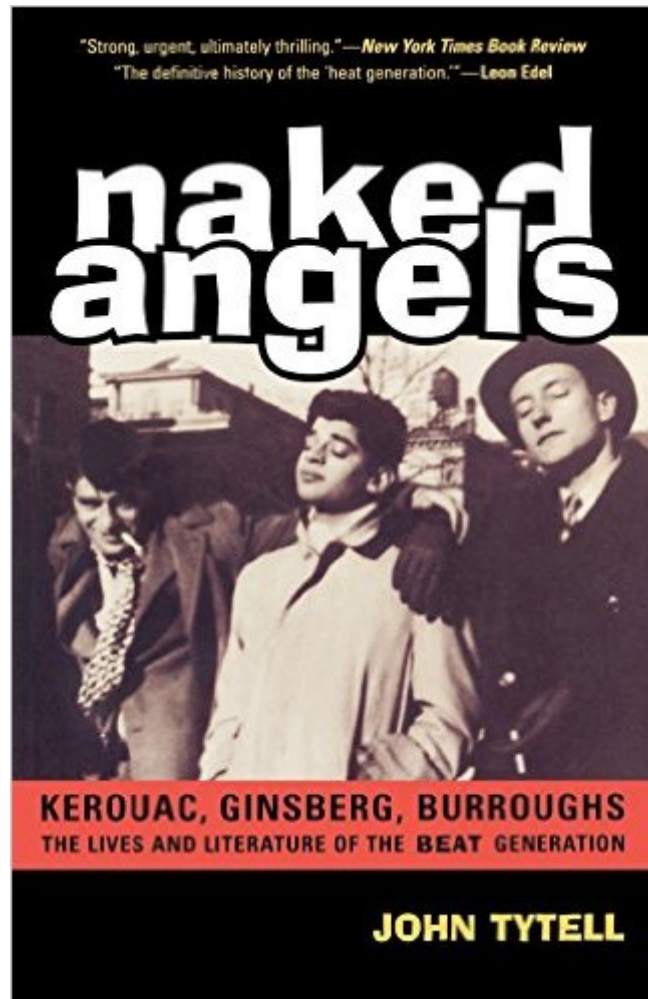


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Naked Angels: The Lives And Literature Of The Beat Generation



Synopsis

Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and William S. Burroughsâ•their emergence in the late 1950s as the leading figures of the Beat movement marked one of the most spectacular developments in post-World War II American literature. John Tytell's classic study examines their attempt to redefine a complacent society's notion of sanity and normalcy and to reinvent their own lives through jazz, drugs, and law-breaking, acts that ultimately led to new forms of expression. A fascinating blend of literary and social criticism, history, and biography, *Naked Angels* is an indispensable introduction to the lives and work of these seminal figures, and an unsurpassed look at the powerful influence they had on the 1960s and beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If your interested in the Beat generation, this is a wonderful book! I may be a bit jaded because I met the author and took a class from him on the Beats. This is the best review of the big three, Ginsberg, Kerouac, and Burroughs that I have read to date.

Tytell's book *Naked Angels* is divided into three sections, one each for Jack Kerouac, A. Ginsberg, and William Burroughs. Each section can be read independently of the others, for those just interested in one writer. I was most interested in the chapter on Burroughs, and here is an appraisal: A short introductory chapter on Burroughs gives biographical background. The Burroughs section of *Naked Angels* is entitled "The Black Beauty of William Burroughs," and is a 29-page

exploration of Burroughs' writing, with useful comparisons to other writers, such as Poe, Baudelaire, and Nabokov. Tytell analyzes the work Burroughs published from 1953-1973, omitting or including only the slightest references to minor works. Early works which went unpublished for years, such as *Queer* and *Interzone*, are not discussed. The book has an index and bibliography. Tytell's book is not wholly given over to Burroughs, but as an introduction to the writer, it serves as well as any other. If you have read the section on *Naked Angels* dealing with Burroughs, and you are eager for a more complete investigation of his life, turn to Ted Morgan's book *LITERARY OUTLAW*, which I believe to be the most thorough and fascinating biography of Burroughs.ken32

Easy read...but packed with insights into the individuals as people and as writers. I thoroughly enjoyed it. A great introduction to the beat scene and the writers who founded it. Also well placed in a cultural/counter cultural context for those already familiar with the writings.

excellent

I am much satisfied with the book and its dealer's rapid service. I would like them to send a receipt as soon as possible.

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