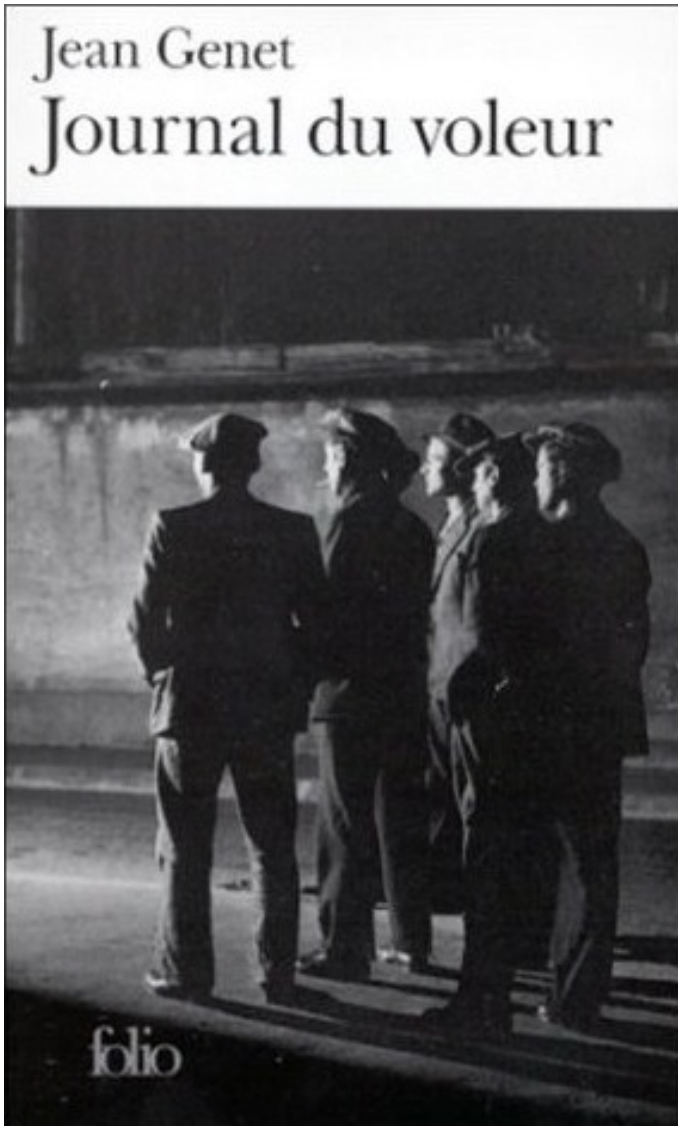

Jean Genet

Journal du voleur



Title: Journal du voleur

Author: Jean Genet

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Description

Publié clandestinement par Albert Skira à Genève à l'automne 1948 avant d'être repris en édition courante par Gallimard quelques mois plus tard, dans une version légèrement expurgée, disponible en anglais en 1964, *Journal du Voleur* a longtemps été, est peut-être encore le livre le plus connu de Genet. On peut invoquer des raisons accidentelles, comme la longue circulation en éditions clandestines ou peu diffusées (*L'Arbalète*) des oeuvres en prose qui précèdent, desservies ensuite par la réédition peu engageante des oeuvres complètes chez Gallimard (impression serrée et sans air, nombreuses coupes). On doit surtout prendre en compte l'effet d'attraction du titre, moins poétique, plus autobiographique que les autres ; attrait à la fois de l'asocialité et de la confession directe, comme pour les *Mémoires de Vidocq* un siècle plus tôt (1828). Il donne au lecteur le sentiment de pouvoir entrer dans la vie même de l'écrivain, en dépit d'une composition enchevêtrée et d'une perspective morale bien insistante. Plus que tout autre, le livre semble condenser l'histoire picaresque de Genet, ses vagabondages, sa vie en marge, ses prostitutions, ses amours. Mais il fixe aussi, de l'abjection subie à l'abjection consentie et revendiquée, une figure d'ascète étonnant, à la recherche de la sainteté par les voies de l'abjection.

