any sort of attempt to place Bukowski's writing in a truly critical light. There is only a minimal mention of how Bukowski's work was initially received by the critics, the controversy that surrounded his gradual claim to fame and increasing popularity, and the true nature of the adversity that Bukowski initially faced as a writer, determined as he was to go it alone, without the safety net of any particular school of writing, movement, or academia. Bukowski's rise from the gutter to international fame as an author remains unprecedented in American letters, and scandalous and entertaining as his day-to-day life may have been, it was Bukowski's single-minded, individualistic approach to writing that earned him his reputation as one of America's best known writers of poetry and prose, and many would claim, its most influential and imitated poet. Obviously, the definitive Bukowski biography would have to take all of these factors into account, and has yet to be written. Excerpted from a longer review which originally appeared in Rain Taxi Review of Books

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Quick But Complete Read Of A Squalid Life Von Ein Kunde The author does an excellent job of piercing the myths and legends about Bukowski and revealing the scared, lonely guy within - while admitting that Bukowski could be, and often was, a real louse, he shows his human side and does a good analysis of his life's work. It's not an exhaustive biography and it's a quick read, but frankly, with someone whose life was as squalid and often, depressing as Bukowski's, I prefer reading a book that doesn't go into every drunken rage and arrest the guy ever had. A very nice piece of work, a must for Bukowski fans.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good bio of a great writer Von Ein Kunde Here's a story kiddies, please bear with me: Years ago I was a struggling, naive graduate student in English at a major southern university. Like a fool, I decided to write a master's thesis on Charles Bukowski. The department chair stuck me with a professor who was supposedly the resident expert on contemporary American literature. From our first conversation it was clear that the man not only had no respect for Buk, but hated his work and hated the very notion that anyone would want to do graduate level work on him. He dismissed the idea with a sniff, saying, "He's marginal and unworthy. No one has written a book on him." I am sad to report that I let the bastard get the better of me. The thesis went unwritten. Well, that was a decade ago and since then there have been several very fine books written about Bukowski. Three excellent volumes come readily to mind: Neeli Cherkovski's seminal biography, "Bukowski: A Life"; Gay Brewer's Twayne volume, "Charles Bukowski"; and Russell Harrison's "Against the American Grain." All are top notch in their own way. Now we have Howard Sounes' worthy addition to this list, "Charles Bukowski: Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life." This new biography works well as a compliment to Cherkovski's more intimate work (Neeli and Hank were good friends and the closeness of their relationship informs every page of the text). Sounes' book is more flamboyant, to be sure, and paints Bukowski in darker colors than does Cherkovski's. Both portraits are quite valuable and, even more important, both are very good reads. I'm still waiting, though, for the definitive Bukowski biography to emerge, a book that combines a true scholar's rigor with a novelist's eye for detail. Maybe some new English professor or graduate student coming up will grab for the brass ring. I can't help but think that our universities will finally forget their snobbery and small brained prejudices and hop on the Bukowski bandwagon. What I would love to see published is a book that encompasses the pictures painted by Sounes, Cherkovski, Brewer and Harrison, with added chunks of personal grace and style thrown in by this to-be-named biographer. It's bound to happen some day because Bukowski's legacy is simply too daunting, too great to be ignored. In the meantime, I recommend this book and all of the others I named above. There are other fine volumes on Buk out there, too. Go find them all and read them right away. You'll learn lots of cool stuff and be the life of your next cocktail party!

Kurzbeschreibung A former postman and long-term alcoholic who did not become a full-time writer until middle age, Charles Bukowski was the author of autobiographical novels that captured the low life--including *Post Office*, *Factotum*, and *Women*--and made him a literary celebrity, with a major Hollywood film (*Barfly*) based on his life.

Drawing on new interviews with virtually all of Bukowski's friends, family, and many lovers; unprecedented access to his private letters and unpublished writing; and commentary from Norman Mailer, Allen Ginsberg, Sean Penn, Mickey Rourke, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, R. Crumb, and Harry Dean Stanton, Howard Sounes has uncovered the extraordinary true story of the Dirty Old Man of American literature. Illustrated with drawings by Bukowski and over sixty photographs, *Charles Bukowski* is a must for Bukowski devotees and new readers alike. As the *Los Angeles Times* noted, "Bukowski is one of those writers people remember more for the legend than for the work....but, as Howard Sounes shows in this exhaustively researched biography, it wasn't the whole story."