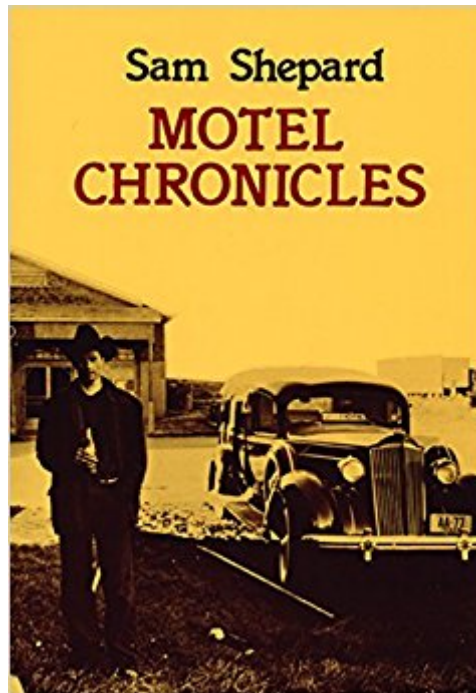




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Motel Chronicles



Synopsis

Motel Chronicles reveals the fast-moving and sometimes surprising world of the man behind the plays that have made Sam Shepard a live legend in the theater. Shepard chronicles his own life birth in Illinois, childhood memories of Guam, Pasadena and rural Southern California, adventures as ranch hand, waiter, rock musician, dramatist, and film actor. Scenes from this book form the basis of his play *Superstitions*, and of the film (directed by Wim Wenders) *Paris, Texas*, winner of the Golden Palm Award at the 1984 Cannes Film Festival." . . .essential reading. A scrapbook of short stories, autobiographical reveries, poetry and photographs, *Motel Chronicles* is full of verbal delights, as well as insights into its author's entire canon. Whether Mr. Shepard is reminiscing about his parents or daydreaming about cherished movies and cars of his youth, he speaks in pungent and ethereal language that remakes our West. Read in conjunction with the plays, *Motel Chronicles* also helps demystify the origins of Mr. Shepard's psychological obsessions and desolate frontier iconography." —Frank Rich, *New York Times*"If plays were put in time capsules, future generations would get a sharp-toothed profile of life in the U.S. in the past decade and half from the works of Sam Shepard." —Time"Sam Shepard is a shaman—a New World shaman. Sam is as American as peyote, magic mushrooms, Rock and Roll, and medicine bundles." —Jack GelberSam Shepard (1943) is a playwright, actor, author, screen writer, and director whose work is performed on and off Broadway and in other theaters across the country. In 1979, he received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play *Buried Child*. In 1983, he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in *The Right Stuff*. His other famous works include *True West*, *A Lie of the Mind*, and *Curse of the Starving Class*. *Fool For Love & the Sad Lament of Pecos Bill* by Sam Shepard was also published by City Lights Publishers.

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Customer Reviews

MOTEL CHRONICLES was recommended on a website devoted to journal writing. It is non-sequential and many of the entries have the shape of honed work but all the same it is a good example of a writer's sketchbook, one used for practice and inspiration. More importantly, it is a window on Shepard's frame of mind in the years immediately following the Pulitzer Prize for BURIED CHILD. The seeds of later works can be found in this book. The entries swim back and forth from 1978 -1982, mapping the writer's peripatetic movement around the country, mostly in California and the west. It captures bits of his early identities, military childhood on the move, waiter, cowboy, actor, writer, friend, lover, husband, father. It is framed by portraits of being a child, the first entry is one of his earliest childhood memories in his mother's arms; the last is the adult caring for a mother felled by a brain aneurysm. This is no confessional or revealing autobiographical piece, however, just a writer at work pulling out inspiration from experience. Shepard is highly articulate, his portrayal of the contemporary west is priceless, and his poetry is not bad at all. The writing has an honest, non-star-turn quality to it.

Get the book and read it. Fall in love with him. Get ready you will. Does anyone have his address?

Absolutely fabulous although I think the author has tried to put a better spin on himself than is shown in Shepard and Dark. There were actually a few pieces that I especially noted and some that elicited some good chuckles but the Nina Simone incident was especially wonderful.

For years I've loved movies with Sam Shepard and yet never read any of his writings. I decided first to read Motel Chronicles, as a play and movie were based on this book. It gives one some insight to author and actor. Plus it is good writing, and some poems, about every day experiences and reminiscing(?). I ordered this book on and it was a used copy in good condition.

I purchased this book because I had just finished Shepard's more recent "Day out of Days." What I found most interesting is how Shepard has aged so damn well as a writer. "Motel Chronicles" was a great read yet is really just an excellent rough draft compared to his more recent work. "Motel

Chronicles" starts to shape Shepard's great feel of the modern day lonesome dessert highway. What does stick out in this book is Shepard's humor. Muhammad Ali was once asked why he was always being so funny. He explained that he never tried to be funny. He just told the truth. Shepard does the same. In between tasting the dessert and feeling Shepard's despondent characters in freeze-frame so well, I found myself laughing out loud. Shepard makes no attempt at well-crafted jokes. He just tells the truth. And sometimes its damn funny. It's a quick and worthwhile read. Chris Bowen Author of *Our Kids: Building Relationships in the Classroom*

this was a great item! this is always a book i buy to pass along so someone else.. a very good read!

Incredible.

Motel Chronicles is a fine example how autobiographical stories can be well written and it is an excellent trip through real America: the long roads, the Indians, the Cowboys, the desert... Sam Shepard is an excellent playwright and he also writes scripts for movies. It is a surprise for all who are used to his "hard prose" in theatre and in cinema reading the softness of his prose and the almost "delicacy" of these chronicles. After this book, I do recommend you all "Cruising Paradise".

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