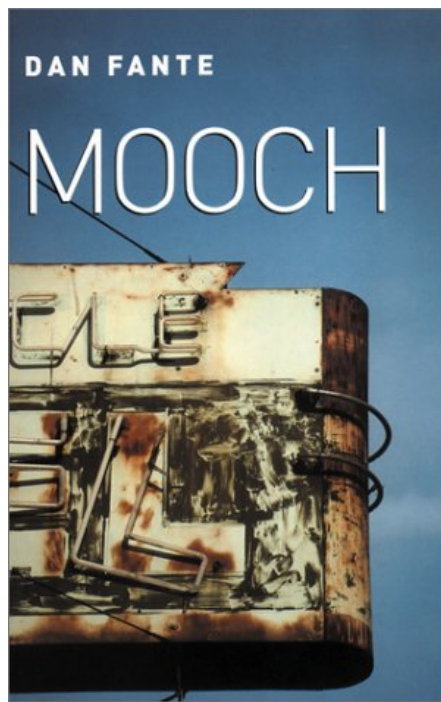




Mooch

Dan Fante , Anthony Bourdain (Introduction)

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Bruno Dante has cleaned him himself up and straightened out; he's attending A.A. and is back on the mooch, selling computer printer supplies for a militaristic disciplinarian in a company staffed by a motley crew of ex-addicts and alcoholics. Then he meets Mexican femme fatale, Jimmi Valiente, a former gang-banger, lap dancer, and crackhead, and once again Dante's world begins to go into free fall.

Mooch Details

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From Reader Review Mooch for online ebook

Damion says

MY Favorite Dan Fante book. In a world filled with boring books and boring authors. Dan Fante is a welcome relief. Takes you inside the world of telemarketing and alcoholism. The book is really about hustling and what people do each other. A very American story. The most important thing is Fante is never boring. All the warts of human soul are illuminated in his writing. Can't recommend this book any higher. Read all his books.

Arely says

Dan Fante, hijo de uno de mis autores favoritos, John Fante, signo que tal vez lo identifica pero que puede llegar a ser un estigma al no evitar compararlo con el padre. Sin embargo, no desilusiona mis expectativas y, dejando a un lado las comparaciones, me encantó este libro.

Una novela llena de alcohol, ilusiones, desilusiones, amor, desamor y sexo. Tal vez de esta forma no sea la mejor para realizar una reseña del libro, pero en pocas palabras es un gran libro, esta vez podemos encontrar un Dan Fante con mayores ilusiones y con tal vez un mejor futuro.

No me queda la menor duda, seguiré a este escritor y leeré lo que pueda de él. Una pena que ya haya terminado todos los libros de su padre.

Vinicius Gonçalves says

Mais de Bukowski e mais de Fante pai.

Esta obra pode ser comparada diretamente com Pergunte ao Pó, ainda que Bruno Dante seja repugnante. A submissão que o personagem principal remete a Jimmi chegou a me lembrar 'Philip Carey' de 'A Servidão Humana'. Tudo isso envolto em um clima de alcoolismo, drogas, sexo e a tentativa incansável de Bruno Dante em manter-se sóbrio.

Recomendado para quem é devoto das obras de Bukowski e Fante. Pessoas que não estão familiarizadas com o submundo do álcool, drogas e afins, passem longe.

Stop says

Read the STOP SMILING interview with author Dan Fante

Q&A: Dan Fante

By Anthony Reynolds

Novelist, playwright and poet Dan Fante is the second son of John Fante.

He is well regarded in Europe and his novels include *Mooch*, *Chump Change* and *Spitting off Tall Buildings*

Stop Smiling: As both a novelist and a screenwriter, what are the main similarities between the processes? And what are the major differences?

Dan Fante: I don't mean to be overly unkind here, but screenwriting is a process quite unlike legitimate prose. Screenwriters are the errand boys for producers and directors. They do what they are told to do: "Fix this. Make her tits bigger. Let's have her be a victim of incest." That kind of nonsense. Screenwriting is not writing. It is a collaborative process in which the so-called creative person becomes an underpaid, over-ruled typist.

SS: What are your experiences with Hollywood? How close have you gotten to a script becoming a film?

DF: My book *Mooch* will be a film this year or next. I wrote the screenplay. Thankfully, having written the original document, the book itself is our point of reference in writing the movie. But make no mistake, what I said above still holds sway, to at least some extent.

SS: Have you met many in the business who are aware of the Fante name within the history of Hollywood?

DF: Most people in Hollywood know the name John Fante. Of course they haven't read his stuff, they've just heard he was a good novelist. And, by having an option on one or more of his books, they might become rich. John Fante is a commodity — like fertilizer is a commodity.

Read the complete interview...

Erik says

In my humble opinion this is Dan's best. It takes you straight into the harrowing world of telemarketing and doesn't let you go. A lean, spare master at the top of his form, not a wasted word in here.

Andrea Mullarkey says

At the end of *Chump Change* I wondered if Fante would be able to keep up the pace for 3 more semi-autobiographical novels. I also wondered whether I could keep up if in fact he did. Now having read them in close succession I can say that he's kept it interesting without wearing me out. Bruno Dante continues to be a serial juicer with a masochistic edge and a deep dislike of people. With women, his relationships (if they can be called that) are cruel and dehumanizing, almost as bad as the jobs he takes to support his habits. As a boiler room salesman, taxi driver, movie usher, window washer, limo driver and working in other terrible jobs Bruno is in one bad situation after another. All the while he is trying to put his words on paper, scratching out poems in the cab or typing short stories in his motel room. The stories were hard to read, but the prose was direct and approachable. In the end I'd say reading these books is like having an eloquent tour guide to the dark side of a city you don't care about: I don't think I wanted to know more about these aspects of life, but I couldn't resist Fante as a story teller.

