



One from None

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Author : Henry Rollins

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From Reader Review One from None for online ebook

sadako says

back when i thought he had something worthwild to say i read some of his books...bad mistake. how come i can't put negative stars?

Tom Morgan says

Sadly, I know exactly how he (at least his poet persona) feels.

Alex Ankarr says

Not my fave. Still love Rollins, though.

Casey Kiser says

One of the better Rollins books, in my opinion.

'I want to take a screwdriver
Mutilate my face
Find a beautiful woman
Make her love me for what I am
Then say I don't need it and walk away'

'People get lost
The alarm clock goes off and someone loses their way
All of a sudden five years have passed
Same job
They look at themselves in the mirror
Can't understand where it all went
A dirty underhanded trick
Someone gets lost and destroyed
People walking the streets like dumb animals
Smart enough to be cruel
Handcuffed to the television set
Another beer can opens
The sun goes down on another day
Self destruction slow and complete
What nasty things we do to ourselves'

'Whoever said that shit about no man is an island

Has never met me'

Just real.

Missy Lattanze says

Read many many times, this is a favorite of mine.

Gavin Gates says

Heavy going read

Simon Sweetman says

I'm more forgiving of the early Rollins stuff now - it's like it all makes more sense (the whole career/catalog) with time and the further you go in. First time reading this one, but liked a lot of it - whereas previously I've found his earliest stuff a bit rough. This was still rough, but somewhat charmingly so.

Alex says

I liked this one a lot. It's early stuff compared to most of his work that I've read, and the copy I had included a lengthy interview I enjoyed as much as the rest of the book.

Sara says

You think you have it bad, Henry will remind of worse.
This book made me stop feeling sorry for myself & all
the fucked up shit I had done to myself or that others had
done to me. I read three of his book in a row & still have more to go.

Shawn Fairweather says

Im not sure which way is the smartest way to read this entry from the Rollins catalogue. One from None is essentially a two part book with the majority being his random thoughts captured at both opportune and inopportune times on his journeys. I don't like using the word random however those unfamiliar with Henry will not really understand we he is trying to accomplish with his thoughts on paper. Frankly I don't think anyone but the man himself will which is what has drawn me to his work since I was 12 years old some 26

years now.

The second half of the book was an extended and in-depth interview conducted with Henry over a period of a few days in Europe. What's interesting is how closed off he was at first and how the interviewer was able to relate and communicate enough with him to allow him to open up for the reader.

Secondly, the interview sheds some light on Rollins's writing, his style, his intent, his purpose and his need. Part of me says that you need to be introduced to the very raw and dark side of Henry and that you should jump in feet first to his writing but the other side says that some may need some enlightenment first so read the interview.

Ultimately, while writing this review and my reflection of all of Henry's work that I have ingested over the years, I say...If you can't handle your animalistic side and are afraid to jump right in, you don't deserve to bare witness. Rollins would probably say, you can't handle it, walk the fuck away.

Knuckle up and let the machine take over.

Jon says

This book is interesting, although a little rough. First published in 1991, it's basically two parts: half poetry, and half a long-form interview, all written in 1987. The poetry is all pretty loose and free-form, and also includes a bit of prose and some letters. There are no titles, breaks, or sections whatsoever, so it reads like a hundred pages of stream-of-consciousness dialogue.

The poetry is very hit or miss. There are some incredibly solid pieces in here, very raw, powerful, emotional bits. A few of these were read verbatim in his early spoken word recordings, or were developed into longer pieces. Rollins sort of gave up on this kind of writing later, and went straight to essay or almost journalistic pieces, so it's good to go back to this sort of thing. But I don't think he really hit his stride on this until maybe *Black Coffee Blues*, which came out about a year later. There's some incredibly cringe-worthy writing mixed in with the good here. (i.e. "I am death's custodian...") I don't know if it was a matter of finding his voice, or just some unfocused machismo, but there are some pieces that probably could have been trimmed a bit.

The same complaints could be made about the interview, which was apparently done over a three-day period. Some of it is interesting, like how he talks about Hubert Selby, Jr. Some of it is borderline laughable. The thing that makes this book interesting is that it was written at a key juncture in Rollins' life, right after *Black Flag* ended, when the Rollins Band was first starting, touring, gaining momentum, and when Rollins was spending long periods on the road, writing these books and doing spoken word. He was deep in this period of redefinition, of moving from a just-out-of-his-teens punk rocker to this renaissance man of writing and poetry and acting and music. And sometimes, he put off this fake air of pseudo-intellectualism, that he was so full of himself, quoting Nietzsche and talking about being tough and being hard and being alone. Some of it is interesting, but sometimes it's a little hokey. I think this book is a balance of it and ends up being more good than bad, but if you're not already a fan and know where this is going, it could seem extremely trite.

This book is out of print and not impossible to find used, but sometimes copies can be spendy. It went through a number of printings in the early 90s (mine is an eighth printing from 1993) so there are some floating out there. The *First Five* contains the poetry section only, and does not contain the interview. The *Portable Henry Rollins* contains a subset of the poetry section. You'll need to find the original book for the interview part.

Overall, it's not a bad read, but I wouldn't start here if you're new to his stuff.

Kathleen Kosiec says

Raw, powerful poetry and essays. Just what I would expect from Rollins.
