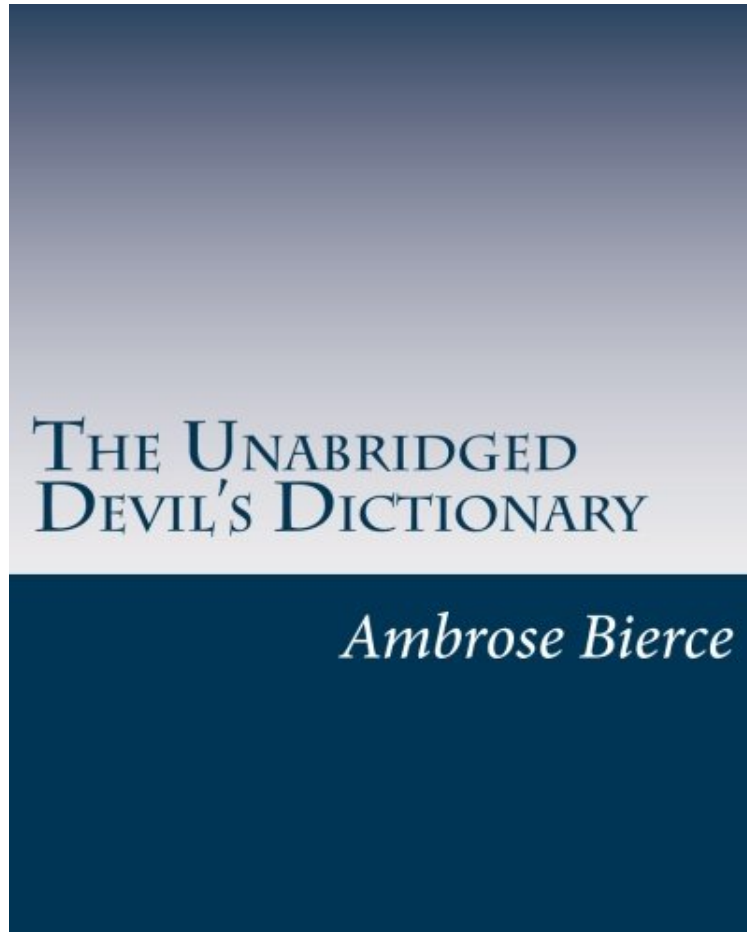


(Pdf free) The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary

The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary

Ambrose Bierce

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



#633547 in Books 2013-08-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.00 x .24 x 8.00l, .49 #File Name:
1491292865104 pages | File size: 62.Mb

Ambrose Bierce : The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fun For Those With a Dark Sense of HumorBy Robert BoltonAlthough Ambrose Bierce is little known today, there was a time when he was among the most widely read authors in America. His main claims to fame are his short stories, such as "The Damned Thing" or "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," that have been adapted for television, but he got his start with the Devil's Dictionary. In the newspaper columns compiled into his book, he would provide a widely known word and then give a humorous definition (e.g. "Marriage (n.) A household consisting of a master, a mistress, and two slaves, making in all, two."). Frequently, he would also append a piece of humorous verse to the definition as well. While some have not aged well, one of Bierce's wisest decisions was to avoid making them too closely connected to the events of his day. Someone in 1890 could read one with a knowing laugh in the same sense as a man in the 2010s could.One of the problems with editions prior to this one, however, was the frequent inclusion of definitions erroneously attributed to him. While there

