



Vegas: A Memoir Of A Dark Season

John Gregory Dunne

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Author : John Gregory Dunne

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From Reader Review Vegas: A Memoir Of A Dark Season for online ebook

Ellen says

As seen on Flashlight Worthy. Don't mess with Didion!

Mikee says

Not one of the best books I ever read; not even in the top sixty percent. Cute (if kitschy) vegas-type characters, but a total absence of direction or plot. Sort of a waste of time.

Brad says

It's been a while since I read this one. I learned about Dunne from my obsession with his wife, Joan Didion. We had a copy at the LA Public Library when I worked there, so I checked it out. Dunne is a great writer and he writes profoundly about his time in Vegas. For me, it captured the wonderful darkness of the connection between LA and Vegas in the 70s. There is a self-aware self-destructiveness to it that spoke strongly to me when I read it. This is definitely work checking out if you're interested in a time capsule of Vegas from the 1970s and a look into the life of a writer making it through that decade.

John M says

I'm not 100% sure why I found this pulpy, sometimes vile, novel so damn compelling, but I could not put it down.

Gaylord Dold says

Vegas: A Memoir of a Dark Season by John Gregory Dunne (Random House, 1974)

On day John Gregory Dunne woke up to the realization that he was terribly unhappy. Married to the brilliant writer Joan Didion, they lived in Los Angeles, wrote for the movies, published books, adopted a daughter named Quintana Roo, and drank and smoked heavily. What's new about all that? To avoid a breakdown once, John Gregory fled to Vegas, where he nursed his life back to health I suppose, though fleeing to Vegas to solve an emotional problem seems counterproductive.

I read Vegas to remember what the early 70's were like and I was pleased and excited to find a mordant, taut, surprisingly noir novel that satisfied my every need for escape. Dunne plunders the noir genre and people's his book (a memoir manqué) with characters--a broken down private eye, dealers, gamblers, husbands-on-the-run (like himself), and a particularly tough and poignant black hooker. They each have a great name,

emblematic of something bleak, humorous and lost.

You can read this book in a few hours and come away feeling refreshed by all the bullshit there is in the world. After a quick scotch and a cigarette, you'll know that nothing changes because it can't.

Who cares anyway when we've got Vegas.
