



The Best of Damon Runyon

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The Best of Damon Runyon Details

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From Reader Review The Best of Damon Runyon for online ebook

Vincent Saint-Simon says

Sirs and Madams,

Man this guy is just one of a kind. You know, he never wrote a novel? Spent his whole life in the art of the short story and he never felt compelled to write a novel.

Runyon makes my top ten.

V

Harry Buckle says

A master of a particular style. Runyon, born 1880 - died 1946, who retained his New York newspaper man and sports writer style throughout -set most of his best (for me) stories during the era of prohibition. So gangsters had-in the main, 'hearts of gold' and as often described in for now very non PC ways, but apt for then- had an eye for the dames. I would resist any moves to 'update ' any of his content- except perhaps editing the occasional use of 'the N word' which deservedly is more than a little retroactively nasty. It was in the very early '60's on days too wet even for Rugby practice that my Blundell's School (in Tiverton Devonshire England) maths teacher introduced me to the world of DR. I suspect it was those stories, enjoyed by me so much as a 14 year old ,that sowed the seed that, with help from Ian Fleming (both in person and in print) encouraged me to become a journalist. Blundells - by the way founded in 1604 and both the home and the setting for RD Blackmore's English classic. Lorna Doone. By the mid to late '60's I was regularly visiting New York on music business. What seemed to be the remnants of Runyon's world were still visible (or very easily imagined). The Stage, Broadway or Carnegie Deli's. The 'Copacabana' and various other clubs, many putting it all on in speakeasy style.'

Or before some late night Jazz , dinner: Italian at 'Patsy's '...Sinatra's favourite...or perhaps having decided between 'Lindy's (Mindy's??) and the real deal at 'Gallagher's Steak House'-where you entered past the ageing hanging ribs of beef behind the double glass, it was very easy to be back just waiting for 'Harry the Horse' or some of the other Runyon creations to arrive. Read and enjoy with an open mind.

Robert says

Timeless tales with a unique voice, and so culturally pervasive that most don't even realize their influence anymore. For those who only know 'Guys and Dolls' -and even more for those who aren't even aware of that - going back to the prime source is a great (re)introduction to the material.

Heidi says

This book was a Christmas gift from my aunt. As I had never heard of Damon Runyon it wasn't the first

book I picked up in January. A mistake! I loved the brash characters, the way the period came alive, the flow of the dialogue. Now I need to see Guys and Dolls.

Muffy Kroha says

WTF? That is what I want to know- I am adding his bio to my to read because I have always been puzzled as to why the characters in his stories have such a strange speech pattern- (see the movie musical of Guys and Dolls for a sample) ???

All I know is that it charmed the pants off of me in print-When I see pictures of him he looks dry and utterly humorless, yet his characters and stories are so endearing- I don't get it- One of my favorites

Jim Sall says

I found a copy of "Blue Plate Special" in my grandparents' garage when I was about 12 and was immediately fascinated. My grandfather gave me the book, I took it home and must have read through all of the stories two or three times before I graduated from high school. Then I went away to college and the book was lost. It took me 5 years to track down "The Damon Runyon Omnibus," which contains "Blue Plate Special, Money from Home" and "Guys and Dolls" and I have been reading and re-reading it ever since. The characters never get old and the stories never cease to captivate me.

Runyon's language is habit-forming and over the years some of his terms ("beezer, John Roscoe," and of course "more than somewhat") have worked their way into my vocabulary. Pick this book up and the chances are nine to five against that you'll put it down before you've read it cover to cover.

Tosh says

i've been reading this off and on. Works very well with the bathtub as well as on the bus. Damon Runyon captures a specific moment in a very special place at that time - Manhattan. The language he uses is pretty much dead now, which makes it a fascinating read. One wonders where William S. Burroughs would got his inspiration: with such character names such as "Milk Ear Willie," "Izzy Cheesecake," "Franky Ferocious," "Rosa Midnight," "Dancing Dan," "Pussy McGuire" and so forth. Without a doubt there is genius in Runyon's narratives. Or is it more of the language used? On many fronts, if I was a writing teacher, I would for sure request my students to read Damon Runyon. He gets you from point "A" to "Z" but in the most absurd language. Love him.

Denis Farley says

Runyon, the writer of Guys & Dolls, had me belly laughing, misty eyed. Great technique, sweet writer.

Ruthenator says

actually I read stories from this, Take It Easy, and First and Last but this was the only one I found on here.

Ramesh Naidu says

Though this one did not find any stories of Sky Masterson or Nathan Detroit , I managed to find delightful stories of Harry the horse , The Brain and other fascinating characters from Guys and Dolls. An American Wodehouse whose domain was not the English Gentry but the Mafia .

Maureen says

This collection may be considered the best by some because it is certainly representative of the style and flavour of damon runyon's writing. you will find his odd use of the present tense, his specialized vocabulary, and his recurring characters all dance attendance. the editor also takes pains to distance runyon from o. henry, despite the slogan on this pocket book edition ("the modern o'henry") and i can see how the comparison can be made: there is something very folksy about the dialogue employed by these writers, but that's probably where the relationship ends, in their shared facility with character and dialogue because the denizens of new york society they describe run in very different strata. runyon introduces us to the guys and dolls of broadway and a language that is bright and flexible, pompous yet common, and always funny and charming if sometimes empty.

Thom Kahler says

Not sure why, but I've been a Damon Runyon fan for as long as I can remember, perhaps because he was an early day Jimmy Breslin. The copy of this I have was published in 1942 as an edition for GIs going overseas; I found a copy in great condition in an outdoor book bin on Turk Street in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco in 1964 for 10¢.

A.J. says

Best bedtime reading.
