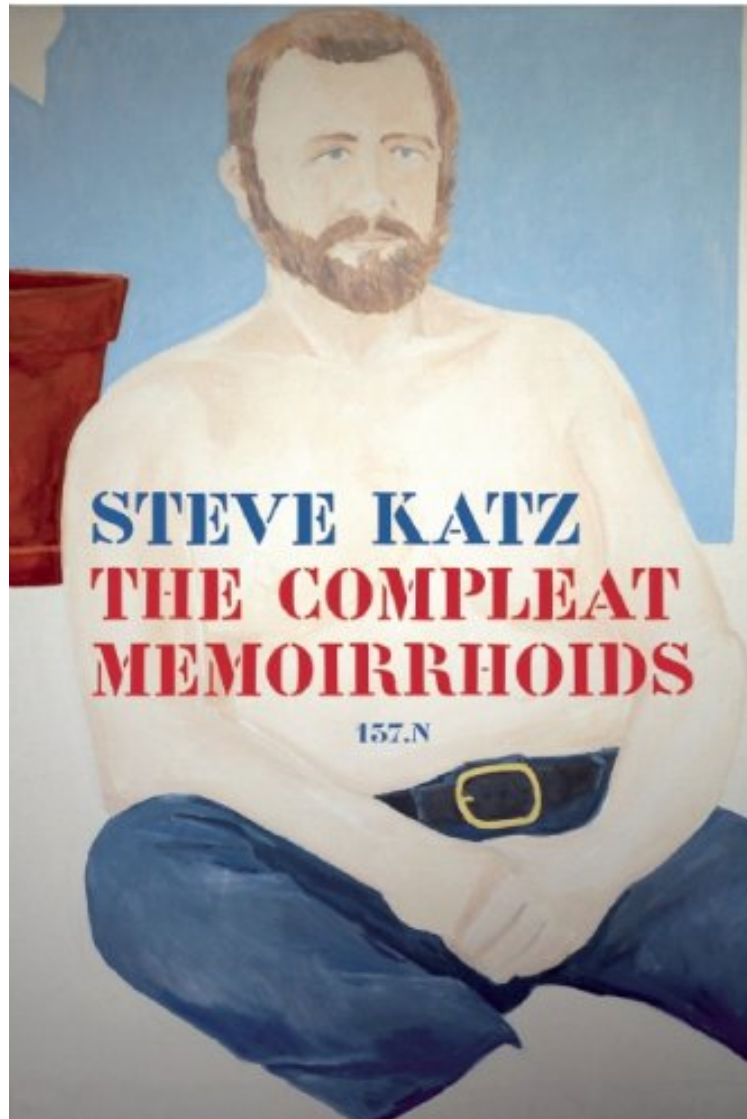


The Compleat Memoirrhoids

Steve Katz

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Steve Katz : The Compleat Memoirrhoids before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Compleat Memoirrhoids:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Steve Katz is one of America's finest living writers -- and has been for decades. By Author Author Steve Katz is one of America's finest living writers -- and has been for decades. This book is a masterpiece: memories of a life truly lived, delivered in non-chronological snippets that exemplify Katz's mastery of high fiction. Brutally honest and deeply personal, this book is a lightning rod for self-reflection, while also

being a highly entertaining read. And it wouldn't be Katz if, amidst the joy and suffering, there wasn't the odd incident of magical realism. If you love literature, you must get this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A universe of memories from the guru of concise expression

