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Ham On Rye: A Novel



Par Charles Bukowski
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Par Charles Bukowski : Ham On Rye: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ham On Rye: A Novel:

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurIn what is widely hailed as the best of his many novels, Charles Bukowski details the long, lonely years of his own hardscrabble youth in the raw voice of alter ego Henry Chinaski. From a harrowingly cheerless childhood in Germany through acne-riddled high school years and his adolescent discoveries of alcohol, women, and the Los Angeles Public Library's collection of D. H. Lawrence, Ham on Rye offers a crude, brutal, and savagely funny portrait of an outcast's coming-of-age during the desperate days of the Great Depression. .co.ukCharles Bukowski's fourth novel, Ham on Rye, is the semi-autobiographical story of the early years of his alter ego Henry Chinaski. It is a finely written and honest account of the painful childhood of a boy marked out from his peers. Regularly beaten by his father, Chinaski is shown growing through his difficult and violent adolescence (struck with the worst case of acne

his doctors have ever seen) through to the first jobs he can't and won't hold down. In this moving story of growing up Bukowski disciplines his muscular, concentrated writing and creates a novel that distils his poetry into the finest full-length piece of prose that he ever wrote. Bukowski is often good but in *Ham on Rye* he's great. Sadly, best known as the alcoholic inspiration for the film *Barfly* (an experience he reflected on in his book *Hollywood*), it is as a poet, rather than a drunk, that Bukowski should be best remembered.

His bitter, caustic, direct, humane, damaged poetry reflects a life dominated by poverty and booze. His poetry stretches over many, many volumes but Bukowski also wrote great novels: all of them have many faults but the first four books he wrote shine for similar reasons. *Post Office* and *Factotum* both dissect, quite brilliantly, the life of an angry, poor man forced to do mindless jobs, pushed around and considered mindless by the fools who force him to do them. Women, as Roddy Doyle points out in his short introduction, continues the themes but focuses on the numerous women who share his hero's bed and bottle. --Mark Thwaite *Revue de presse* "A scorching account of a childhood, adolescence, a life of ugliness, pain, escape, alcohol, loneliness. Often it is's funny - often it's disturbing - *Ham on Rye* is a powerful book" (Roddy Doyle) "He brought everyone down to earth, even the angels" (LEONARD COHEN) "In an age of conformity, Bukowski wrote about the people nobody wanted to be: the ugly, the selfish, the lonely, the mad" (Observer) "Sometimes funny and always sad, *Ham on Rye* is written in an admirably hard, bare, vivid style" (Times Literary Supplement) "Both powerful and, where appropriate, extremely funny" (Sunday Telegraph) "Reflective, humane, tremendously evocative and absorbingly readable" (The Times) "This great novel is Bukowski's supremely honest account of a twisted childhood" (Howard Sounes author of *Bukowski: Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*) "The Thing about Bukowski is, when you read what he has to say, he's right" (SEAN PENN) "Raunchy yet lyrical, occasionally hilarious while abysmally sad" (San Francisco Chronicle) "We all knew Bukowski was a tough guy, but who would have guessed that even the grave could not shut him up?" (BILLY COLLINS) "There is a real poignancy in the people encountered in Bukowski's work" (New York Times Book) "A Laureate of American low life" (Time) --Roddy Doyle