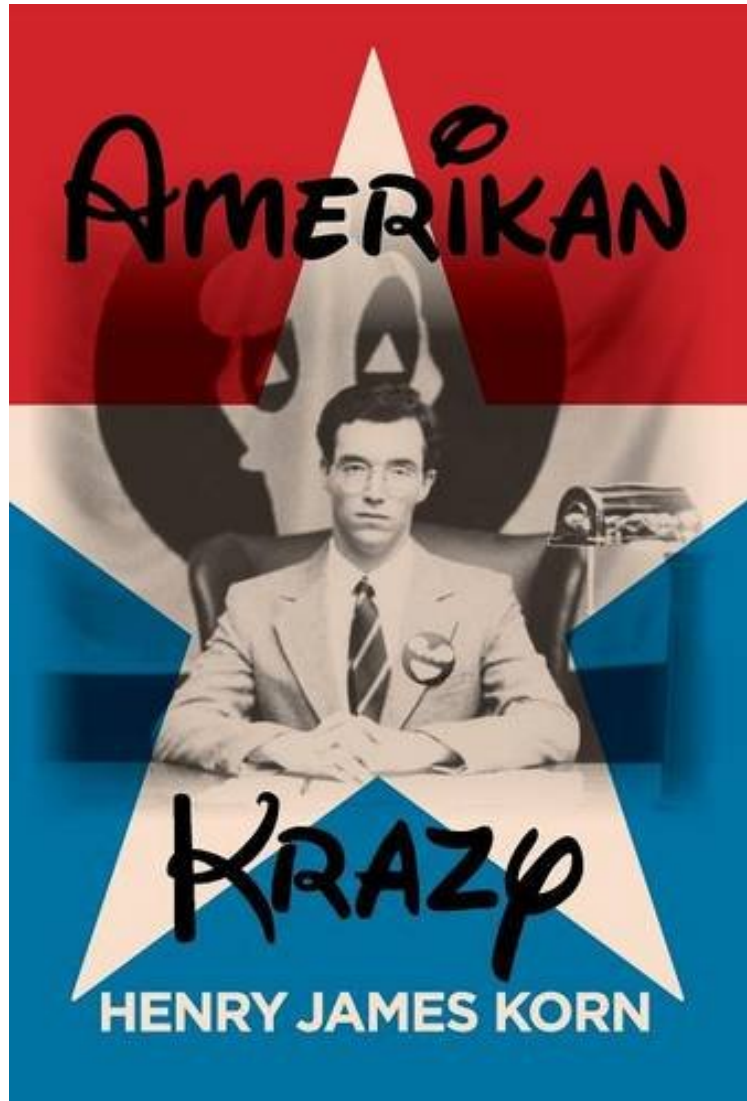


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Amerikan Krazy

Henry James Korn

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Henry James Korn : Amerikan Krazy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amerikan Krazy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Serious Fun In A Damaged WorldBy Gary MooreBecause Henry James Korn is part Jean Shepherd, part Kurt Vonnegut, and part Hieronymous Bosch, his debut novel, Amerikan Krazy, is very serious fun. One might ask how is this possible but it's part of Korn's magic to make darkness entertaining. As one of Amerikan Krazy's PTSD afflicted protagonists observes, "History returns, not as tragedy but as cartoon." While reading this novel you'll shudder at how cartoons are depicted as beginning the process of

infantilization that sustains our corrupt political system. But you'll also experience delight as this master 'visioneer' takes you on a comic- book ride through two dysfunctional families, the Vietnam War, more presidential infamy than you thought existed, and a gut-spilling exposure of the way wealth and power promise us Disney fairytale castles but give us lies, sawdust and rage. Is it any wonder that half of Amerika seems to be on the verge of electing as President the biggest baddest (and I do mean worst) political cartoon of all time? For more than forty years a mystique has surrounded Henry James Korn's writing, but I won't repeat the praise heaped on his short fiction, creative nonfiction, and experimental writing since the 1970's by authors, critics, and culture analysts. Suffice it to say that those lucky enough to have shared Korn's surrealistic visions have long thought of him as among America's most under-appreciated writers, as well as an author from whom a sustained work of imagination has long been anticipated. *Amerikan Krazy* fulfills the complex promise of Korn's earlier work, from the festive critical irrationality of *The Pontoon Manifesto* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of the Avante Garde* to the thoughtful sincerity of *Muhammad Ali Retrospective*. If Korn's short stories collected in *Exact Change* and *A Difficult Act To Follow* were playful and touching, *Amerikan Krazy* is all that and unpredictably powerful too. Be careful. This book might deliver a jolt of searing rearrangement to your understanding of the roles of government, business, and entertainment in the United States, along with a hard-to-shake suspicion that the political history closest to us is one we don't understand. *Amerikan Krazy* shows us two central characters who come of age in the 1960's and never recover from their choices. Will you empathize with Dutch Heindel's murderously rebellious cynicism? Or with Herb Horn's idealism that survives only because of a delusion so strong it tempts him to contemplate an assassination? And where can we run to when we learn that Mickey Mouse and Bongo the Bear are tools of a heartless twentieth century mind-control experiment? Korn's narrative strategy focusing on the politics of pop culture is seductive. Who didn't like Ike? And who can help but sympathize with little Herb Horn who loved cartoons and the news and convinced his antagonistic parents to vote for JFK. But Herb's will to goodness gets him in big trouble when he uses his college newspaper to call Lyndon Baines Johnson a murderer, and he's never not in trouble again – except maybe when he's high – until he makes a final agonizing payment on the dreams that sustained him through a damaged life of relentless insights into what's actually going on behind the scenes. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. AMERIKAN KRAZY Torpedoes Our Topsy-Turvy Times By Carol Soucek King, MFA, PhD Every word of AMERIKAN KRAZY finds its mark. Never could there be a more inclusive fireball of emotion reflecting the seemingly endless and corrupt machinations affecting our nation. It is incredible how Henry James Korn captures the quandaries of a few decades past and presents them at this similarly topsy-turvy time. I hope everyone can be led to this book -- all will find it fascinating and many will recognize that they have not been the only ones to dream of jumping in and ending it all!-- Carol Soucek King 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Krazy is as Krazy does By Earl Amerikan Krazy is a wonderful addition to Henry James Korn's oeuvre. It is laugh out loud funny because the alternative is to shed many tears for what the United States is/has become. I would guess that this book will be one of those that people either love or hate on the whole. Partly because of the over-the-top trippy aspect of the writing and partly because of reader's political/social/cultural leanings. I do think that even those who might not agree with the assessment that comes through in this satire will be given a lot to think about if they are willing to do so. If they aren't willing to do so then I have a pretty good idea who they may be voting for in 2016. This isn't an easy read if one actually engages with the book simply because Korn illustrates what we are then supposed to ponder. If we simply read passively and expect epiphanies then we will be disappointed, our task in this novel is to engage and think. Korn's task seems to be to keep the story moving along. So it is up to us to slow down and engage. Whether you agree with what is presented or not the reward for engaging will be great. I would recommend this to all Americans and for those in other countries who are curious about the unique form of American insanity they are seeing in the news and where it came from. Reviewed from a copy made available by the publisher via NetGalley.

A writing fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts, Henry James Korn's debut novel is the salve the shattered American psyche has been waiting for.

"Henry James Korn is one of our very best absurdist writers and *Amerikan Krazy* has all the best characteristics of Heller's *Catch 22*, Jack Kerouac at his best like Dr. Sax and Robert Coover's *Public Burning*."