



Bukowski and the Beats: A Commentary on the Beat Generation

By Jean-Francois Duval

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Literary Nonfiction. Commentary. Interviews. Translated from the French by Alison Ardron. There are several reasons for this book. The principle one is pleasure—the pure joy of returning to Charles Bukowski and to the Beats, by dipping into their legend—particularly since the Beat movement is now enjoying a lively revival of attention through new editions, appearances of previously unpublished material, exhibitions, and other events. There is also the pleasure of rediscovering Charles Bukowski, cult author whose reputation continues to grow steadily all over the world. The full drama of his humor, of his angers, memories, frustrations, and distinctive grace come to life during Jean-François Duval's long interview with Buk: *An Evening at Buk's Place*. The pleasure also consists of having a close look at the links and contradictions between Bukowski and the Beat constellation.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Despite Charles Bukowski's (1920-94) best efforts to distance himself from the Beats, the author of *Women, Ham on Rye*, and numerous other collections of poetry and fiction seems unable to escape their orbit. Closely examining Bukowski's life and work, Swiss journalist Duval explores both his historical and his thematic links to the Beats as well as the philosophical and aesthetic differences that separate them. He includes interesting anecdotes about Bukowski's meetings with several Beats, including Neal Cassady, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Allen Ginsberg, and William Burroughs. The translation of this work reads smoothly, and the text is enlivened by a generous selection of photographs and illustrations. Duval also includes "An Evening at Buk's Place," his lively interview with Bukowski and his wife, Linda. There is an extensive bibliography and a brief Beat generation "who's who." Shedding new light on Bukowski's complex relationship to the Beat generation, Duval's book should delight both Bukowski fans and Beat scholars. Highly recommended. William Gargan, Brooklyn Coll. Lib, CUNY
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Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

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About the Author

Jean-Francois Duval is a novelist, essayist and journalist. He travels the world for the Swiss magazine *Construire*.

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