



City of Night

By John Rechy

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“[Rechy’s] tone rings absolutely true, is absolutely his own. . . . He tells the truth, and tells it with such passion that we are forced to share in the life he conveys. . . . This is a most humbling and liberating achievement.”—James Baldwin

When John Rechy’s explosive first novel appeared in 1963, it marked a radical departure in fiction, and gave voice to a subculture that had never before been revealed with such acuity. It earned comparisons to Genet and Kerouac, even as Rechy was personally attacked by scandalized reviewers. Nevertheless, the book became an international bestseller, and fifty years later, it has become a classic. Bold and inventive in style, Rechy is unflinching in his portrayal of one hustling “youngman” and his search for self-knowledge within the neon-lit world of hustlers, drag queens, and the denizens of their world, as he moves from El Paso to Times Square, from Pershing Square to the French Quarter. Now including never-seen original marked galley pages and an interview with the author, Rechy’s portrait of the edges of America has lost none of its power to move and exhilarate.

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City of Night By John Rechy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #74693 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-11-12
- Released on: 2013-11-12
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *City of Night*:

“One of the few major American writers whose life is almost as interesting, and meaningful, as his work.”—Michael Cunningham

“A ground-breaking book . . . observing a whole new array of characters . . . many for the first time in American literature. . . . A classic American novel.”—Edmund White, *The New York Review of Books*

“Probably no novel published in this decade is so complete, so well held together, and so important as *City of Night*.”—Larry McMurtry

“One of the major books to be published since World War II.”—*The Washington Post*

“*City of Night* is one of the most remarkable novels to appear in years. . . . It illuminates, it stirs the heart, it is unforgettable.”—Herbert Gold

“This is one of the best first novels in recent years. . . . It is not presented and it is not conceived, it is written.”—Frank O’Hara, *Kulchur*

“*City of Night* is a remarkable book. . . . Mr. Rechy writes in an authentic jive-like slang: the nightmare existence is explored with a clarity not often clouded by sentimentality and self-pity. The book therefore has the unmistakable ring of candor and truth.”—Peter Buitenhuis, *The New York Times Book Review*

“John Rechy shows great comic and tragic talent. He is a truly gifted novelist.”—Christopher Isherwood

“A stunning piece of writing.”—David Bowie

“When John Rechy’s first novel, *City of Night*, appeared in 1963, there had never been anything quite like it. . . . Its urgent, syntax-scrambled style [was] a wonderful shock to the reading eye, like that of Hubert Selby’s *Last Exit to Brooklyn* and William Burroughs’ *Naked Lunch*. *City of Night* was distinctly a Beat novel, rangy and full of bold riffs as a Charlie Parker album. Rechy displayed a throwaway brilliance.”—Gary Indiana, *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“An American classic, with its loner hero, its juke joints and neon signs, its restless shifting from city to city . . . a hybrid of *On the Road* and *Catcher in the Rye*.”—*Independent on Sunday* (London)

“The novel has not aged a bit. . . . one reads [it] eagerly. . . . We understand better its exceptional authenticity, its premonitory vision, its subtle literary innovations. The characters . . . have the tragic complexity of Vautrin, Charlus, or Morel, and the aggressive solitude of the marginal people of Jean Genet. . . . Its poetry is not ostentatious nor imposed. . . . The protagonists are individuals of flesh and blood.”—Hugo Marsan, *Le Monde* (France)

“Rechy is more than a good reporter, for he has touched his materials with the imagination and the craft of a writer.”—Granville Hicks, *The Saturday Review of Literature*

“It is the honesty about his narcissism, his depression, and his sexual promiscuity that lifts Rechy’s writing to art. Like so many books, *City* got attention because of the sex, but it’s really about the soul.”—Daniel Curzon, *The Los Angeles Times*

From the Inside Flap

When John Rechy's explosive first novel--now a classic--appeared in 1963, it became a national best-seller and ushered in a new era of gay fiction. Bold and inventive in his account of the urban underworld of male prostitution, Rechy is equally unflinching in his portrayal of one hustling "youngman" and his search for self-knowledge within the neon-lit world of hustlers, drag queens, and men on every kind of make. As the narrator moves from El Paso to Times Square, from Pershing Square to the French Quarter, we get an unforgettable look at life on the edge

"One of the major books to be published since World War II."--The Washington Post

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"Rechy's tone rings absolutely true, is absolutely his own, and he has the kind of discipline which allows him a rare and beautiful recklessness. tells the truth, and tells it with such passion that we are forced to share in the life he conveys. This is a most humbling and liberating achievement."--James Baldwin

"Probably no first novel is so complete, so well held together, and so important as City of Night."--The Houston Post

"[City of Night] illuminates, it stirs the heart, it is unforgettable."--Herbert Gold

John Rechy is the recipient of the PEN-USA West's Lifetime Achievement Award (he was the first novelist to be awarded the prize) and the Publishing Triangle's William Whitehead Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author of eleven other novels, among them *Numbers*, *Rushes*, *The Sexual Outlaw* (all from Grove Press), *The Miraculous Day of Amalia Gomez*, and *Our Lady of Babylon*. His most recent novel, *The Coming of the Night*, was published by Grove Press in 1999. An NEA recipient, he is also the author of several plays, essays, and short stories. John Rechy lives in Los Angeles.

About the Author

John Rechy is the author of twelve novels, among them the *New York Times* bestseller *Numbers*, the *Los Angeles Times* bestsellers *Rushes* and *The Coming of the Night*, as well as *The Miraculous Day of Amalia Gómez* and the nonfiction books *The Sexual Outlaw* and *About My Life and the Kept Woman* (all from Grove Press). He has received many awards, including PEN Center USA's Lifetime Achievement Award and the William Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement. He lives in Los Angeles

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lori Johnson:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim or goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They can be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, individual feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you should have this City of Night.

David Simpson:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students since they're still students or the item for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great and also important the book City of Night. All type of book would you see on many resources. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

Johnnie McCormick:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got pupils? We believe that that question was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And you also know that little person like reading or as looking at become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important along with book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them are these claims City of Night.

Kay Roberts:

Some people said that they feel fed up when they reading a book. They are directly felt that when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the particular book City of Night to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading proficiency is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the idea about book and reading through especially. It is to be 1st opinion for you to like to start a book and read it. Beside that the book City of Night can to be your new friend when you're sense alone and confuse with what must you're doing of these time.

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