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Red-Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes Details

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From Reader Review Red-Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes for online ebook

Jay says

Two of the most memorable short stories I've ever read are in this collection: "The Sun and the Stillborn Stars" (wherein a Texas Gulf Coast farmer named Sid meets his Waterloo in mortal combat in the crashing surf with a "sea hog") and "The Night the Bird Blew for Dr. Warner" (wherein an academic musicologist keeps his appointment in Samara in a Harlem alley). The stories in this collection reveal Terry Southern as a serious craftsman, not simply a smutty satirist.

Gary says

I just couldn't get into it. The characters feel like caricatures and, to me, are generally unrelatable. The stories have stuff happening, but there's no real sense of development or growth. As much as the characters are supposed to be "normal," they aren't really compelling either. It's possible that I'm just not familiar with Southern's work and just am not getting some underlying thread, but I bought this largely because the copy I scored had blurbs talking about the book being hilarious. I think a lot of the humor either is dated or simply doesn't set itself up as humor. I'm not getting it.

I understand that he's something of an influence on Tom Wolfe, whose work I do like, but maybe it's just that I like longer form works.

Keith says

The grade's a bit misleading, since there's a lot of five-star material in this book: The title story, its sequel, You're Too Hip, Baby, and Twirling At Ole Miss, a biting new journalism look at the segregated South. But it's weighed down by some half-hearted efforts that suggest Southern might have done better if he'd given himself a bit clearer of a focus. Highly recommended, but only in parts.

Mary says

Some fine writing in these stories, damn fine writing. They are very evocative of the '60's and '70's. Southern was a screenwriter for Easy Rider and Dr. Strangelove.

Pamela says

As I have stopped reading forewords (or "spoilwords" I call them), I had no idea who Terry Southern was until I finished this very uneven anthology. It's a good thing, too. If I had known, I would have been even more disappointed than I was. My advice is read "Twirling at Ole Miss" then call it quits. That's as good as it

gets, and it goes very downhill from there.

Joe Sullivan says

Some of these tales are totally off the wall. Like I didn't get the stuff between Kafka, his mother and Freud. But other stories, like the title story and "You're Too Hip Baby" are so tight, so focused, they make me shudder.

John says

Terry Southern is my one of my favorite screenwriters (Dr. Strangelove, Pink Panther, Casino Royale, Barbarella and Easy Rider). And seems to also have a taste for adapting some of my favorite writers; The Collector (Fowles), The Loved One (Waugh), and End of the Road (John Barth).

So when heard that he had written a book of short stories, I was all-in. This isn't a perfect book, and isn't a five-star masterpiece. However it was amazing to me as a transgressive work from an era I'm fascinated with a know little of.

Transgressive doesn't always age very well, and this is no exception. There are a few cringe-worthy words in the beginning and near the end of the book. But I read it in a single sitting and laughed all the way through.

J.C. says

Didn't love most of it. Skipped some of it. I like his novels better.

Bill Wallace says

Shocking, transgressive writing doesn't always age well but the wit here is pretty much timeless. Few writers are as influential in as many areas as Southern -- fiction, journalism, screenplays -- but I'm not sure how widely he's still read. The stories and non-fiction pieces here are not all masterworks but the best of them are still stunning and all of them are windows into their age, essential for anyone who wants to understand the twisted evolution of mid-Century American culture. I had no expectation of finding a genuine horror story here but "The Sun and the Still-born Stars" is as fine a "weird tale" as any I've ever read. I also really enjoyed the journalistic pieces: his biting, landmark article on the twirling program at Old Miss and an interview with one of the recruits for the Bay of Pigs debacle. Finally, the article on working for a men's mag in the mid 60s and copping a dose of schizophrenic's blood is still blackly hilarious and pointed even after all these years.

Ward says

new journalism- what's up, what's up. shake it to the ground and bring it back up.

