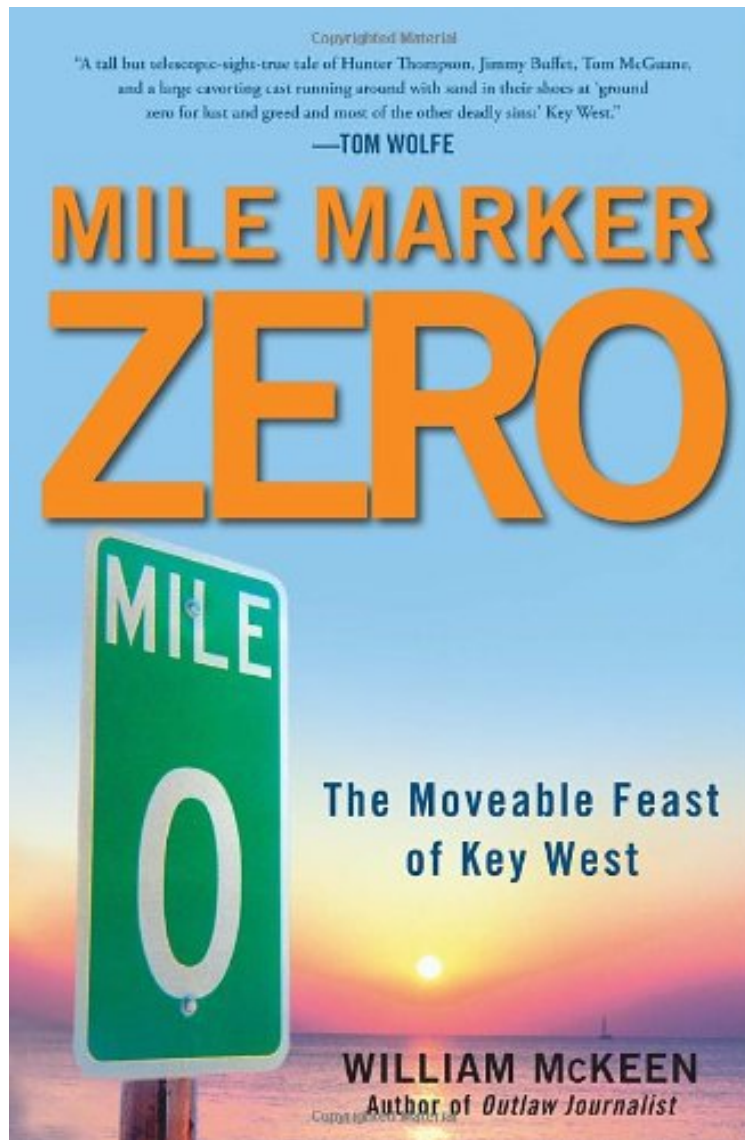


[Download] Mile Marker Zero: The Moveable Feast of Key West

Mile Marker Zero: The Moveable Feast of Key West

William McKeen

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William McKeen : Mile Marker Zero: The Moveable Feast of Key West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mile Marker Zero: The Moveable Feast of Key West:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Also known as the end of the roadBy Fearless FedAn encyclopedic history of Key West from the early Jimmy buffet era to the present. Can't imagine the amount of time the author spent diagramming .all the mate swapping of his artistic friends. Perhaps a stuffier reviewer would describe the women as easy going sluts and their mates as striving writers and inept drug smugglersBy his definition marijuana smugglers are

good old boys and coke smugglers are evil. Well the Colombians are evil, the Key West distributors are still good old bots necessarily wreaking havoc with the poison in order to finance their artistic vision. The fact that the community and its governmental structure was viewed as totally corrupt is given a pass. 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Missing Only An Umbrella Drink By J. Marvel Upon finishing William McKeen's "Mile Marker Zero," I headed to my computer and started looking for flights to Key West. It's a gift when an author has the ability to drop you smack into a place during a period of time and McKeen wields this magic throughout as he writes of interesting times in an amazing place. I truly felt I was belly up at the Half Shell with Jim Harrison, dodging with Tom McGuane as we ducked furniture thrown by Elizabeth Ashley, watching sunrise with Jimmy Buffet, and shaking my head in amazement as Hunter S. Thompson is holding court with cocktail in one hand and joint in the other. When creative types descend on a destination and make it their own, chaos and legend often ensues. McKeen filters the lies as he explains the lure of a small island town and its inspiration on some of 20th century America's artistic greats. Don't be surprised if, when the journey of "Mile Marker Zero" is over, you find yourself sipping Havana Club on ice and hoping Margot Kidder stops by in a bikini top and cutoffs. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ah, the memories! By Fred Forbes I arrived in Florida in the early 80's from California and decided to head down to Key West with my wife just to check out that portion of our new state. We loved it - party town! From the sunset watch at Mallory Square to the drunken revelry at the local jazz spots it was great. We stayed at a funky hotel near the Southernmost Point for a bit under \$40 a night. (Same spot now closer to \$240 with 3 night minimum during major party times like Fantasy Fest, New Years or the Hemingway look alike competition.) Food was great with lots of options and party times on Duval street were crazy. Yes, body paint was all some were wearing. Not unusual to stumble back in the early a.m. to find a couple making love on the end of one pier and a nude drunk nearby on another whizzing into the ocean. Turns out it was even rowdier (hard to imagine) during the few years before when writers like Tom Corcoran, Thomas McGuane and Hunter Thompson were around, mixing with folks like Peter Fonda and Margot Kidder, Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams. Of course, one of the best stories was the rise of Jimmy Buffet and all the happenings around him. (Ever wondered about his T shirt that said "Where is Bum Farto?" Book doesn't answer the question but at least you will know where it came from.) They have all moved on. Some to Alabama, some to Montana, etc. but the legacy remains and this book does a great job of catching the spirit. Now of course, the place has been cleaned up, the tourists pile in, the prices are up dramatically and major "yuppie conversion" has occurred upon places that once had great character. Still, if you want a sense of what it was like and frankly, some of that spirit lives on, this book is a great tour guide.

