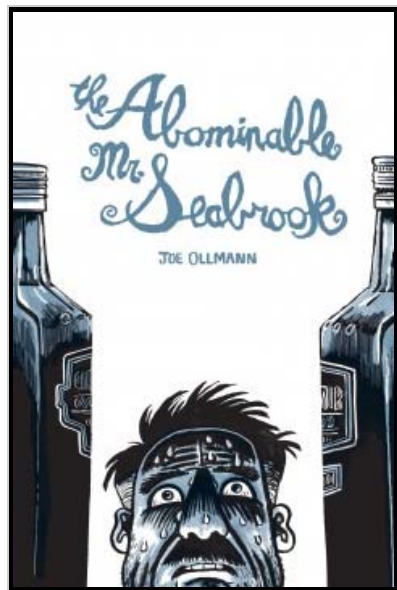


[Home](#) > [Top Picks: All Books](#) > The Abominable Mr. Seabrook



The Abominable Mr. Seabrook

by Joe Ollmann

Price: \$22.95(Paperback)

Published: January 24, 2017

☆☆☆☆☆

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: The daring and destructive life of the man who popularized the word "zombie" In the early twentieth century, travel writing represented the desire for the expanding bourgeoisie to experience the exotic cultures of the world past their immediate surroundings. Journalist William Buehler Seabrook was emblematic of this trend -- participating in voodoo ceremonies, riding camels cross the Sahara desert, communing with cannibals and most notably, popularizing the term zombie in the West. A string of his bestselling books show an engaged, sympathetic gentleman hoping to share these strange, hidden delights with the rest of the world. He was willing to go deeper than any outsider had before. But, of course, there was a dark side. Seabrook was a barely functioning alcoholic who was deeply obsessed with bondage and the so-called mystical properties...

[More](#) +

Rate This Book


☆☆☆☆☆ | [Rate/Review](#)

[Add To Wishlist](#)

[Add To Bookshelf](#)

Get This Book

Go to your preferred retailer, click to choose a format and you'll be taken directly to their site where you can get this book.

	BUY		BUY
	BUY		BUY
	BUY		BUY

[Personalize / Add More Choices](#) +

Share This Book

About The Author

Joe Ollmann

Joe Ollmann lives in Montreal with his wife and children. He is the winner of the Doug Wright Award for best cartooning.

Release Info

List Price: \$22.95 (Paperback)

Published: January 24, 2017

Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly

Pages: 316

ISBN 10: 1770462678

ISBN 13: 9781770462670

What We Say

Nope, I'd never heard of journalist William Seabrook either. He was a pulpy, popular writer in the early 20th century who specialized in lurid tales and travelogues in which he himself took part in the adventures. Seabrook had several best-selling books, popularized the term "zombie" in a work about Haiti (in which he treated the religion of voodoo with respect), rode with bedouins in the Middle East and boasted of eating human flesh with cannibals in Africa. (That was only half true -- he ate human flesh, but it was cooked up for him in Paris). At one point, Seabrook was among the highest paid writers in the US and hobnobbed with the likes of Aldous Huxley, Gertrude Stein, Man Ray and many others. On the other hand, he was

also a dreadful drunk with a compulsive need to tie women up in chains and other restraints, a fact dealt with to varying degrees of reasonableness by three long-suffering wives. Joe Ollmann's biography of this minor footnote of a talent is both unsparing and kind, treating Seabrook's career with the seriousness it deserves but never using that as an excuse to overlook his sometimes boorish, always self-destructive behavior. Ollmann's black and white drawings soften this descent into miserableness, perhaps by giving us a little distance between the man and his failings. I doubt a movie version would be nearly as easy to trudge through the last sad act in which Seabrook drank and drank and finally committed suicide. Somehow, a text biography would become tiresome (how often can you write that Seabrook, yet again, threw up?) while actually watching it would simply be unpleasant. A comic book allows Ollmann to simply show Seabrook turning to a trash can yet again or merely looking like death warmed over. Visually it's funny, sad, honest and yet offered up with a straightforward dispatch that needn't wallow. I do know anyone who reads this first-rate biography will want to seek out his books about serving in WW I, travels to the Middle East and Haiti and quite a few more. Ollmann brings everything to life: his work, his wives, the mistreated employees, the enabling agents and editors, the people he met along the way and especially the frustrating, self-defeating, fascinating and indeed abominable Mr. Seabrook. -- Michael Giltz

What You Say

Filter by

No Reviews Found

.....