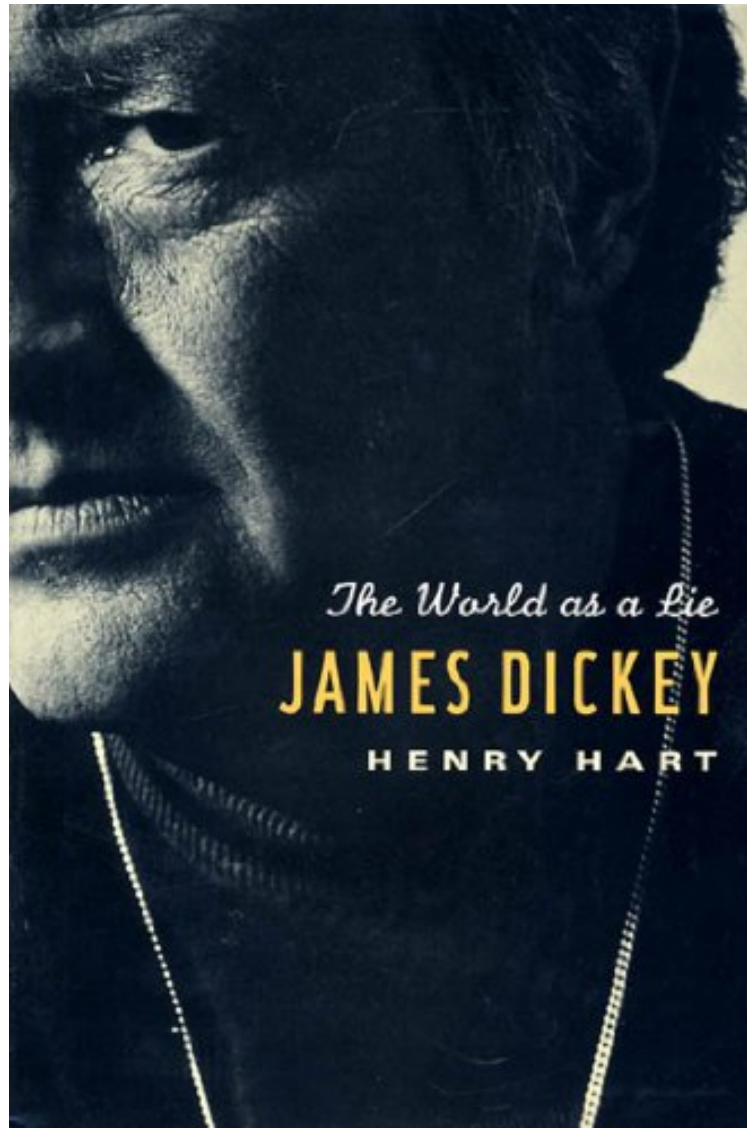


(Get free) James Dickey: The World as a Lie

James Dickey: The World as a Lie

Von Henry Hart

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Von Henry Hart : James Dickey: The World as a Lie before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised James Dickey: The World as a Lie:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Record for the Ages Von Ein Kunde For all his faults, James Dickey was a writer of extraordinary power and gifts. He redefined nature poetry and wrote of the outdoors with savage beauty. His reputation is in partial eclipse right now, but that is surely a temporary situation. No writer of his importance can stay buried for long. That said, Dickey was, in addition to being a genius, a scoundrel. Certainly not the first literary genius to push the envelope of misbehavior, but

he ranks with the best of them. This outstanding biography by Henry Hart has received some potshots from critics for focusing much attention on Dickey's scandalous side. Well, sorry, Dickey's scandalous side was immense and to downplay it would have been intellectually weak. And, sorry again, but dishonesty on the scale Dickey publicly displayed can't simply be excused as a byproduct of "creative temperament." Hart's book is spectacular in the depth of its research, and yet the writing is so strong that the book never bogs down. In the end, once the anger of Dickeyites has subsided, this biography will emerge as the standard Dickey biography, all the more valuable for its unflinching honesty. It's an outstanding portrait of a complex man.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Extraordinary ConfluenceVon Maurice T. Watson Jr.In the introduction to "the James Dickey reader," which he edited, Henry Hart states poetically, "Like Fitzgerald's Gatsby, Dickey erected a mansion that will endure in our collective memory, but one made of books rather than expensive stones." And in the introduction to his biography of James Dickey, Hart tells us how the subtitle, "The World as a Lie," was arrived at and of Dickey's rough equating of creative enterprise with lying. This is heady stuff, for certain, and Hart does the job of piercing through the philosophical (or anti-philosophical) haze and into the actual stuff or harder reality of James Dickey's life. Throughout the biography, Hart has the humorist's knack for letting what's funny show itself, while taking seriously what should be taken seriously. Hart's own unpretentious style moves neatly through a complex and at times outlandish subject, namely, Dickey. A worthwhile subject (Dickey) gets the good fortune of an equally gifted biographer and editor (Hart).0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Entirely Absorbing ReadVon Ein KundeHart has produced an entirely absorbing read on one of the true tragic geniuses in American letters. Adopting a dispassionate tone reminiscent of Joseph Mitchell's legendary New Yorker "profiles," Hart deftly leaves all the gallows humor and domestic melodrama to Dickey, which the subject proves eminently capable of providing. I've noticed some reviewers protest that the author dwells too long on the poet's vices. This strikes me as akin to complaining that an otherwise cheerful biography of Richard Nixon devotes too many pages to the gloomy and tedious Watergate scandal. Dickey was a true rake who wreaked havoc on the lives around him. Hart removes the shroud of celebrity and reveals a troubled human being, one whose place in the Western literary canon cannot be challenged.