True tales of writers and pirates, painters and potheads, guitar pickers and drug merchants in America's southernmost city. For Hemingway and Fitzgerald, there was Paris in the twenties. For others, later, there was Greenwich Village, Big Sur, and Woodstock. But for an even later generation defined by the likes of Jimmy Buffett, Tom McGuane, and Hunter S. Thompson there was another moveable feast: Key West, Florida. The small town on the two-by-four-mile island has long been an artistic haven, a wild refuge for people of all persuasions, and the inspirational home for a league of great American writers. Some of the artists went there to be literary he-men. Some went to re-create themselves. Others just went to disappear and succeeded. No matter what inspired the trip, Key West in the seventies was the right place at the right time, where and when an astonishing collection of artists wove a web of creative inspiration. Mile Marker Zero tells the story of how these writers and artists found their identities in Key West and maintained their friendships over the decades, despite oceans of booze and boatloads of pot, through serial marriages and sexual escapades, in that dangerous paradise. Unlike the Lost Generation of Paris in the twenties, we have a generation that invented, reinvented, and found itself at the unending cocktail party at the end and the beginning of America's highway.

A tall but telescopic-sight-true tale of Hunter Thompson, Jimmy Buffet, Tom McGuane, and a large cavorting cast running around with sand in their shoes at ground zero for lust and greed and most of the other deadly sins: Key West. Tom Wolfe "Mile Marker Zero is a wonderful zinger of a book. Never before have the literary traditions of the Conch Republic been mined for such gold nugget anecdotes. McKeen has once again proven why he is perhaps the most lucid and imaginative professor of journalism history in modern-day America. Every page sings a story worth a Jimmy Buffett song." Douglas Brinkley "Not just another paean to sex, drugs, and rock n roll, William McKeen's gritty, no-holds-barred oeuvre, Mile Marker Zero, carefully and thoroughly establishes the groundwork for understanding and appreciating the achievement of literary mavericks and artists of Key West in the Seventies. This treatment of the personal lives and works of Tom McGuane, Jim Harrison, Russell Chatham, Jimmy Buffet, Hunter S. Thompson offers an arresting and instructive rendering of this colorful cadre of characters, in the shadow of Key West's most famous resident, Ernest Hemingway, drawn together in this tropical Greenwich Village to establish a new enclave on the fringe." Beef Torrey, Co-Editor of Jim Harrison: A Comprehensive Bibliography, Conversations with Hunter S. Thompson, and Conversations with Thomas McGuane "An engrossing tell-all in which Key West's most notable residents struggle to find sanity, sobriety and a place to call home." Kirkus sMcKeen's portrait of Key West as

a onetime bohemian utopia and hotspot is atmospheric, and his anecdotes are absorbing. Publishers Weekly A romp, a rollicking chronicle of the musicians, artists, writers and filmmakers who created a vibrant if nihilistic scene in the 1970s. Deft storytelling a good story about good times (and bad) Wall Street Journal Make McKeen's tale your next trip to the island. Sun Sentinel "You may not believe that these writers were able to take their eyes off the famous Key West sunset to focus on their work, but every feast needs a backdrop." Cape Cod Times [E]nthralling Mr. McKeen is perfectly placed to relay the antics of this decadent decade, not merely because of his academic credentials, but more importantly because of his fine use of the English language. His words would most certainly draw a nod of approval from all those he writes about and clearly admires Well-crafted observations are indicative of just how in tune with the era the author is. There is a saying that if you remember the sixties, then you weren't there; in the same vein, this book should be read by not only anyone with even a passing interest in this fascinating period of literary creativity, but also by anyone who actually was in Key West during the seventies they could probably use a few reminders of just what was buzzing on the island at the time anyway." New York Journal of Books [O]nly enhances the appeal of the Conch Republic, a tale of the island's famous personalities that flows as easily as an ocean breeze." Orlando Sentinel About the Author WILLIAM McKEEN teaches at Boston University, where he chairs the department of journalism. He is the author or editor of nine books, including the acclaimed Hunter S. Thompson biography Outlaw Journalist. He is married and the father of seven children and lives on the rocky coast of Cohasset, Massachusetts. williammckeen.com