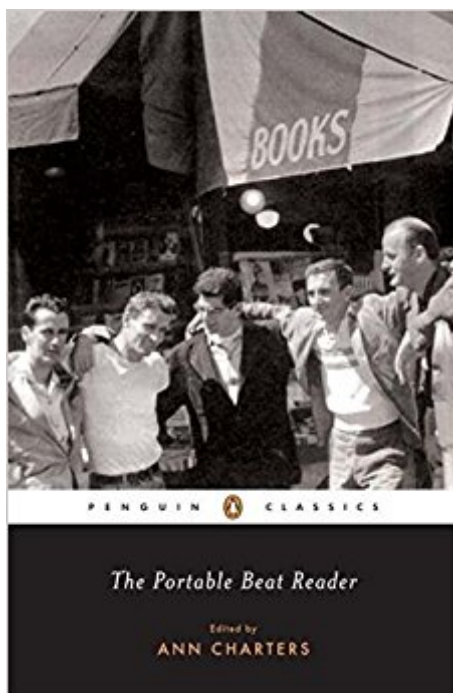


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The Portable Beat Reader (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Beginning in the late 1940's, American literature discovered a four-letter word, and the word was "beat." Beat as in poverty and beatitude, ecstasy and exile. Beat was Jack Kerouac touring the American road in prose as fast and reckless as a V-8 Chevy. It was the junk-sick surrealism of William Burroughs; the wild, Whitmanesque poetry of Allen Ginsberg; and the lumberjack Zen of Gary Snyder. The Portable Beat Reader collects the most significant writing of these and fellow members (and spiritual descendants) of the Beat Generation, including Neal Cassady, Gregory Corso, Diane di Prima, Bob Dylan, Leroi Jones, and Michael McClure. In poetry, fiction, essays, song lyrics, letters, and memoirs, it captures the triumphant rudeness, energy, and exhilaration of a movement that swept through American letters with hurricane force. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

The Portable Beat Reader is an excellent and thorough study of the Beat Generation, compiled and edited by Ann Charters, biographer of Jack Kerouac and one of our most notable experts on Beat

literature and ideas. This lively work of scholarship goes deeply into the history of the Beat movement, investigating events such as the discovery (by writer William Burroughs) of the word beat to describe this literary generation. The reader includes essays on all the major prose and poetry writers, such as Allen Ginsberg, and offers rare insight into the literary-historical context of the movement. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cutting through bohemian posturing and excess, Charters reprints the most vital material produced by writers of the Beat generation, offering a broad perspective on the movement by including work by lesser-known figures alongside that of leading lights Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very enjoyable selection of Beat literature. Not only do you get a sampling of their writing, but also background information on how they lived through some personal essays. In particular, for me, was Ken Kesey's reaction to Neil Cassady's tragic death. But more important is being introduced to lesser Beat celebrities like Leroi Jones, Gary Snyder, and Diane di Prima. Quite a selection of writings, and the author does the reader service by providing historical references to the Beat's milieu. With the spate of Beat movies lately, this is a good start to explore their literature.

This is an excellent compilation. I know Ms. Charters from a previous work of hers, a biography of Jack Kerouac, and she is eminently qualified to write such a book. I found of particular interest examples of Beat writers who were not of the very core. One would think that such people existed, but I had never been made privy of them, and here they were in abundance. A delight and a treat.

I needed this book for a Beat literature and religion course dealing with Buddhism and a few others. After reading a few stories and poems from the wide variety of authors featured I quickly loved this book. Even though the semester is over now I'm still going through it and reading poems by Snyder, Whalen, and various others. Highly recommended if you already enjoy the works of the big 3 (Kerouac, Burroughs, & Ginsberg).

as described

This is a definitive overview of the Beats, well worth adding to any collection of Beat material. That's

my review: worth buying, worth reading.

Yes this is worth the read. If you want to know about the "Beat" writers or should I say poets because most of the are poets. This book is the place to begin.

Great read. Some of my favorite authors and selections. Many that I did not know. Prompt delivery . Arrived in great condition, as promised

a lot of "must read authors" and some great lesser knowns. weather your a die hard beat reader or just dipping your toes, a nice collections.

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