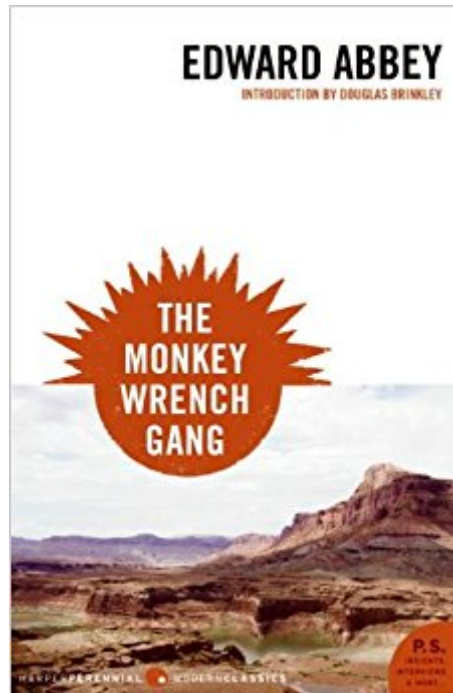




The book was found

The Monkey Wrench Gang (P.S.)



Synopsis

Ex-Green Beret George Hayduke has returned from war to find his beloved southwestern desert threatened by industrial development. Joining with Bronx exile and feminist saboteur Bonnie Abzug, wilderness guide and outcast Mormon Seldom Seen Smith, and libertarian billboard torcher Doc Sarvis, M.D., Hayduke is ready to fight the power taking on the strip miners, clear-cutters, and the highway, dam, and bridge builders who are threatening the natural habitat. The Monkey Wrench Gang is on the move and peaceful coexistence be damned!

Book Information

Series: P.S.

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial (December 12, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061129763

ISBN-13: 978-0061129766

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 290 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,755 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in [Ã](#) Books > Reference >

Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills #129 in [Ã](#) Books > Literature &

Fiction > Genre Fiction > Political #274 in [Ã](#) Books > Literature & Fiction > Humor & Satire >

Humorous

Customer Reviews

Ed Abbey called *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, his 1975 novel, a "comic extravaganza." Some readers have remarked that the book is more a comic book than a real novel, and it's true that reading this incendiary call to protect the American wilderness requires more than a little of the old willing suspension of disbelief. The story centers on Vietnam veteran George Washington Hayduke III, who returns to the desert to find his beloved canyons and rivers threatened by industrial development. On a rafting trip down the Colorado River, Hayduke joins forces with feminist saboteur Bonnie Abzug, wilderness guide Seldom Seen Smith, and billboard torcher Doc Sarvis, M.D., and together they wander off to wage war on the big yellow machines, on dam builders and road builders and strip miners. As they do, his characters voice Abbey's concerns about wilderness preservation ("Hell of a place to lose a cow," Smith thinks to himself while roaming through the

canyonlands of southern Utah. "Hell of a place to lose your heart. Hell of a place... to lose. Period"). Moving from one improbable situation to the next, packing more adventure into the space of a few weeks than most real people do in a lifetime, the motley gang puts fear into the hearts of their enemies, laughing all the while. It's comic, yes, and required reading for anyone who has come to love the desert. --Gregory McNamee --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Mixes comedy and chaos with enough chase sequences to leave you hungering for more. --San Francisco Chronicle
Written over 40 years ago, it still provide the readers with comico-politico releaf, without having to resort to action to express their dislike or certain environmentally damaging policies. --Gilberto d'Urso

The Monkey Wrench Gang holds up well; is still entertaining and thought provoking. All of the characters are flawed, but that may be the point. Those of us who fit well into society are seldom eager to risk our comfortable lives in the service of a greater good. Those of us who are marginalized, however, have less to lose and may be more likely to make political statements and take political actions. The adventures of George Hayduke, Doc Savis, Bonnie Abzug and Seldom Seen Smith as they attempt to fight back against development and the destruction of the West by destroying bulldozers, dams and the egos of their pursuers are cartoonishly entertaining. Today, the idea of an environmentalist throwing a beer can out of a car window seems more than a little odd. In 1975, however, Abby seemed to be combining the mythic image of the Marlborough man with some new age sensitivity to the environment to create characters who both entertain and enlighten and have held up well for 40 years. If you are looking for a light read to entertain you on a flight or at the beach, and have missed it in the past, The Monkey Wrench Gang is a great choice. It is also worth reading to get some historical knowledge and understand where Earth First got some of their ideas. So enjoy the humor, the descriptions of the West and your trip back in time with one of the books that inspired the environmental movement.