is nothing wrong with a reader coming up with their own, occasionally these would have Bierce's name attached and people would assume they were his. Unsurprisingly, most of the attributed ones were of lesser quality. The editor of this volume, S.T. Joshi, probed through prior editions published during Bierce's lifetime and reviewed all of the extant newspaper columns to determine which were actually his. In some cases, this resulted in forgotten ones being rediscovered. It helps that S.T. Joshi is one of the preeminent horror fiction scholars in the United States and has already worked on some of Bierce's other material. On the whole, this is a great book that displays an amused, cynical worldview. Bierce often manages to take a sacrosanct idea and make it appear ludicrous in a single sentence. Although over a hundred years have passed since its initial publication, the Devil's Dictionary is still a great read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A most accurate guide to human affairs in general. By Schechter Even after the end of the Industrial Revolution, two world wars, the rise of computers the technology associated with them, the terrorist strikes on 9-11, 7-7, etc., The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary still holds much truth in its definitions. Bierce, being the unalloyed cynic that he was, not only was aware of the high standards of conduct that humanity could hypothetically achieve (which he relentlessly upheld himself) but also how consistently people fail in their efforts--or, more commonly, don't even try. As a guide to the human condition, Bierce's dictionary is unmatched. There have been several imitations of his dictionary, but none have equalled it thus far. It should be required reading for every 6th-grade student in the United States. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. New format, seems a very complete collection. By xxxxxx This version appears to have all the definitions, from several of Bierce's editions that were in an old edition from the late 60's or so, in a very usable format. Still hilarious, in a "spooky" way. And they still hold true!

"The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary" is a virtual onslaught of acerbic, confrontational wordplay, offering some 1,600 wickedly clever definitions to the vocabulary of everyday life. Little is sacred and few are safe, for Ambrose Bierce targets just about any pursuit, from matrimony to immortality, that allows our willful failings and excesses to shine forth. The "Unabridged Devil's Dictionary," a satirical book first published in 1911, offers reinterpretations of terms in the English language which lampoon cant and political doublespeak. The Devil's Dictionary has inspired many imitations both in its day and more recently. Recent examples include The Computer Contradictionary. Ambrose Bierce was an iconoclastic literary genius and "The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary," a compilation of his satirical definitions, is a true American classic. Some may find Bierce sexist, nationalist and racist, but most readers will enjoy his malevolent skepticism and underlying rage against hypocrisy. Only two years after "The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary" was published in 1911, Ambrose Bierce disappeared after setting off for Mexico to join Pancho Villa's rebels against the corrupt dictatorial regime of Porfirio Diaz. His legacy is memorable.

Bierce was America's first realist writer, but, unlike realism's later practitioners, he knew something about reality? it's really funny. (P. J. O'Rourke) This carefully edited manuscript will add immeasurably to Bierce studies. (Joseph B. McCullough University of Nevada-Las Vegas) This is a work of genuinely impressive scholarship and will undoubtedly become the authoritative text for Bierce's Devil's Dictionary. (Thomas V. Quirk University of Missouri-Columbia) Splendidly produced. (London Times Literary Supplement) A compilation of all of Bierce's satirical definitions published over a forty-year period, this latest version of the Dictionary ('A malevolent literary device for cramping the growth of a language and making it hard and inelastic') merits a wide readership both within and without the Academy ('A modern school where football is taught'). (American Literary) Most readers and biographers have agreed with Schultz and Joshi that The Devil's Dictionary is 'quintessential Bierce.' For the serious student of Bierce's diabolical lexicon, their beautiful new edition . . . will be a delight. (Sewanee) About the Author Ambrose Bierce (1842 -1914) was an American editorialist, journalist, short story writer, fabulist and satirist. Today, he is best known for his short story, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and his satirical dictionary, The Devil's Dictionary. The sardonic view of human nature that informed his work - along with his vehemence as a critic - earned him the nickname "Bitter Bierce". Despite his reputation as a searing critic, however, Bierce was known to encourage younger writers, including poet George Sterling and fiction writer W. C. Morrow. Bierce employed a distinctive style of writing, especially in his stories. This style often includes a cold open, dark imagery, vague references to time, limited descriptions, the theme of war, and impossible events. In 1913, Bierce traveled to Mexico to gain a firsthand perspective on that country's ongoing revolution. While traveling with rebel troops, the elderly writer disappeared without a trace.