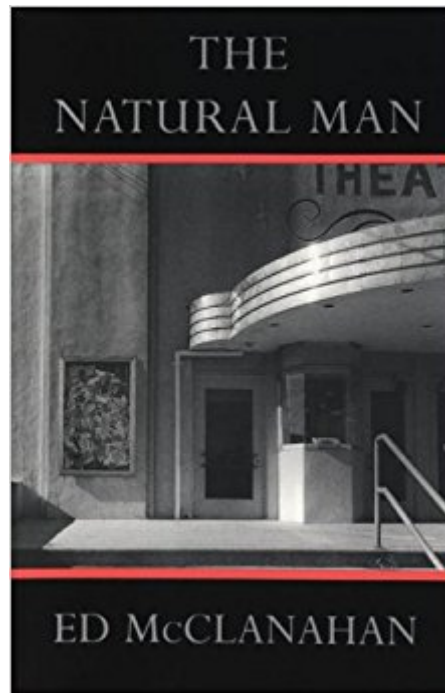




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The Natural Man



Synopsis

Fiction. "Others have observed the natural man in the American condition before, but nobody has done it with such good humor. Ed McClanahan's good humor both sharpens his eye and gentles his vision. I don't know where else, now, you would find workmanship that is at once so meticulous and so exuberant" - Wendell Berry.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,526,337 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #165 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Rural Life #48367 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary #68803 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

Customer Reviews

This is one of those memorable books that will have you constantly laughing. And what makes it so memorable is that it's a veritable encyclopedia of "off-color" popular culture of the '50's. You will find hundreds of ancient raunchy jokes imbedded in the text as well as side-splitting accounts of the prissy mores of that time. What's striking is how innocent it all seems--what was considered offensive back then is virtually G-rated next to something like Eminem. A wonderful read.

More than just being one of the funniest books I've ever read, the book is a masterpiece of economy of language. I've re-read it many times and always wish that other writers took such care to craft every sentence so perfectly. Rumor has it that the Kinky Friedman of Kentucky has a sequel in the works. Stay tuned for the Return of the Son of Needmore!

THE NATURAL MAN is one of the funniest books written. The characters are believable, vibrant and likable. It belongs on a bookshelf beside such works as John Kennedy Toole's A CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES, AMERICAN DESERT and GOD'S COUNTRY, both by Percival

Everett, Robert Plunkett's MY SEARCH FOR WARREN HARDING, and anything by Mark Twain. Like the works stated above, THE NATURAL MAN is full of living language, satire and humor which have the reader laughing aloud. When I finished reading it I immediately began searching the public library and the internet for other works by Mr. McClanahan. To me, that is the mark of a true writer, on that leaves the reader thirsting for more.

McClanahan creates a delicate and engaging balance of innocent nostalgia and R-rated humor, chronicling the adventures of bored (but never boring) high school students in a tiny, rural Kentucky town in the late 1940's. Charming, light-hearted, and well-written.

If he upped his output, Ed McClanahan could be the Faulkner of the Midwest. He can certainly run-on a sentence like the Laureate of Yoknapatawpha could, only using it more sparingly. This book is a lot funnier ... probably owing to the geography as much as the subject matter -- growing up male, insecure, and horny in small-town southern north central Kentucky, on the cusp of television and Masters and Johnson. I split a gut every time I read my copy from the first paperback printing.

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