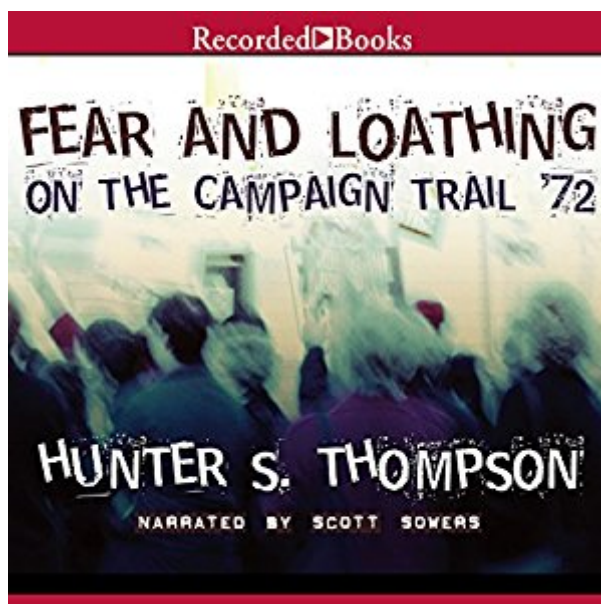


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Fear And Loathing: On The Campaign Trail '72



Synopsis

An iconic and controversial figure in American literature, Hunter S. Thompson displayed a brilliance that forever changed journalism. Thompson's follow-up to *The Proud Highway*, this second volume of private, never-before-published letters spans the years 1968 through 1976. Addressed to such luminaries as Tom Wolfe, Kurt Vonnegut, and Jimmy Carter, this incisive collection showcases Thompson's raw and starkly honest thoughts on a pivotal era in U.S. history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had never read any Hunter S Thompson books before "Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72

If anyone were to own only one book by Hunter, it would have to be this one. The introduction contains a clearer picture of the reasons Hunter wrote than available elsewhere. It is a record of a search for a dream that is not to be. I can recommend it to any, whether they are fans of Hunter or not.

Thompson does it again. This time its the 1972 election and his instincts are so sharp and on point, far more than any others at the time. Hunter has the ability to look past the words of a stump speech and find the inner flame of the candidate, or the hollow black spot where their heart should have

been. It's easy to read. Scathing and funny at the same time. To be cursed by Thompson would be an honor if it didn't require them to be despicable. After reading Thompson, other political commentary seems as fluffy as egg whites.

Thompson's focus on detail brings 1972 right back into the crosshairs. McGovern & Wallace lined up facing Nixon & Muskie on a line of scrimmage defined by discontent and lack of trust in politicians. The fun, gonzo style is there too, but it is not the main event. Hunter's insights into national politics is as valuable today as it was then.

I was ready to discount this book as another beat writer's ramble. But, I was pleasantly surprised who insightful HST is and how honest the piece is. He really is a sharp writer. The writing is dense so I took it in sections but it was a very educational read.

Now 40 years old, this book remains the definitive work of campaign-following gonzo journalism. Often imitated, never duplicated. Here in 2012, after an election chock full of what seemed like some of the worst bad craziness associated with a campaign in recent memory, it's both reassuring and a bit frightening to see just how little has changed in American politics in the last 40 years.

Historically significant: It reads like fiction but that's the point. No other text discredits politics like this one. People realize how untrustworthy the mainstream media is because of the internet... however it's easy to fall back into relying on them when often they are the only source on a given subject. Admit it. So, read this book and that will all be over!!! The SUBJECTIVE style of this book will give you the personal knowledge base to understand the over-whelming conflicts of interest that prevail in modern power. You will no longer just see the actors and propaganda that surrounds us, but you will know the existential depravity behind them, and feel it first, the next time you are bombarded with their lies.

What defines this book more than anything is the emotion, and there is follow through on said emotion. His "tan gents," although random, are consistent. I feel they fit emotionally, into the world of politics, and encapsulates one of the themes. Contrastingly, the author and main character, treats his body like an a playground, while touring the impromptu amusement park of an industry, that is presidential campaigning. Thompson's humor is as sharp as ever in this borderline epic.

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