Josie Boyce says

More solid Buk-ness from Dan Fante. Enjoyable rolling around in the ashes stuff. Bang on characterizations, and jaw droppingly good dialogue. Entertaining angry man books. Relishing the final two, to be read in the next few days.

andy says

decent. more of the same. quick read. full of despair and other feelings.

Jose Carlos says

LA HERENCIA DE LOS MALDITOS

En Mooch, Dan Fante va mucho más allá de sus homenajes y reivindicaciones de Bukowski, cummings, Carver y de su propio padre, John Fante. Se ha liberado del peso que ha dejado vertido en las páginas de Chump Change y, ahora, puede desencadenar una trama propia que evoluciona efervescente e hipnótica. Evidentemente, sigue habiendo mucho en Dan Fante de los autores anteriormente enumerados, pero ahora su trabajo abandona ese estilo de patchwork literario, ya no es un Frankenstein de referencias literarias, el monstruo ha encontrado una autonomía propia y arrancado a caminar con paso fuerte, gracias a la solidez de los personajes, y a mostrarnos que, esta vez y a diferencia de la novela anterior, el mundo que se expande más allá de la narración en primera persona, el mundo externo al protagonista es un mundo macizo y atractivo, con personajes complejos.

A pesar de cierta querencia por el rasgo estereotipado, Dan Fante suple esa manía con una presentación atractiva de los personajes y un reflejo vivo y con relieve de las situaciones. El mundo reflejado es todo lo contrario al sueño norteamericano, pero sí que muestra las dobleces terribles y ocultas del american way of life con un Los Ángeles por donde pululan prostitutas, drogadictos, perversos, desarraigados y desahuciados, ex alcohólicos, reincidentes y, los personajes estrella de la novela: vendedores a comisión capaces de cualquier cosa por cerrar una venta.

En Mooch, Dan Fante afina su universo narrativo atisbado en Chump Change centrándose en una oficina de ventas telefónicas a comisión, que permite exponer todo un muestrario de seres humanos que hacen gala de las más variadas miserias, en un despliegue de envidias, venganzas, violencia, cinismo, traición y cobardía, que recuerda un poco a ese mundo de la venta de inmuebles retratado en la película Glengarry Glen Ross o que recientemente hemos podido ver en esas salas de ventas telefónicas que aparecen en El lobo de Wall Street.

Referencias cinematográficas aparte, sin duda, este es el acierto del autor, insertar a su protagonista, Bruno Dante, en un mundo real con el cual poder interactuar, desde cajeros en tiendas de comida china o licorerías, hasta inquisitivos y competitivos jefes en la sala de ventas. Algo que en Chump Change no sucedía del todo, dando la impresión de que el mundo desfilaba por delante de los ojos de Bruno Dante como si asistiera a una representación irreal de la que siempre saldría indemne, como si la vida fuera el delirium tremens de una de

sus borracheras, al estilo de cuando el Chinaski de Bukowski se quedaba hastiado de cervezas y whisky derrumbado en el sillón del apartamento y entregado a ver el desfile de la vida que se paseaba por delante.

Ahora, en Mooch, el protagonista interactúa con su entorno desde la sobriedad en unas ocasiones, y desde la borrachera desmesurada, en otras, y la novela se multiplica así, gana una realidad y una presencia demoledoras que la hacen atractiva, adictiva y fascinante. Hay trama, hay personajes, hay historia, independientemente de que haya homenaje (pero ya no servidumbre) a Bukowski y a John Fante, algo que no siempre se podía decir que ocurría en Chump Change.

Un texto plagado de fuerza y furia, con ganas de contar y narrar, nervio y mala uva, literatura como desagravio a los agravios de la vida, desde luego.

Olav Nilsen says

Mooch

Tunde Oyebode says

Brilliant and beautiful read that kept my fingers flipping the pages until the end. The most honest thing I have read in a while. The words were incredibly emotional and jarring and had me gripped from the beginning to the end. It had the perfect balance of sadness, happiness, pain, suffering, hope and raunchiness that any brilliant piece should have. It ended with a sad note that left me wondering what will come next. I can't say that he writes just as brilliantly as his father did. Similar to ask the dust in plot but with biting and punchy sentences akin to Bukowski. I can't wait to read another piece by Dan, another story with Bruno in it.

Cary B says

Wow! A brilliant, passionate explosion of a novel. It fizzles on every page. We follow the fortunes of Bruno Dante, a recovering alcoholic and what happens when he meets the devastatingly beautiful and smart, but full of problems, Jimmi Valiente and many other fascinating characters. I read this book 13 years ago and happened to jot down my thoughts on it. The characters have stayed with me to this day but I'd forgotten the title until I found my 'books I've read' notebook. This novel is all sensational stuff in the best possible way. The writing style and how Dan Fante draws the characters is to create real living, flawed yet relatable human beings. As you can probably tell, I loved it. Now thanks to Goodreads, I've discovered it's part of a series and have to read the rest!

Josh says

Well written, but not my thing. A frustrating read.

Laureen Vonnegut says

down and dirty. loved it. will read more.

Ara Molina says

Probablemente lo hubiera disfrutado más de no haber leído justo antes Chump Change, porque de esta forma me pareció más de lo mismo, ya que las dos historias guardan unas cuantas similitudes. Lo recomiendo, pero si se tiene la intención de leer Chump Change, mejor dejar algo de margen entre ambos.