Insightful reviews

Mr.: Jean Genet's absorbing work of literary autobiography traverses the boundaries of genre with stunning ingenuity and imagination. This work is in some ways similar to Capote's use of the so-called "non-fiction novel," in that it recalls apparently true events through the lens of fiction. This is the reflection of a petty thief, and vagabond. Genet is a young man wandering Europe and immersing himself in a world of crime and depravity. He fuses his homosexuality with nefarious hooliganism to play off of our civilization's utter contempt for effeminate males. Genet blurs the boundary of morality with Nietzschean fury as he revels in his self projected "evil." Perhaps what is most astonishing about 'The Thief's Journal' is the way in which Jean Genet comments on his own commentary with startling frankness and lucidity. In many ways this work established many of the literary mechanics of what is now referred to as "post-modern," though Genet achieves the same level of complexity without sacrificing clarity or beauty in the process

Robert Wilson: Years ago when I was a younger man I read this book because I liked what a friend of mine said. "Read this book and it will f*ck up your life." Frankly Genet finds the beauty in evil, poverty, illness (both mental and physical) and the emptiness in life.

It's not an easy read, and at times shocking. My friend was right. This is a book of great importance because it will "f*ck your life" by making you challenge your beliefs on what is "right" and what is "wrong."

Genet's whores, thieves, murders and outcasts have their own dignity, their own code of honor and own strange sense of light.

I have recently reread this book, and find the words and the ideas they express just as powerful

as I did when I was in my 20's. That, to me at least, is what makes complex, nasty, horrid, marvelous little book so damn good.

Cameron: This is a marvelous piece of writing. The subject matter may defer honest appraisal, it may embarrass readers to admit that they actually read this wicked book, but Genet is a master of language who should never be ignored.

Michael D.: Morality is overrated. if you are good looks is you, then context is barely "lice" at the cake.

Ian: The Thief's magazine is, in a superficial way, a narrative of darkness, drudgery, and the appreciation of good looks that underlies the grime of society, informed via a touring thief and vagrant whose shadowy encounters may placed Senator Larry Craig to shame. On a unique level, it truly is an inversion of the morals and buildings of Western society in which the scoundrels, pimps, homosexuals, murderers, trannies, and litterbugs of Europe are remodeled into saints who reject the fashionable order and its uninteresting ways. As such, i might be shocked if it were not a favourite of Ted Haggard and Justice Clarence Thomas. Jean-Paul Sartre wrote a massive ebook at the paintings of the writer Jean Genet, explicating from it a literary expression of the existential hero. As such, i am yes that Genet's paintings needs to be learn various instances to totally seize its layers of inventive vision, beatific prose, and philosophical meanderings. This publication was once assigned to me in an undergraduate classification on glossy novels a long time ago. We learn the like of Bret Easton Ellis, Angela Carter, and Dennis Cooper (the final of which used to be a piece unsettling). I basically learn it once, decades ago, ahead of i used to be conscious of the cloth that used to be assigned in class. However, i discovered that it's most likely the best i have ever read. it's unorthodox and tougher than such a lot novels, yet definitely worth the effort. I in particular suggest it for prudes and homophobes.

Tosh: definitely one in a formal existence has to be keen about the early Kinks, a love of Howlin' Wolf, learn the whole works of Oscar Wilde, to understand that there's a difference among Brian Jones period Rolling Stones to the present Ron wooden years, the affection of Charles Shaw model of wine, and this novel by way of Jean Genet. It's a needs to for each younger guy and girl to learn as a teenager. For previous males like me it brings a tear to my eye. And why is it that? There is whatever so exceedingly romantic approximately Genet - and it is going past the homosexual or instantly global - it truly is only a nice twilight global the place those humans live. for those who have not learn 'The Thief's Journal, do so. it is a nice event of sorts.

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