I decided to read Monkey Wrench Gang because one book of Edward Abbey's or another was always sitting at my late father's bedside table. My Dad tended to read existential, philosophical novels and was a big fan of Hemingway and Camus. Clearly I had the wrong idea of what Abbey was about. The Monkey Wrench Gang does occasionally wax philosophically, but only in the midst of one character whining or thinking about the bourgeois influence of sanitized American adulthood on the natural environment. Most of Abbey's energy in Monkey Wrench Gang is spent having a

good time - following a troupe of 4 troublemakers each shaking off their own shackles of middle-aged boredom to help fight for environmental freedom. But what I found I liked most about Abbey was that, if that was his plot, it's devoid of any sentimentality, any politeness, and even just the occasional whiff of sympathy, even for the characters we care about. At its center, George Hayduke, the beer-guzzling sorta-traumatized vet who never met a can of cheap beer he didn't like, is so fun to watch not because of his drive, but because his drive to clean up the environment seems to come from nothing more than his hatred of anything besides open land, and even then, he'd never be able to put that into words. For a 400+ page book, Abbey's narrative never slags - there's always a race, a crime, or a good yelling match keeping the book moving. And then there's that philosophical sense, which shows up in asides throughout the book, making Abbey's writing a lot like a Vonnegut or Tom Robbins - prone to smart observations that make you like the writer even more than you thought you already did. Take this observation, on women going to bed before men while camping: "The ladies first. Not because they were the weaker sex - they were not - but simply because they had more sense. Men on an outing feel obliged to stay up drinking to the vile and bilious end, jabbering, mumbling, and maundering through the blear, to end up finally on hands and knees, puking on innocent sand and befouling God's sweet earth. The manly tradition." Observations like that show how punchy Abbey can be in making a point, even is his point is that civilized westerners, to the environment and beyond, have been pretty annoying.

I burn through a good four audio books per month. As avid listener can tell you, in this format the narrator (reader) can make or break the book. With that said, here is my review: So was looking for a few audio books and it suddenly hit me- I wonder if anyone has put some Edward Abbey books on tape yet? It had been years since I looked and could never find one. There is was; his classic ; The Monkey Wrench Gang. I immediately ordered it and it was here in a few days. I have listened to the first few chapters. My review is two pronged: the first is that this book is a the holy grail for Edward Abbey fans, yet due to the political climate today, it is harder to embrace the characters than in 1977ish when I first read the book. I had memories of this exciting novel of loveable rebel rousers who were raging against the machine, saving the desert from wanton development etc. However, I can't go back to the 20 year old I was when I first read and loved this book. The reality is they are eco-terrorists and would wind up in Gitmo today. The sad reality is this book was perfect for the times, but would never even be published today. So for existing fans of the book, one has to treat it as you would any other classic and accept that it was written when times were different and most importantly it is a work of fiction, as Abbey himself was compelled to say many times prior to his

death. You have to just accept the premise was right for the times, similar to watching a classic old movie. This goes with the territory when listening to a 40 year old story. For example, try watching a old Burt Reynolds move with his curly top perm and fu-manchu mustache- what looked like macho tough guy kicking ass in 1976, looks more like a Saturday Night Live comedy skit today- well, enough on that. The second prong is that for me, the reader is an acquired taste. I would have liked to hear a bit younger reader and a little less monotone approach. However, Edward Abbey spoke in a similar fashion so for the purist, I suppose it is very close to a book that is read by the author. I always imagined a more upbeat voice, but when I saw him speak once in Scottsdale AZ, I remember being surprised at his deadpan tempo. I am sure by the end of the book I will be used to the reader. Regardless, I will be purchasing Desert Solitaire which is another great Abbey book which saw is also on audio now, with the same reader I assume. I appreciate the Abbey family who apparently are making sure his books get to audio- given the choice between this and no audio book at all- I'll take it.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Monkey Wrench Gang (P.S.) Girl Gang Sissy: Forced Feminisation Humiliation by a Cruel Girl Gang (Mistress Kerry Femdom Series) The Gang's All Queer: The Lives of Gay Gang Members (Alternative Criminology) Could a Monkey Waterski?: Hilarious scenes bring monkey facts to life! (What if a) "The Lucky Monkey " (Children's books-The Lucky Monkey Book 1) Night Monkey Day Monkey Hippo and Monkey (The Adventures of Hippo and Monkey) Finger Monkey Pet. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW. Finger Monkey or Pygmy Marmoset Information. Pygmy Marmoset care, environment, behaviour, feeding and health. Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Monkey Then Always Be A Monkey: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Monkey Then Always Be A Monkey: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) What Does a Wrench Do? (First Step Nonfiction: Tools at Work) Wrench Fault Tectonics Down Amongst the Black Gang: The World and Workplace of RMS Titanic's Stokers Bernie Wrightson: Art and Designs for the Gang of Seven Animation Studio Once Upon a Time in Compton: From gangsta rap to gang wars...The murders of Tupac & Biggie....This is the story of two men at the center of it all The Hayloft Gang: The Story of the National Barn Dance (Music in American Life) Disco's Out...Murder's In!: The True Story of Frank the Shank and L.A.'s Deadliest Punk Rock Gang Always Running: La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A. Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets Husky Gang: My Working Book

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help