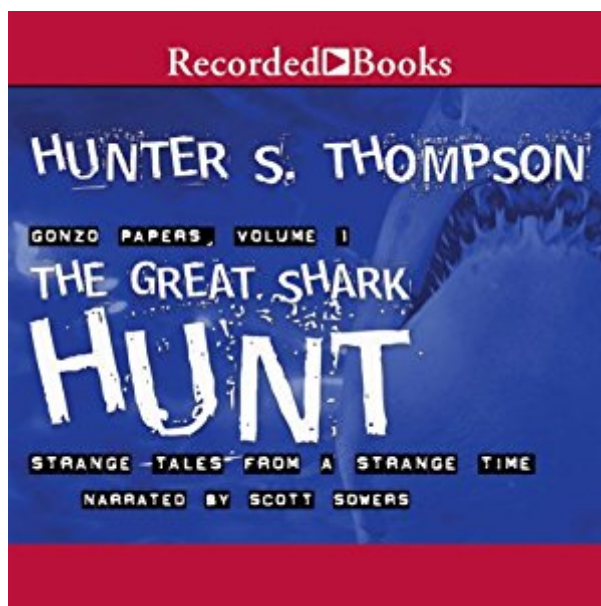


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The Great Shark Hunt: Strange Tales From A Strange Time



Synopsis

Originally published in 1979, the first volume of the best-selling "Gonzo Papers" is now back in print. The Great Shark Hunt is Dr. Hunter S. Thompson's largest and, arguably, most important work, covering Nixon to napalm, Las Vegas to Watergate, Carter to cocaine. These essays offer brilliant commentary and outrageous humor, in signature Thompson style. Ranging in date from the National Observer days to the era of Rolling Stone, The Great Shark Hunt offers myriad, highly charged entries, including the first Hunter S. Thompson piece to be dubbed "gonzo" - "The Kentucky Derby Is Decadent and Depraved," which appeared in Scanlan's Monthly in 1970. From this essay a new journalistic movement sprang which would change the shape of American letters. Thompson's razor-sharp insight and crystal clarity capture the crazy, hypocritical, degenerate, and redeeming aspects of the explosive and colorful '60s and '70s.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here's one book which collects, in scores of stories and articles spanning a few hundred pages, every facet of Hunter S. Thompson's career, in which he seamlessly transitioned from staid Air Force newspaper writer to roaming correspondent for the now-defunct National Observer to edgy compatriot of the Hell's Angels to full-bore, drug-addled gonzo journalist. And everything inbetween, to boot. Nowhere else is the richness of Thompson's talent so fully illustrated than in Shark Hunt. Here, in "The Kentucky Derby is Decadent and Depraved," a chronicle of the yearly madness in

Thompson's hometown of Louisville, the reader experiences the earliest rumblings of what would later become a totally unique journalistic style that he further developed in "Fear and Loathing at the Super Bowl," also found here. We are also treated to assorted dispatches from Thompson's travels throughout North and South America, written when he was a roaming correspondent for Dow Jones' National Observer. Here the true skill and power of Thompson's writing becomes apparent -- an observation both powerful and poignant when these writings are compared to his later works, making it clear that the drugs have indeed taken their toll on his remarkable mind. For the new Gonzoist, excerpts are included from Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas as well as Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72. Through not very useful if you own these books already, they still make for fun bathroom reading. Also included are most, if not all, of Thompson's articles for "Rolling Stone" about the Watergate scandal and Nixon's resignation -- truly rollicking political tales full of savage grace and fiendish wit. Sadly lacking are Ralph Steadman's original drawings which accompanied the stories in RS. There's more, too: stories about the "Brown Power" revolts in Los Angeles in the late 1960s; tales of Oscar Acosta, Thompson's mysterious Mexican-American lawyer friend who was the model for the "300-pound Samoan lawyer" in Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas; Thompson's experiences in Muhammad Ali's training camp; his bizarre times with Jean-Claude Killy and O.J. Simpson as they travel through America hucking Chevrolets at auto shows in the early 1970s. These are indeed strange tales from a strange time. Buy this book.

Mostly left-overs...bits and pieces of Hunter's work. He is still one of the best writers of the Century but you can watch the deterioration real clearly in this collection.

As a fan of Dr. HST, this is fantastic. It's a collection of his writings, some of which are just hilarious or really insightful. Definitely his signature style in all of it. There is this one part where he is covering the superbowl as a reporter back in the 70s and was so jacked up that he was was taking breaks from drinking and mingling with socialites in the penthouse of some hotel to close himself on the balcony to shout verses of his modified Revelations for a few minutes, then calmly return and socialize. Classic HST.

A fine compilation of Hunter Thompson's articles and book extracts from the 60's and 70's. Thompson took journalism to a 'higher' level in regards to reporting and we should be grateful for his twist on script and text. It's not for everyone, but then again what is. From covering sporting events such as the Kentucky Derby, the Super Bowl, skiing with Jean-Claude Killy, hanging out with

Muhammad Ali to the '72 political campaigns of Nixon-McGovern, Watergate renderings and Jimmy Carter from '74-'76, we also venture into his times off the coast of Yucatan and into South America to domestic issues such as the killing of Ruben Salazar and other more somber matters. It's all here... amusing, entertaining and affecting with a cutting edge slant.

Always loved this book. Arrived on time and is in good condition.

My only other hero besides Oscar the Grouch.

Collected stories from a weird, insightful and temperamental freak. I had a copy of this and wanted it again. The articles, many originally from Rolling Stone, are as pertinent now in many ways, and as pleasant to read. HST has a constant humorous bite. Some of the articles are from his book 'Fear and Loathing On the Campaign Trail '72' and some are from various other publications, and the entire collection is enjoyable and evokes thought. Rad.

Wonderful exchange... excellent! Quick and easy!

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