



Short Dog: Cab Driver Stories from the L.A. Streets

Dan Fante

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In this collection of 8 short fictions the author of *A-Gin-Pissing-Raw-Meat-Duel-Carburetor-V8-Son-Of-A-Bitch From Los Angeles* and *Chump Change* gives "a running commentary on the truth behind Los Angeles's gleaming facade—a life of brief encounters, desperation, addiction and the chasm-sized distance between people. Dan Fante takes the traditional cab driver 'knowledge' to a deeper place fueled by raw emotion, wine-guzzling existentialism and fleetingly poetic epiphanies. Here, the City of Angels' halo has definitely slipped"— Time Out Magazine. The work of Dan Fante, son of author John Fante, has also been praised by John Fowles and likened to "the genius of Bukowski and Hubert Selby, Jr."— Elle.

Short Dog: Cab Driver Stories from the L.A. Streets Details

Date : Published January 1st 2006 by Sun Dog Press (first published December 22nd 2005)

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Author : Dan Fante

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From Reader Review Short Dog: Cab Driver Stories from the L.A. Streets for online ebook

Guy Salvidge says

Short Dog (or Corksucker as it's known in the UK) is probably Dan Fante's best book. Dan's father John was a writer himself, and inspired Charles Bukowski who ended up being far more famous than he. And then, in turn, Dan Fante's work is very much in the vein of Bukowski, except that if anything it is even more unhinged. There's a self-loathing in Dan Fante that makes him a more sympathetic character than Buk. Like his idol, Dan Fante's only subject is himself.

And so what we have here is a collection of eight breathtakingly sordid stories about driving cabs around LA, getting drunk, getting laid and generally behaving like a crazy shitbird. In its way this is high-octane, perhaps even peerless stuff. It puts Bukowski in the shade, which is something I didn't really feel when reading Fante's novels (I've read all of them except his last, Point Doom). To repeat: this would appear to be thinly-veiled autobiography in the style of Bukowski's Post Office, but more so. Go get it.

Tadek says

Real stuff.

Matt says

Was curious to check out John Fante's kid. He's no slouch. Funny and revolting stories very much in his dad or Bukowski's style. Oddly moving and charming...

Laylay I says

toza sor babas?n? okucakken niye bunu okudum

Rich Osburn says

To date, this is my second favorite book of all time. Why? I just love Dan's approach to his stories, and he does a brilliant job of tying it all together in the end. I have read it cover to cover a dozen times, and am always looking for another reason to walk in his shoes once more, and laugh aloud as he takes my down a side of the street I have never known. Brilliant work.

Col says

Blurb....."A running commentary on the truth behind Los Angeles' gleaming façade - a life of brief encounters, desperation addiction and the chasm-sized distance between people - Corksucker digs into the dark landscape of the real America. In eight brutally-honest short stories Dan Fante takes the traditional cab driver 'knowledge' to a deeper place fuelled by raw emotion, wine guzzling existentialism and fleetingly hopeful poetic epiphanies. Here, the City of Angels' halo has definitely slipped..." Ben Myers

My take.....

Eight short stories about a cab driver in Los Angeles. A bleak, grim existence; terminal drudgery interspersed by joyless sex, alcohol abuse and domestic discontent.

Not much to envy in this hack driver's American dream.

I've been interested in reading Fante, after some web-browsing threw up his name alongside the likes of father John, Charles Bukowski and Hubert Selby Jr.

Dan Fante - an authentic literary outlaw says The New York Times.

He has written a series of 4 books about an alcoholic writer cum alter-ego Bruno Dante, that I'm looking forward to reading;

1. Chump Change (1998)
2. Mooth (2000)
3. Spitting Off Tall Buildings (2001)
4. 86'd (2009)

On the whole; sad, amusing and entertaining and I'm looking forward to his full-length work.

4 from 5.

I borrowed this reading copy from Leighton Buzzard Library.

As a further aside, Corksucker was the title of the UK edition, Shortdog is the US equivalent.

Read and obviously briefly reviewed back in December, 2012

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12...>

Ara Molina says

A compilation of short stories. Some of them are funny and others are quite sad, but all of them are populated with the usual colorful characters that you find in all of Dan Fante's books.

Zeo says

babasinin izinden giden bir oglu icin fena is cikarmamis. dan'le tanistigim ilk kitapti, fena da degildi.

Stephane says

Enjoyed it but definitely not as good and strong as his previous works.

Chloe says

This could be really good if Dan Fante didn't try to be a better writer than his father. Is that legacy such a burden that he has to remind us every three lines that his characters are desperate, drunk, or broke? The stories are great but smell a bit fake sometimes.

Suvi says

I believe the title is a word play from "cock sucker"? Would fit in nicely, since the characters seem to be a bunch of morons, who also happen to have difficulties in sorting out their lives. "Cork sucker" might mean someone who has problems with alcohol.

I have to say I was slightly disappointed. The stories were relatively entertaining, and some of the characters delightfully crazy (the giant snake story was gross but amusing). As a whole the collection just seemed a bit flat, or maybe I just didn't get the deeper meaning behind it. I usually expect a fantastic idea or some sort of twist in my short stories, so maybe this just didn't have a chance in the first place.

I did appreciate Fante showing us the other side of Los Angeles, it's way more interesting than pumped up Barbies. Fante has been compared to Charles Bukowski, so I'd maybe recommend this to his fans.

Black Coffee Press says

A balls heavy collection.

Tetikteol says

mm, bir los angeles kaç?klamas? oldu?undan mütevelliit okunmas?nda bir nevi fayda gördüm. faydal?d?r. okunsun. amerikay? görmek istemek bir?ey de?ildir. amerikada taksici olmay? istemek, pompac? olmay? istemek, ayya? olup köprü altlar?nda s?f?rlanmay? istemek; i?te budur amerikay? gö?sünde uyutmak. onu sevmek. okuyun.

Robert Tomoguchi says

Best author bio ever. I laughed a bunch at stuff I shouldn't have, that's what made the ending so pretty.

Lapetitesteph says

Trop bien.
