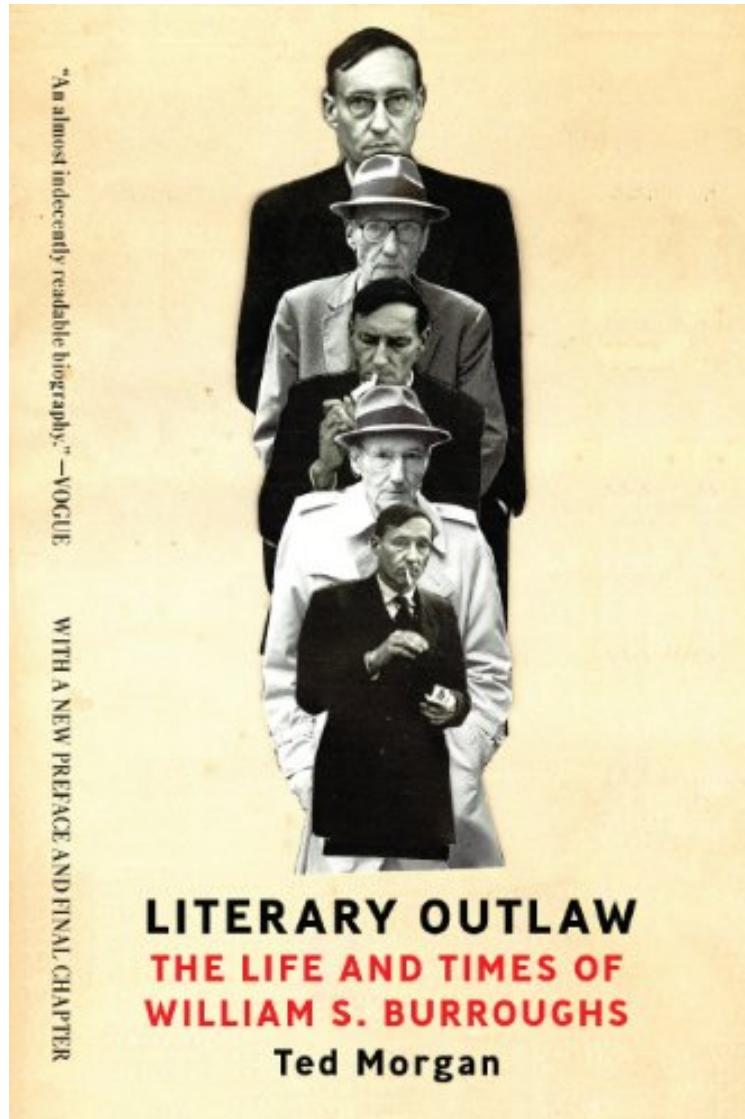


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Literary Outlaw: The Life and Times of William S. Burroughs

Von Ted Morgan

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Von Ted Morgan : Literary Outlaw: The Life and Times of William S. Burroughs before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Literary Outlaw: The Life and Times of William S. Burroughs:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Detailliert aber mit Hang zum Boulevardstil.Von RK, GermanyEinen "hektischen, geistlosen Journalistenstil" bescheinigte Autor Gore Vidal den Biografen der Beat-Autoren; ob er hierzu auch Ted Morgans Burroughs-Biografie

zählte ist nicht belegt, verdächtig könnte man es ihm nicht. Zugegeben, Morgans Buch zeichnet nicht nur ein facettenreiches Bild des provokativen Autors, sondern erweckt auch in detaillierten Schilderungen Milieu und Zeitgeschehen zum Leben und räumt in fast schon erschöpfenden Nebenstrichen auch weniger bekannten Autoren und schillernden Persönlichkeiten Platz ein. Dem gegenüber steht leider ein schnoddriger, fast schon boulevardpressenartiger Stil. Stehe wie "He had performed his Van Gogh act, although Jack Anderson was a piss-poor Gauguin" (über Burroughs' Selbstverstümmelung aus abgewiesener Liebe) oder "[Rooks] hired some character he met in a bar who didn't know his ass from a light meter" sind ebenso unnötig wie der Hinweis auf Andy Warhols Fetischismus, da Warhol selbst ohnehin nur kurz im Buch Erwähnung findet. Vielleicht meinte Morgan damit stilistisch an die Werke der Beat-Autoren anzuschließen, im Rahmen eines Sachbuchs bzw. einer Biografie wirkt seine Schreibung deplatziert. Wenn man diese Fehlleistungen ignorieren kann, wird man allerdings mit einem immer noch höchst informativen Buch belohnt.

Kurzbeschreibung Almost indecently readable . . . captures [Burroughs's] destructive energy, his ferocious pessimism, and the renegade brilliance of his style. **Vogue** With a new preface as well as a final chapter on William S. Burroughs's last years, the acclaimed *Literary Outlaw* is the only existing full biography of an extraordinary figure. Anarchist, heroin addict, alcoholic, and brilliant writer, Burroughs was the patron saint of the Beats. His avant-garde masterpiece *Naked Lunch* shook up the literary world with its graphic descriptions of drug abuse and illicit sex and resulted in a landmark Supreme Court ruling on obscenity. Burroughs continued to revolutionize literature with novels like *The Soft Machine* and to shock with the events in his life, such as the accidental shooting of his wife, which haunted him until his death. Ted Morgan captures the man, his work, and his friends Allen Ginsberg and Paul Bowles among them in this riveting story of an iconoclast. **From Library Journal** In his detailed, highly readable biography, Morgan provides important insights into Burroughs's life and art. He sees the writer as an outlaw, as someone bent on achieving fame even at the cost of becoming infamous. Morgan closely examines Burroughs's life in light of his relationships with family, lovers, and friends, including fellow Beats Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. In fact, if the book has a fault, it is that in its coverage of other Beat figures, the focus occasionally slips off Burroughs. While not a definitive portrait, Morgan's book is an accurate and serviceable biography of one of America's foremost authors. Essential reading for anyone interested in Burroughs, it belongs in all serious literature collections. William Gargan, Brooklyn Coll. Lib., CUNY Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. **Pressestimmen** I was captivated. . . . Funny. . . . exhaustive . . . clear-sighted.--Paul Theroux **Triumphant**. . . . Unsparingly naturalistic reporting at its best.