Kendall says

Collection of essays and short stories. Not clear how much is fiction. Some clearly is. Others- like Twirling at Ole Miss are not- I think. Anyway- some if the stuff is really out there- like The Blood of a Wig- a story that winds up with the main character (written in the first person) shooting Red-Split or the blood of the wig which is blood taken from a schizophrenic. And it builds from there. Check out the second and third paragraphs on page 244 to see what I mean.

John says

Uneven collection of Southern's short stories and nonfiction. I enjoyed his nonfiction work more and could see why some (Tom Wolfe) consider Southern to be the founder of New Journalism with his piece "Twirling at Old Miss." Also worth reading was the title story and "Knife Fight," concerning the rural south, and his stories that dealt with the jazz and drug scenes of the 50s.

Mister says

Some rather dated attitudes towards women (they are sexually uptight and repressive) and gays (they are silly), but some good stuff too. Does reflect the young men shaking off the 1950's. Has the scandalous item on the aftermath of JFK's assassination.

McNatty says

Some of these stories are genius, some are really funny, a couple are cool and a couple of very odd. I wanted some of the stories to keep going, its frustrating reading short stories when that happens. However a couple of the stories are peculiar and I didn't mind moving on. Terry is an excellent writer and loves his narcotics. If you like the beat writers read this one.

David Ward says

Red-Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes by Terry Southern (The New American Library 1967)(3569.08R43) is a collection of short-stories with no common theme that I could discern. The title story, "Red-Dirt Marijuana," is the earliest reference to home-grown southern marijuana that I can remember running across. My rating: 6/10 (out of respect for his other writing), finished 3/15/11.

Vit Babenco says

“The white boy walked on over to one side of the shed where the kindling was stacked and pulled down an old sheet of newspaper which he shook out to full size and spread in front of the Negro. He dumped the gray-grass contents of the pillowcase onto the paper, and then straightened up to stand with his hands on his hips, frowning down at it. He was twelve years old.”

A pillowcase full of marijuana, razor brawls, the sun is at the sundown and the stars are stillborn, hipsters and dopers, joints and spliffs, tricks and treats – the book is a collection of trips.

“The effect of red-split was ‘as advertised’ so to speak – in this case, quite gleeful. Sense-derangementwise, it was unlike acid in that it was not a question of the ‘Essential I’ having new insights, but of becoming a different person entirely. So that in a way there was nothing very scary about it, just extremely weird, and as it turned out, somewhat mischievous.”

Red-Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes consists of the fine fragments of its time and has a quite peculiar acid flavour.

Jenny Gonzalez- Blitz says

Excellent collection of short stories depicting slices-of-life post WWII. The first two involve the friendship between a white boy of about 12 and a black farmhand who works for his father...as well as teaching the son a thing or two about farming pot. From there Southern explores the worlds of jazz musicians, scenester-wannabes, hoodlums, housewives, Cuban counter-revolutionaries, male nurses, veterans, writers...and in a few more humorous vignettes, imagined encounters between Franz Kafka and a rather bullying Sigmund Freud. Two other stand-out stories venture into magical realism (*The Sun And The Still-Born Stars*) and horror/satire (*Blood Of A Wig*).

Clinton says

In response to other reviews: yes the subject matter is sporadic, and yes there are a few stories of varying quality in this collection, but when the high points of a book are as good as this one's, I think those minor faults become irrelevant. I give five stars without hesitation to *Red Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes*, one of the invaluable books in my library.

Ron says

Southern is difficult to pin down. On the one hand, he wrote the abysmal novel *Candy* and the screenplay for *Easy Rider*, arguably one of the worst, most over-rated films of all time. On the other hand, he wrote this decent collection of short stories and the screenplay for *Dr. Strangelove*, a work of cinematic genius. Tread with caution through all of his work...

Andrés Cabrera says

Un excelente recopilatorio de cuentos. La mayoría hilarantes y demasiado críticos. Otros inolvidables (como los ambientados en México, y el ya clásico "La sangre de una peluca"). Terry Southern, pionero del nuevo periodismo, hace hablar a su sociedad desde los silenciados. Su risa estremece, y retuerce los valores del ya

dilatado "sueño americano":
