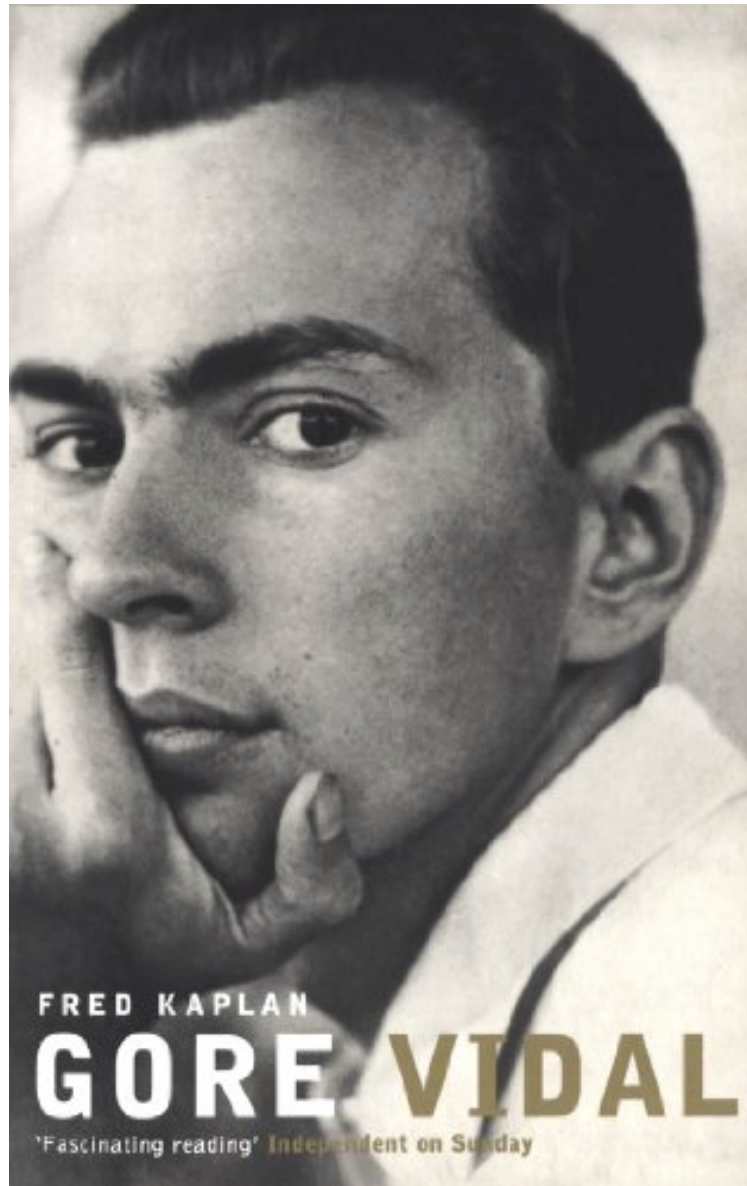


[Free] Gore Vidal

## Gore Vidal

*Von Fred Kaplan*

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**Von Fred Kaplan : Gore Vidal** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gore Vidal:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Story of a Century in the U.S.Von Ein KundeWhat particularly fascinated me was the re-viewing of almost the entire 20th Century of the US through this book: politics, literature, culture (or otherwise), sex, and its major events. I

remember the shock of WWII, the horror of the McCarthy days, the terrible battle in Chicago's streets during the mid-Sixties Democratic convention, the hilarious/appalling spectacle of big-ego authors beating up on each other and running for inconceivable offices ... and yet reading this book, I always found so much more than had ever been told before. It's the framework of Vidal's life and work that's far and away the most interesting aspect of him, and it's vividly here.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Loved it! A must for Gore lovers and Gore haters! Von Ein Kunde Kaplan has written a wonderfully involving biography of my favorite author. His portrait is well balanced and doesn't skirt any issues concerning this talented, complex and sometimes infuriating man. I have had my reservations about Vidal as a person and Kaplan gives enough background to understand, though not fully absolve, Gore Vidal. I enjoyed every page of it. Especially priceless is the shrewd, winking, nudging account of the famous William F. Buckley/Gore Vidal feuds in which Buckley comes across as quite bad. It becomes pretty obvious to any intelligent reader of 1999 why Buckley behaved so erratically and could barely stand to be in the same room with Gore Vidal. The whole book is a great read. One finishes it with a sense of both admiration and pity for Vidal who suffered (at the hands of his shrewish mother, from the loss of an early love, from early devastating literary disappointments, from being gay when it was verboten) more than he ever let on. Vidal isn't what one would call a nice, warm human being, but he did his best to make something of himself with the considerable talent he had.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gore Settling Scores? Von Ein Kunde The jacket tells us that Fred Kaplan "enjoyed complete access to Vidal's papers, letters" but "was guaranteed a free hand by Vidal to write as he saw fit". Sadly though the book comes across as an opportunity for Mr. Vidal to settle scores with his old enemies. Mr. Kaplan rarely, if ever, suggests that Mr. Vidal may be the source of the cat fights with his old pals. After an argument with Bobby Kennedy at a social function in the Whitehouse wherein Mr. Vidal suggests to Bobby Kennedy that the FBI is "cozy" with the Klu Klux Klan, they clash and Vidal flees from a "terrible bad karma in the air". Quoting the author, Fred Kaplan ""he found himself at a table with Ethel Kennedy, Robert Kennedy's wife and two other equally dull people, a tediousness that flowing champagne helped make tolerable". It was comments like this throughout the book that made me wonder how objective this bio was ...

Kurzbeschreibung Novelist, culture critic, essayist, historian, comic satirist, image maker, actor, homosexual, bisexual, controversial, confrontational - finding words to describe Gore Vidal is never difficult. And yet, an accurate picture of this multifaceted chameleon has eluded us until now. This book provides a biography of a literary icon. de Veteran biographer Fred Kaplan, praised for his evocative portraits of 19th-century masters like Charles Dickens and Thomas Carlyle, turns with aplomb to a contemporary writer in this lengthy yet cogent work. Indeed, the multi-faceted Gore Vidal, born in 1925 but positively Victorian in the breadth of his interests and achievements, is fortunate to have a biographer as wide-ranging as Kaplan. He traces the familial roots of Vidal's lifelong political engagement (his maternal grandfather was a US senator) and lucidly assesses his non-fiction as well as best-selling novels like Washington DC and Burr. This reminds readers that Vidal has been for decades an astute, sardonic observer of the American scene. His personal relations are depicted frankly but briskly, as befits a staunch defender of homosexual rights, open about his own orientation and who refuses to be pigeonholed as a gay writer. The famous feuds with William Buckley, Norman Mailer and Truman Capote get enjoyably full treatment, properly situated in the context of larger issues. If the inner workings of Vidal's psyche remain ultimately elusive despite Kaplan's access as authorised biographer to thousands of unpublished letters that too seems right for someone of whom a friend once remarked, "I've always thought that Gore is a man without an unconscious." --Wendy Smith Pressestimmen "Fascinating--. Vidal's life is so full of incident and celebrity, so much at the center of power and glamour, Kaplan's book is a pageant of entertaining stories."--The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "Kaplan must be commended...a splendid job."--San Francisco Chronicle "An invaluable font of research."--The Washington Post From the Trade Paperback edition.