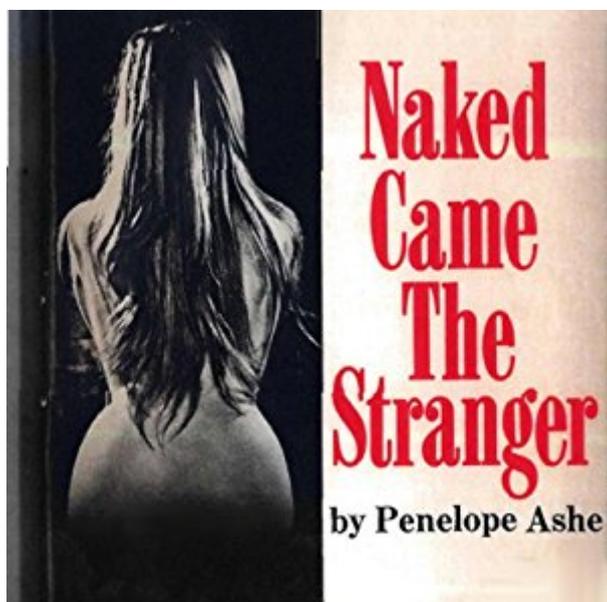


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Naked Came The Stranger



Synopsis

A steamy, best-selling tale of Long Island lust, written as a daring literary hoax by Newsday columnist Mike McGrady and two dozen of his colleagues. For talk show host Gillian Blake, the suburbs have long been a paradise. On the radio, she and her husband are Gilly and Billy, local media stars and "New York's Sweethearts of the Air". At home they're the envy of their neighbors. Only in the bedroom is their life less than perfect. When Gillian learns that her husband has a mistress, she takes revenge the only way she can. With each lover she takes, her lust multiplies, until this demure housewife becomes a creature of pure passion. No man on Long Island - be he hippie, mobster, or rabbi - is safe when Gillian goes on the prowl. Written by 24 reporters under the moniker of Penelope Ashe, *Naked Came the Stranger* was an attempt to produce the steamiest and most wildly over-the-top novel of all time - good writing be damned. A sensation upon its first release, 40 years later the book remains one of the most sinfully amusing potboilers ever published.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

The stories behind this book are pretty well known now, but let us drift back to when it was first published. I can remember it vividly and remember all the hoopla surrounding the event. Unlike most of the reading public, and unlike half of you reading this review right now, I fully admit that I bought and read the thing when it was first published. Now, in my defense, both my wife and I, after reading it, thought it was one of the most horribly written books we had ever come across. But the point is, we actually paid out good cash for the thing as did hundreds and hundreds of others. This, I

think, is the point the multiple authors were trying to make. The book is indeed terrible. But I have to admit that I gave it a second read recently, this time knowing what it was, and I do have to give the authors credit. They did their job well. As others have pointed out, the plot nonexistent, the characters shallow, the sex is boring (actually, sort of funny on some level), the organization of the book is terrible and it was the type of book that you did not want to be seen reading. As I said, the authors did their job. Now it is easy to set back now that we know the full story behind the writing of the book and knowingly nod our heads, but I can actually remember some pretty well known T.V. types that were quite impressed with the work and I can remember some book reviews that actually give it pretty good ratings. I do feel the book showed us something about ourselves, and that is a good thing, even if we don't particularly like what we see. I have often felt we have been duped from time to time, not only in literature, but in art (Andy Warhol comes to mind), and suspect we will be again in the future.

There are aspects of this enduring "classic" which might turn your head around and make you reconsider what you've just read. As others have commented, some of the writing is awful -- and so intended by the multiple authors who contributed. But the truly ironic aspect of the work is that the original book without the multi-author forward (aka "forewarning") sold almost as well as anything Harold Robbins ever wrote. Even after the authors confessed their hoax in public, it was on the NY Times Best Seller list for 15 weeks and sold an estimated 400,000 copies. *The Stranger* can be read for fun and sexual titillation, if your literary instincts aren't so developed as to get in the way. It's intended as farce, not serious fiction. But the novel can also be read for what it tells us of the sexual hypocrisy of the 1960s and 70s -- and today. Originally slanted to illustrate how vulgar our popular American culture had become, in hindsight it may actually illustrate something deeper. The lingering anti-sensualism of western culture and religion have continued to cast a deep shadow of sexual repression over all of us, denying us the enjoyment of a major dimension of our humanity. There was once a school of psychology which entertained the idea that the primary source of all neurosis (a term no longer used in professional practice) was not getting laid often enough or with any trained skill. Even if we aren't willing to go quite that far, it must surely be apparent that when our culture cannot embrace sexual desire and transcending ecstasy without labeling them "naughty", there is something profoundly wrong with the way we're [STILL] being brought up! So read *The Stranger* and let yourself be pleasantly aroused between your groans over the writing.

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