KurzbeschreibungA fascinating biography of one of the most popular, colorful, and notorious American poets of our century.The legendary Southern poet James Dickey never shied away from cultivating a heroic mystique. Like Norman Mailer and Ernest Hemingway, he earned a reputation as a sportsman, boozier, war hero, and womanizer as well as a great poet, novelist, screenwriter, and essayist. But James Dickey made lying both a literary strategy and a protective camouflage; even his family and closest friends failed to distinguish between the mythical James Dickey and the actual man. Henry Hart sees lying as the central theme to Dickey's life; and in this authoritative, immensely entertaining biography he delves deep behind Dickey's many masks. Letters, anecdotes, tall tales and true ones, as well as the reluctant but finally candid cooperation of Dickey himself animate Hart's narration of a remarkable life. Readers of Dickey's National Book Award-winning poetry, his bestselling novel *Deliverance*, and anyone who witnessed his electrifying readings of his work will savor this book.From Library JournalLike Faulkner before him, James Dickey used a series of lies to construct a public persona of swaggering athletic and sexual prowess, sporting bravado, and military achievement. In exhausting detail, Hart (*The James Dickey Reader*) traces Dickey's life from his birth in Atlanta in 1923 to his death in 1997. Using letters, journals, and conversations with friends and family, Hart chronicles Dickey's years at Vanderbilt and in the Air Force--where, contrary to his own statements, he never became a fighter pilot--his work as a copywriter, his years as a teacher, and his meteoric rise and calamitous fall as a writer. After a brilliant achievement in his early poetry, Dickey reached his zenith with *Deliverance* in 1972. Then he descended into an alcoholic inferno and a violence-filled second marriage. Although Hart demonstrates that Dickey was one of the greatest men of letters of the 20th century, this book is an example of the excesses of contemporary literary biography. Do we really need to know what Dickey ate on a particular night in London? Still, this book is destined to become the standard Dickey biography. Recommended for all libraries.--Henry L. Carrigan Jr., Lancaster, OH Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.Pressestimmen"This is an exemplary work."--Erica da Costa, "The New York Times Book ""Fascinating . . . Henry Hart has done a first-rate job."--George Garrett, " Washington Times""Exemplary . . . This is the biography the poet deserves."--Steve Oney, " LA Weekly""This book is destined to become the standard Dickey biography."--"Library Journal" (starred)"Weaving Dickey's own writing into this biographical narrative, Hart provides glimpses of his incisiveness as a critic, his lyric grace as a poet and his dazzling inventiveness as a novelist."--Henry L. Carrigan", Chicago Tribune""Thorough and unflinching . . . One finishes this biography with a sense of the enormity of James Dickey's talent and with an equally strong sense of the great waste of his later years."--Stephen Ennis, " The Atlanta Journal-Constitution""This new biography by Hart undertakes a meticulous unveiling of the man behind the many masks."--Kirkus s""Hart quietly corrects as well as establishes the record. More tellingly, he links the sometimes ugly forces that inspired Dickey's antics--his public acting out, his aggressive competitiveness and his sometimes unbridled determination to dominate people around him--to the wellsprings of his art. As a result, we can

now say of James Dickey . . . if we want to take the good by honoring his art we must be willing to accept the bad, and that no biographer could responsibly have told one part of Dickey's story without telling the other."--David Minter, "Washington Post Book World" This is an exemplary work. "Erica da Costa, The New York Times Book " Fascinating . . . Henry Hart has done a first-rate job. "George Garrett, Washington Times" Exemplary . . . This is the biography the poet deserves. "Steve Oney, LA Weekly" This book is destined to become the standard Dickey biography. "Library Journal (starred)" Weaving Dickey's own writing into this biographical narrative, Hart provides glimpses of his incisiveness as a critic, his lyric grace as a poet and his dazzling inventiveness as a novelist. "Henry L. Carrigan, Chicago Tribune" Thorough and unflinching . . . One finishes this biography with a sense of the enormity of James Dickey's talent and with an equally strong sense of the great waste of his later years. "Stephen Ennis, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution" This new biography by Hart undertakes a meticulous unveiling of the man behind the many masks. "Kirkus s" Hart quietly corrects as well as establishes the record. More tellingly, he links the sometimes ugly forces that inspired Dickey's antics--his public acting out, his aggressive competitiveness and his sometimes unbridled determination to dominate people around him--to the wellsprings of his art. As a result, we can now say of James Dickey . . . if we want to take the good by honoring his art we must be willing to accept the bad, and that no biographer could responsibly have told one part of Dickey's story without telling the other. "David Minter, Washington Post Book World""This is an exemplary work." --Erica da Costa, The New York Times Book "Fascinating . . . Henry Hart has done a first-rate job." --George Garrett, Washington Times"Exemplary . . . This is the biography the poet deserves." --Steve Oney, LA Weekly"This book is destined to become the standard Dickey biography." --Library Journal (starred)"Weaving Dickey's own writing into this biographical narrative, Hart provides glimpses of his incisiveness as a critic, his lyric grace as a poet and his dazzling inventiveness as a novelist." --Henry L. Carrigan, Chicago Tribune"Thorough and unflinching . . . One finishes this biography with a sense of the enormity of James Dickey's talent and with an equally strong sense of the great waste of his later years." --Stephen Ennis, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution"This new biography by Hart undertakes a meticulous unveiling of the man behind the many masks." --Kirkus s"Hart quietly corrects as well as establishes the record. More tellingly, he links the sometimes ugly forces that inspired Dickey's antics--his public acting out, his aggressive competitiveness and his sometimes unbridled determination to dominate people around him--to the wellsprings of his art. As a result, we can now say of James Dickey . . . if we want to take the good by honoring his art we must be willing to accept the bad, and that no biographer could responsibly have told one part of Dickey's story without telling the other." --David Minter, Washington Post Book World