By Grady Harp
If it is possible that the name Steve Katz doesn't push your buttons, then a bit of bio may help: Steve Katz (born May 1935) is an American writer. He is considered an early post-modern or avant-garde writer for works such as *The Exaggerations of Peter Prince* (1968), and *Saw* (1972). His collection of stories, *Creamy Delicious* (1970), was mentioned in Larry McCaffery's list of the 100 greatest books of the 20th century where it was named "The most extreme and perfectly executed fictional work to emerge from the Pop Art scene of the late 60s." Thanks to Wikipedia for that. From other sources honoring the creative mind of Katz, the following is garnered: Steve Katz saw the great legends of cool and be-bop jazz play in the New York of the 1950s; encountered Nabokov, Pynchon, and others at Cornell; roomed in the Chelsea and met Joplin, Warhol, Ashbery, Plimpton, Vonnegut, Serra, Glass, and countless artists and scenesters in 1960s and 70s New York; bummed his way to Italy to view a painting by Masaccio; traveled West, to hallucinogenic high plains film-sets, Beat Rocky Mountain poetry enclaves, and North, where avant-gardists hiked into Canadian maritime wilderness and set up thirty-eight-foot high teepees in which to do the work that would later show up in Manhattan. World traveler and Tai Chi teacher, husband and then ex- of a cookbook author, and father of three sons, Katz in his magisterial assortment never fails to evoke a passion for the arts, spanning and telescoping centuries and far-flung worlds in words of wonder. This beneficent account of a life spent among artists, writers and musicians from the American 60's through the 90's - by a writer of bracing fiction--is a testament to its own qualities. I, reading, remembered 'the day' and could see clearly now, without dolor or fever, what it was all about. Steve Katz has always served it straight. "Now refreshed (or introduced), open this treasure trove of very brief (1-3 pages each) of Katz reflections on encounters, impact of the cultural world gone mad, overheard conversations, and more. Steve Katz's 137-episode memoir is a shuffled life story, a vagabond autobiography, its episodes wandering around the world, around the arts, in and through 80 years of varied experiences. There is a very brief conversation between William Burroughs and Tennessee Williams that captures the essence of both slightly off center writers, a drug purchase in Jerusalem gone wrong, an episode of failing as a fire lookout and an encounter with a Jaguar that bears quoting: the thrill of gratitude when someone you love tells you she has worried about you is very great. I remember that, but even more I remember the smooch of a Jaguar's tongue. Many of us enjoy how the first kiss of the person we know we will marry lingers as a palimpsest on the lips. Or some remember what it feels like after a fight, the first time they get smashed on the face. So does the sensation of the Jaguar licking across my sleeping eyes remain embedded in my skin as if memory. His writing is contagious just read through South Corn Street and relive the pungent 60s better than anyone has expressed them. Steve Katz is an American genius and here is a chance to see why. Highly recommended reading. Grady Harp, November 130 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic, stimulating read!

By Kyndal R Lee
A very well put together and stimulating series of short stories. Steve Katz has a witty way of putting together a story, that leaves you laughing and excited to read the next story. It is easy to devour this book over long sits on the bus, or quick lunch break reads.

"[Katz] reprises the pleasure of everything he has ever written, and yet it is utterly singular. No one who cares about America's literary and art scene in the sixties should fail to read it." R. M. Berry, author of *Frank*
Employing the "fine structure constant" that has tantalized physicists for decades, celebrated novelist Steve Katz conjures his life story from 137 discreet, shuffled memories of art, travels, reflections, and confusions. Here are sculpture and teepees, Western mountains, Eastern pilgrimages and, throughout, artists' lives: Kathy Acker, Philip Glass, Vladimir Nabokov, Richard Serra, and a catalog of others Katz knows and knew.

About the Author
Steve Katz is considered an important figure in the avant-garde or experimental fiction writing of 1960s and 70s for works such as *The Exaggerations of Peter Prince* (1968), *Saw* (1972), and *Moving Parts* (1977). His collection of stories, *Creamy Delicious* (1970), was mentioned in Larry McCaffery's list of the 100 greatest books of the 20th century where it was called "The most extreme and perfectly executed fictional work to emerge from the Pop Art scene of the late 60s." Katz has written 18 books in all, including fiction, poetry, a screenplay, and a "miscellany," *Kissssss* (2007). Katz was born in the Bronx, New York City in May 1935. He received his Bachelors degree at Cornell University and his Masters degree at the University of Oregon. He has taught at the University of Maryland Overseas (Italy), Cornell University, the University of Iowa, Brooklyn College, Queens College, City University of New York, and Notre Dame University. In 1978 he became the director of the creative writing program at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Katz has also worked as a miner, a dairy farmer, and a teacher of T'ai chi ch'uan. He received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1976 and 1981. Katz's longtime associations with avant-garde artists in contemporary music and visual arts, as well as writing, make him a unique figure in American arts scenes of the past half-century.