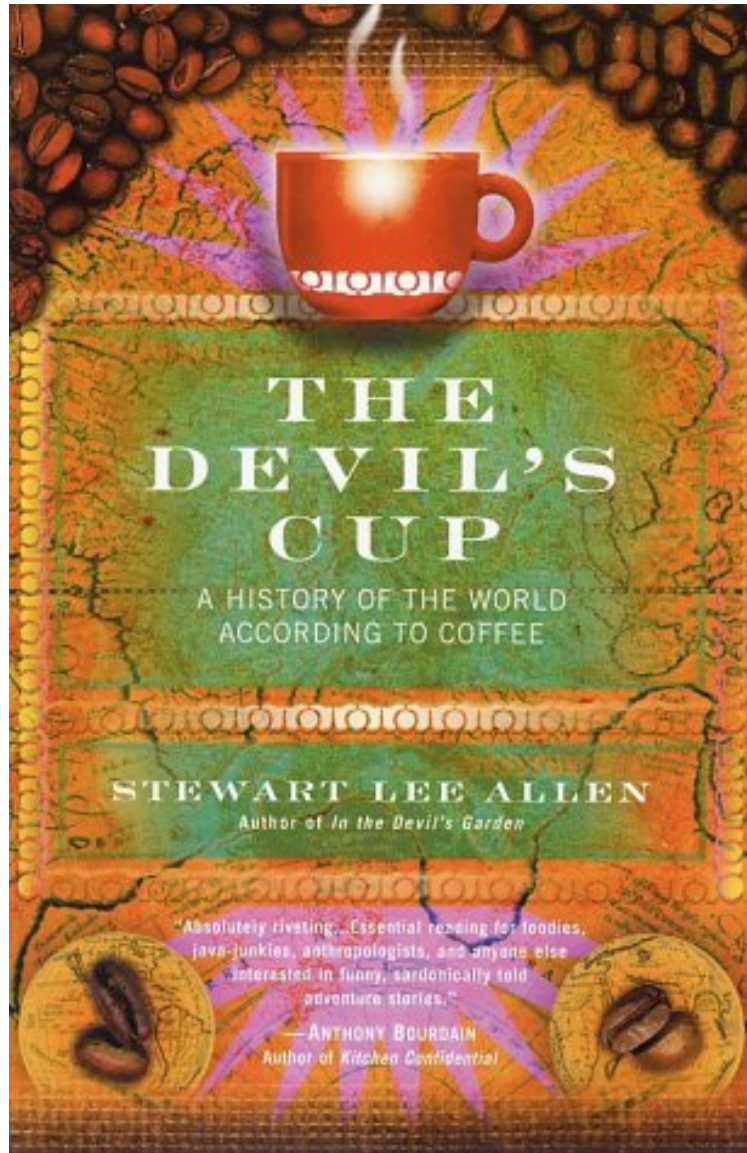


(Read now) The Devil's Cup: A History of the World According to Coffee

The Devil's Cup: A History of the World According to Coffee

Stewart Lee Allen

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#418549 in Books Stewart Lee Allen 2003-03-04 2003-03-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.40l, .51 #File Name: 0345441494240 pages The Devil s Cup A History of the World According to Coffee | File size: 68.Mb

Stewart Lee Allen : The Devil's Cup: A History of the World According to Coffee before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devil's Cup: A History of the World According to Coffee:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Coffee in history and from around the world By Michael W. Blevins The premise is simple enough, travel through the countries where coffee drinking originated and evolved while

trying to find little bits of that history along the way. Stewart's trail starts in Ethiopia, on to Yemen, India, to Turkey and across to Austria, Germany, France, Brazil and finally to the United States. He combines the adventures of his very unconventional free-form travel with outstanding research on how coffee influenced history and culture along the way. "The Devil's Cup" is full of pity historical insights, laced with humor, sometimes even a bit of dark bitter brew. Coffee plantations and slavery are part of the story. I've read other histories of coffee, but this one is the perfect blend. Stewart's final travels across the U.S., looking for the best of the worst coffee in middle America is a hoot. There's much to ponder here about the quest for caffeine. The morning coffee in the office or standing in line at Starbucks isn't really that different than the many tribal coffee ceremonies hundreds of years ago. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great coffee anecdotes, tweaky story. By dlfSome fantastic gems about coffee history. The travelogue portion drags. It reads like a manic risk seeker wrote it and his editor sliced out all the troughs. Overall happy to have read it, hope Stewart is doing all right wherever he is these days. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious journey of a coffee lover! By Judith Lechner, author of poetry book "The Moon Sings Back" This is one of the funniest books I have ever read! Stewart Lee Allen is hilarious as he meanders along his poorly planned but enlightening journey of discovery of the origins of coffee and our coffee mania. His linking of coffee's wake-up and stay-up properties to the rise of capitalism is fascinating and probably true! Is there an office in the US that doesn't have a coffee machine!! As freelance writer and editor, I rely on coffee to keep me on track. I am also fascinated by the history of my favorite beverage and have read several other books on coffee. This was, without doubt, the most entertaining!

