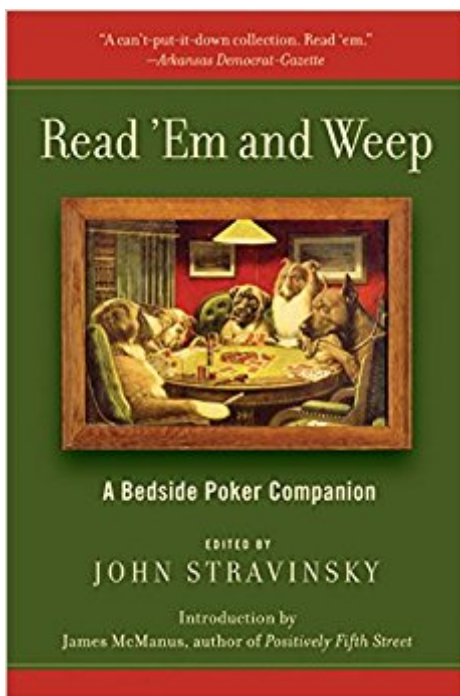


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# Read 'Em And Weep: A Bedside Poker Companion



## Synopsis

Poker is much more than just a popular game. It is a world unto itself, populated with a multitude of colorful characters: professionals and amateurs, hustlers and dreamers. This royal flush of a collection brings together short stories, essays, poems, and excerpts from novels by a host of renowned writers -- from the Wild West to present day -- who have mined their personal experience of the game. Entertaining and enlightening, you'll want to ante up for Read 'Em and Weep. With pieces by ...Nelson Algren Andy Bellin Anthony Holden Katy Lederer James Thurber Barbara Tuchman Billy Collins Pete Dexter Martin Amis David Mamet Herbert O. Yardley A. Alvarez... And More

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## Customer Reviews

Driven by ESPN's coverage of the annual World Series of Poker and the Travel Channel's unlikely hit coverage of the World Poker Tour, poker is now a hot item in American culture. Both of these shows feature a variety of poker known as Hold 'Em, whose virtue, to television audiences and poker players alike, is its fast pace and "action" (the number of bets players can make in quick succession). Watching men and women who can bet \$200,000 on nothing and win has captivated a new generation. Poker writer Stravinsky's collection of essays, short stories, book excerpts and poems mines some of this excitement, featuring articles on three-time World Series champion Johnny Chan and colorful Hold 'Em legend Amarillo Slim. Likewise, contributions from Andy Bellin and A. Alvarez, both steeped in the contemporary poker scene, will feel familiar to the television-bred Hold 'Em aficionados. But much of the material, though classic-for example, Mark Twain's

rumination on poker in *Life on the Mississippi* and an excerpt from Nelson Algren's *The Man with the Golden Arm*—are from a bygone poker world that lacks the intensity of the modern tournament game. Most of Stravinsky's choices fall into this category. The selections are invariably well chosen: poetry by Billy Collins and Stephen Dunn, short stories by W. Somerset Maugham and James Thurber, among them, but they are aimed at an older, more literary audience and will have little appeal to the new, younger poker fans. This collection falters because it is unable to successfully move between poker's romanticized past and its big-money celebrity-driven present. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Varied and well-balanced.” (Library Journal)

Good read

All of the sudden, books about the inner world of poker seem to be springing up all over the place. My 18yo son and his friends mess around with it for pennies or toothpicks, and I hear them arguing the rules long after I've gone to bed. But now I find myself in the unlikely position of having read three books on the subject, and I'm really getting into it. *Read 'Em and Weep* is a collection of essays, short stories, book excerpts and (of all unlikely things) poems dealing with the eternally interesting world of the game. Many of the tales focus on the fast-paced newish game called *Hold 'Em*. But most of the contributions (from authors such as Mark Twain, Maugham, and Thurber) deal with the traditional more gentlemanly games from a bygone poker era. It's a good melding of the two worlds, past and present.

You do not have to be a poker aficionado to enjoy this book. It contains 38 short stories, excerpts from books or essays, all of which have poker as a theme or main story element. With authors the likes of Stephen Crane, James Jones, Mark Twain, David Mamet, Bertolt Brecht, Somerset Maugham, Clark Clifford, Barbara Tuchman and James Thurber you can't go far wrong. The stories range from comic to tragic, with just a little instruction on the finer points of the game thrown in for good measure. You may not love all of the chapters, but I am sure that enough will entertain you to make reading this short book very worthwhile.

This is a collection of different stories and essays on poker . It includes the likes of Mark Twain's

writing on riverboat gamblers . Great , literary stories , and teachings . But teachings related to poker and life . There is no teaching on how to play aces or anything else . If you want that , why don't you go play and figure it out for yourself . Great stories , but literary , and probably too much for those that need instruction and can't figure out what to do for themselves . Recommended highly for anyone who truly loves the GAME .

This is a collection of short stories or snippets of books all about poker there are 39 authors this is taken from those of you who have read other poker memoirs will recognize Anthony Holden, Michael Konik ,A. Alvarez and other notable poker writers. Then there are notable authors like Mark Twain, John Updike, Martin Amis, and many others. This covers subjects from the wild west river boat gambling to the current modern day of world series of poker. So give this book a try and possibly expose yourself to some different authors or refamiliarize yourself with some of the old poker authors.

A great collection of poker stories by such great writers as Al Alvarez, Martin Amis, David Mamet, Somerset Maugham, John Updike, Mark Twain, James Thurber and many others. A real gem of a book.

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