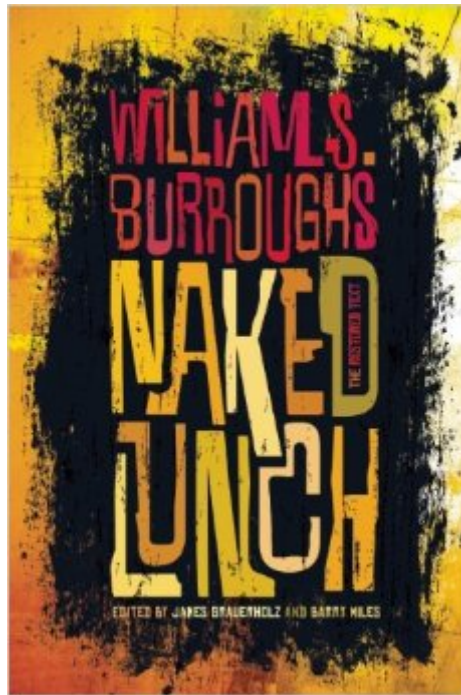


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Naked Lunch



Synopsis

Since its original publication in Paris in 1959, *Naked Lunch* has become one of the most important novels of the twentieth century. Exerting its influence on the relationship of art and obscenity, it is one of the books that redefined not just literature but American culture. For the Burroughs enthusiast and the neophyte, this volume—that contains final-draft typescripts, numerous unpublished contemporaneous writings by Burroughs, his own later introductions to the book, and his essay on psychoactive drugs—is a valuable and fresh experience of a novel that has lost none of its relevance or satirical bite.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...hmm, this book, wow, this book, is f***** amazing. I've read *Howl*, I've read *On The Road* (excellent by the way), I've read *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Kingdom of Fear*, *The Rum Diary*, and such by Hunter S. Thompson. I feel like the other beats were building up to this, and HST was impossible WITHOUT William S. Burroughs. *Naked Lunch* is a masterpiece. I don't think there is another book like it, so full of invention, creativity, like a zoo of freaks or a jungle of mountain lions. Be afraid, be very afraid, this is not for middle schoolers, nor even high schoolers (Burroughs himself obviously inspired by Aldous Huxley's *A Brave New World*). I would even say that college might be a bit too soon (most of my peers were idiots (unless it was a philosophy class [hey ho!])): "that's too much reading!" No, *Naked Lunch* is something I have spent time building up to. I have spent time with counter-cultureists and know their style. I read maybe a quarter of *Ulysses*, and while that was way harder, *Naked Lunch* also induced headaches. I wouldn't say someone should

just jump into it in terms of literary retrospective, but in terms of imagination, the novel is in a class all its own. Some are going to really dislike the use of sex. Some are going to really dislike the mention of drugs. Some will just hate the inventive use of language that is more like a poem and a riddle than an essay. I say dive in! Why not just go with it? Don't feel like you have to read Naked Lunch to get onto the next thing, read it like a fine wine, taking in a little bit here and there. After all, Burroughs spent at least a decade getting Lunch complete. Tolstoy wrote War and Peace in pieces over two and a half years. Joyce wrote Ulysses over about the same time Burroughs took.

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