



Dry Heat: a novel

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Dry Heat is the debut novel by indie author Steven Eggleton. A dirty, angry, and often painfully funny read, Dry Heat explores the angst and confusion people in their early twenties frequently feel. Written in Eggleton's skeptical, sardonic, and bluntly frank narrative voice, the book chronicles a little over a year in the life of Vincente Vasquez, a disillusioned grocery-store clerk living in Tucson, Arizona. Chiefly concerned with escaping the drudgery of work, social equality, and the pursuit of sex; Dry Heat is a visceral and raw novel that's sure to leave an impression.

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Dry Heat: a novel Details

Date : Published May 30th 2012 by ElHuevoPublishing

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Author : Steven Eggleton

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Jakki says

By pure chance, I came across this book. Once I picked it up it was difficult to put it down.

The story is told by Vincente, a young man struggling to find his way in life. Vincente is funny in a dark way and flawed to the point of being loathsome to some degree and we experience a year in his life in this well written novel. His struggles with his menial job, the prize of a girlfriend that turns bad, the use of drugs to make life more palatable are told in a brutally frank and dark way that is truly intriguing. Very much in the lineage of Bukowski and Fante. I can't recommend this book enough. It's a really fun ride.

Shaun says

Funny, crass and nihilistic ... but enough about me. Fair to good read. Caught myself laughing out loud. Moments of insight of the Gen Xer soul. Bukowski would be proud.

Lee says

I was contacted by the author based off my interest in reading the book. I was given a PDF copy of Dry Heat (thank you!) and though it took me a couple of weeks to get to, I was eager to. I thought it was a great read - I really enjoyed the feel of gen X with a Bukowski twist.

Robyn says

I found myself caught up in the inner thoughts of the main character (interesting to see inside a guy's head). There were plenty of times when it was laugh out loud funny. It's a great story, a quick read, and gives you a little to think about as well as the main character tries to find his way.

Susan says

Having lived in Tucson for a few years myself, this book caught my eye. it's a dry heat indeed, which doesn't make one any more likely to willingly go out in the elements for the months of july-october. I'm a white white-girl myself, and didn't last long out there. beautiful city though, very liberal and culturally diverse.

i am really looking forward to reading this book!

Ilona Mustafin says

I liked that Dry Heat was short and had a good flow. As I like to mention, I really enjoy novels and yes, I enjoyed this one also!

Daniela says

It's a good, easy read. Except for the few grammar issues (your instead of you're) and typos that seemed to go unnoticed, it is really well written. You can relate to the character and what he goes through, regardless of gender and where you come from. Hell, I'm 31 and I could still relate to this twenty-something rebellious asshole and his "fuck the system" attitude, while embracing all stereotypes society shoves down his throat. The angst, emptiness, the constant fear while knowing there is not much you can do to change anything, all mixed up with humour as a defense-mechanism... yes, I can truly relate. Well done, mr. Eggleton; well done, indeed.

Ryan Leone says

This novel was clearly in the lineage of Charles Bukowski, it even had a deli named Ham on Rye. I identified with the protagonist, in his aimless despondency. The dialogue was written with skill and I appreciated the honesty. I think most people have had to deal with a patronizing boss, a tantalizing girl, and a group of friends that are underachieving. All in all I thought this was an impressive and entertaining first effort by Steven Eggleton.

Stosch says

4/5

pros: easy to read, simple lines. gen-x'ers will like this story it expresses the plight of our group, the lies we were fed, traps alot of us fell into. FUNNY and honest book.

cons: cliché extravaganza. that's about the only drawback of this book.

Sarah says

This was more like a friend of a friends blog than a novella for me. I found humor in the fact that the majority of the real life places the protagonist went to are closed down (Grill, Cat House, The Cage...) I also found irony in the ending. Isn't that what we all say we want? Sadly, there isn't any real resolution to the story. (yes he does have a personal revelation.) I think that abrupt ending is why I feel this was like a blog. It as as if the narrator was telling us about his life and then decided that was enough.

Andrew Armacost says

Some novelists achieve greatness through a thematic breakthrough or else, perhaps, through technical virtuosity. Others, like Fante and Bukowski and now Eggleton, achieve greatness more painfully: through complete and sustained honesty.

Joseph says

A few short reviews over the last week or so as I finally get to read some books sitting on my To Be Read shelf for a long time. *Dry Heat* is another one of those graduating from the TBR shelf. Read for fun and not for the review.

A couple years ago I saw this book as a Goodreads give away and entered to win it. I didn't win it. It kind of bothered me that my library didn't have it and neither did Alibris. So I waited and didn't forget about it. One day I stumbled across the e-book when looking something else up and bought it. I don't know what drew me to the book. Maybe it was Tucson on the cover reminding of a friend who used to live there. I am not sure.

I picked this book the other day and read it in two sittings. I think if I would have remembered something about the book other than the Tucson Inn on the cover I probably would have forgotten about it. It was not what I was expecting.

Vincente is almost your perfect example of a Gen X slacker stereotype. He doesn't live to get high, but rather gets high to get the will to live. The world is screwed. You work for slave wages with some glimmer of hope that you will get ahead only to find yourself working harder for someone else to get rich. It's a losing battle. Vincente works in the deli at a grocery store making enough money for rent and dope. His outlook is bleak. There are the rich who keep getting richer. There are the wage slaves like himself and then there are managers. Managers think they have it good. Really they no different than the wage slaves, except they have a gold vest instead of a green apron.

There are a few times the author does nail the store meetings. The owners compare new competition to the Nazi blitz on Europe and can work a crew of part time, minimum wage, no benefit workers into a frenzy of loyalty. Some of the observations Vincente makes are very clear and very real. He is not bitter to be bitter, but bitter because he knows.

I liked the story. Vincente is not always likeable, in fact, sometimes he is easy to hate and he knows this. One thing that bothered me was one of Vincente's girlfriend's father was known as "The Colonel" because he was a colonel in the navy. The navy is the service without colonels; that rank is called captain. Good story. A bit on the bleak side, but realistic.

Jason says

Grr don't you hate it when you do an awesome review and Goodreads doesn't save it!!!! Here's my slightly

less amazing attempt 2 of a review.

The main character of this book, Vicente, reminded me a lot of Henry Chinaski. He works crap jobs for little money, he hates his co-workers, the customers and management, when the time to leave the job arises he has no issue walking away. He drinks, he goes with messed up crazy women, they mistreat him and he mistreats them back. He drinks more, finds a whore and gets into fights he stands no chance of winning. He isn't at full Chinaski standards but he is certainly working his way there.

Eggleton's writing is smoother than Bukowski so he brings his own style to the story and character. He has also produced some fantastic lines, my favourite is;

"He was rather dense. Actually, he was dumber than hammered shit."

I plan to use that line to describe one of my co-workers.

A real good read and a must for Bukowski fans.