In this captivating book, Stewart Lee Allen treks three-quarters of the way around the world on a caffeinated quest to answer these profound questions: Did the advent of coffee give birth to an enlightened western civilization? Is coffee, indeed, the substance that drives history? From the cliffhanging villages of Southern Yemen, where coffee beans were first cultivated eight hundred years ago, to a cavernous coffeeshop in Calcutta, the drinking spot for two of India's three Nobel Prize winners . . . from Parisian salons and cafes where the French Revolution was born, to the roadside diners and chain restaurants of the good ol' U.S.A., where something resembling brown water passes for coffee, Allen wittily proves that the world was wired long before the Internet. And those who deny the power of coffee (namely tea-drinkers) do so at their own peril.

From Publishers Weekly In this appealingly offbeat "coffecentric history of humanity," Allen brews up a highly personal tribute to everyone's favorite legal recreational drug. Made of equal parts inspired travel writing and savvy cultural criticism, the book describes Allen's pilgrimages to coffee's major sites of interest. From the drink's origins in Harrar, Ethiopia, to its arguable demise at a place called Adrien's Coffeeshop somewhere along Route 66, Allen's espresso-powered peregrinations offer a lively study of coffee's role in world history. By turns worshiped and scorned for its psychoactive effects, the beverage has spawned legends almost as fabulous and seductive as the drink itself. It inspired the Islamic Whirling Dervishes, who slurped the stuff as a prelude to their bouts of religious ecstasy, and is thought to have precipitated the French Revolution, when citizens stormed the Bastille in part to liberate a coffee-deprived Marquis de Sade. To his credit, Allen, who claims he can tell in a sip that the coffee in a particular Ethiopian town is adulterated with smuggled Zairian Robusta beans, wisely avoids the overworked topic of Starbucks and its bid for a global latte empire. Mark Prendergast's social history, *Uncommon Grounds* (Forecasts, May 17), is more of an omnibus survey of the bean, but Allen's quirky insights more than make up for any scholarly shortcomings. Call it gonzo gastronomy: the work strikes just the right balance between the frenetic praise of a bug-eyed caffeine freak and the informed observations of a true connoisseur. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s Chef-turned-journalist Allen's debut book is a thoroughly entertaining, absorbing, and often hilarious jaunt through the history and geography of coffee. Allen retraces the spread of coffee, searching the globe for its historical and cultural significance. He begins in Harrar, Ethiopia, where coffee is profoundly embedded in tribal religious practices and local legends. Allen's method of research is delightfully seat-of-the-pants. When he hears of a religious ceremony in Harrar in which serving coffee is a sacred ritual, he bribes his way inside. Next he follows the dissemination of coffee north to Yemen, putting himself on board a merchant ship carrying liquor, AK-47 rifles, and an unforgettable cast of characters. Allen is the perfect traveler: curious, persistent, resourceful, fun-loving, with a nose for adventure, and a deep understanding of human motivation. One of the book's highlights takes place in a coffeeshop in Calcutta, where Allen befriends a glassy-eyed hash addict named Yangi. The two men hatch a plot to export forged artwork to France. Needless to say, the whole thing becomes an international comedy of errors. Allen is an elegant prose stylist, providing countless insights about people and his beloved brew: "Turkish coffee is like a clenched fist in a cup, tight, bitter, and black. The Yemen version, which comes glowing golden in a large glass tumbler, is a lighter, whimsical brew, deliciously sweet." In Vienna, Allen discovers how the invading Ottoman Turks brought coffee to Europe, transforming the whole continent. The author describes precaffeinated Europe as deadly dull, "a lot like Nebraska on a slow weekend church or beer." Coffee was a harbinger for European political reform, especially in England and France. He summarizes a number of quirky yet strangely convincing theories about how coffee triggered revolution,

colonialism, slavery, and economic inequality. Allen enjoys his cup to the last drop, and there's nothing decaffeinated about his wonderfully tasty brew. A must for both Java junkies and travel lovers. (Author tour) -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "Stewart Lee Allen is the Hunter S. Thompson of coffee, offering a wild, caffeinated, gonzo tour of the World of the Magic Bean. His wry, adventurous prose delights, astonishes, amuses, and informs."--MARK PENDERGRAST Author of *Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World*