

Welcome to the Monkey House

By Kurt Vonnegut

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Welcome to the Monkey House By Kurt Vonnegut

This short-story collection *Welcome to the Monkey House* (1968) incorporates almost completely Vonnegut's 1961 "Canary in a Cathouse," which appeared within a few months of *Slaughterhouse-Five* and capitalized upon that breakthrough novel and the enormous attention it suddenly brought.

Drawn from both specialized science fiction magazines and the big-circulation general magazines (*Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, etc.) which Vonnegut had been one of the few science writers to sell, the collection includes some of his most accomplished work. The title story may be his most famous--a diabolical government asserts control through compulsory technology removing orgasm from sex--but Vonnegut's bitterness and wit, not in his earlier work as poisonous or unshielded as it later became, is well demonstrated.

Two early stories from *Galaxy* science fiction magazine and one from *Fantasy & Science Fiction* (the famous "Harrison Bergeron") show Vonnegut's careful command of a genre about which he was always ambivalent, stories like "More Stately Mansions" or "The Foster Portfolio" the confines and formula of a popular fiction of which he was always suspicious. Vonnegut's affection for humanity and bewilderment as its corruption are manifest in these early works.

Several of these stories (those which appeared in *Collier's*) were commissioned by Vonnegut's Cornell classmate and great supporter Knox Burger, also born in 1922.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007) is one of the most beloved American writers of the twentieth century. Vonnegut's audience increased steadily since his first five pieces in the 1950s and grew from there. His 1968 novel *Slaughterhouse-Five* has become a canonic war novel with Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* to form the truest and darkest of what came from World War II.

Vonnegut began his career as a science fiction writer, and his early novels--*Player Piano* and *The Sirens of Titan*--were categorized as such even as they appealed to an audience far beyond the reach of the category. In the 1960s, Vonnegut became closely associated with the Baby Boomer generation, a writer


on that side, so to speak.

Now that Vonnegut's work has been studied as a large body of work, it has been more deeply understood and unified. There is a consistency to his satirical insight, humor and anger which makes his work so synergistic. It seems clear that the more of Vonnegut's work you read, the more it resonates and the more you wish to read. Scholars believe that Vonnegut's reputation (like Mark Twain's) will grow steadily through the decades as his work continues to increase in relevance and new connections are formed, new insights made.

ABOUT THE SERIES

Author Kurt Vonnegut is considered by most to be one of the most important writers of the twentieth century. His books Slaughterhouse-Five (named after Vonnegut's World War II POW experience) and Cat's Cradle are considered among his top works. RosettaBooks offers here a complete range of Vonnegut's work, including his first novel (Player Piano, 1952) for readers familiar with Vonnegut's work as well as newcomers.

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Welcome to the Monkey House By Kurt Vonnegut Bibliography

- Rank: #17294 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-08-22
- Released on: 2011-08-22
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Listeners are in for a treat as a masterful cast animates many of Vonnegut's finest short pieces. Vonnegut colors his oft-wondrous works with memorable characters, fantastic realities, pitch-perfect dialogue and heapings of satire and humor—a tall order for any audio actor. But this group of narrators are veterans of screen and stage, each with a unique voice as malleable as clay. It's hard to find fault with this production. Occasionally, Tucci and Irwin oversoften their voices, and listeners may find themselves reaching for the volume. Otherwise, there are very few blemishes. Baker is outstanding in "All the King's Horses" and "The Hyannis Port Story." Strathairn shines on "Tom Edison's Shaggy Dog" and "The Lie." Tucci handles with ease the predominantly male pieces "Go Back to Your Precious Wife and Son" and "Manned Missiles." Irwin inhabits every character. The robust Roberts is both commanding and wry. Given the fertile material and the collective talent of the cast, listeners should expect nothing less than excellence here. They won't be disappointed. *Available in paperback from Dell. (June)*

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Review

"He strips the flesh from bone and makes you laugh while he does it. . . . There are twenty-five stories here, and each hits a nerve ending."—*Charlotte Observer*

"Vonnegut is George Orwell, Dr. Caligari and Flash Gordon compounded into one writer . . . a zany but moral mad scientist."—*Time*

"A great artist."—*Cincinnati Enquirer*

From the Publisher
7 1.5-hour cassettes

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andre Rosier:

The book Welcome to the Monkey House can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So why must we leave the best thing like a book Welcome to the Monkey House? Several of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim this book can give many details for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you can give for each other; you could share all of these. Book Welcome to the Monkey House has simple shape however, you know: it has great and large function for you. You can search the enormous world by wide open and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

Lydia Donaldson:

This Welcome to the Monkey House book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will

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Deb Valdez:

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Latricia Wynkoop:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book Welcome to the Monkey House it is quite good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more very easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book offers high quality.

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