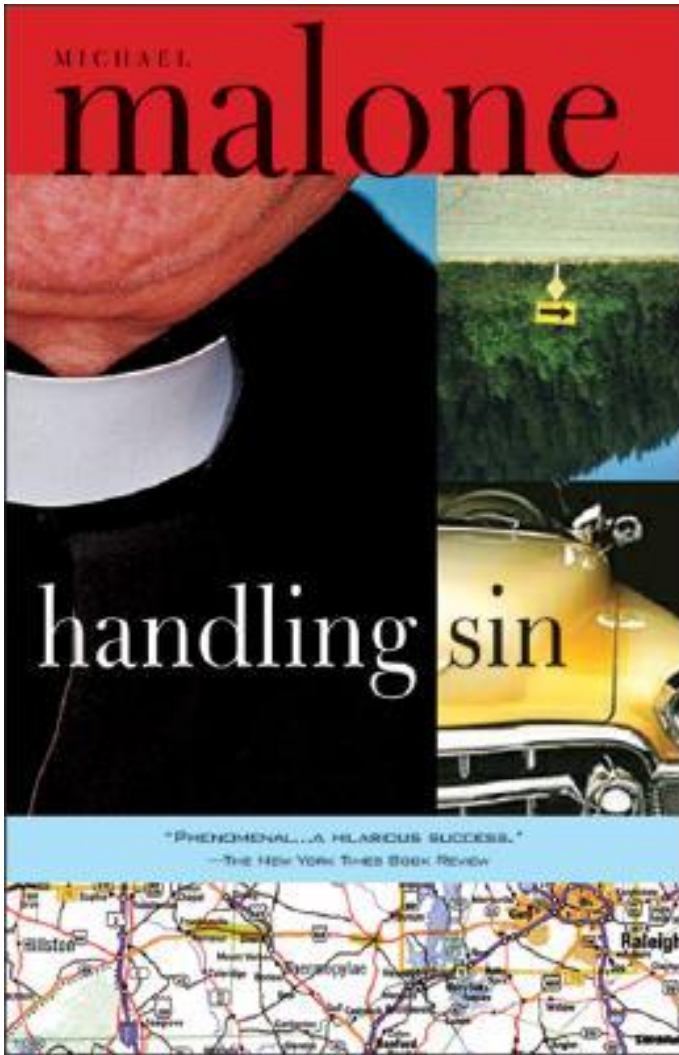

Michael Malone

Handling Sin



Title: Handling Sin

Author: Michael Malone

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Description

On the Ides of March, our hero, Raleigh Whittier Hayes (forgetful husband, baffled father, prosperous insurance agent and leading citizen of Thermopylae, North Carolina), learns that his father has discharged himself from the hospital, taken all his money out of the bank and, with a young black female mental patient, vanished in a yellow Cadillac convertible. Left behind is a mysterious list of seven outrageous tasks that Raleigh must perform in order to rescue his father and his inheritance.

And so Raleigh and fat Mingo Sheffield (his irrepressibly loyal friend) set off on an uproarious contemporary treasure hunt through a landscape of unforgettable characters, falling into adventures worthy of Tom Jones and Huck Finn. A moving parable of human love and redemption, *Handling Sin* is Michael Malone's comic masterpiece.

Insightful reviews

Jim: Because this book is so determined to be sweet, how could I not love it? But I didn't. It has a lot going for it: the dialogue is catchy, much of the humorous dialogue was actually funny (though note that I didn't laugh out loud once)* the settings are well rendered, and its regular forays into reflection were wistful and honest, though straying into heavy handed commentary from time to time.

Yet my overall experience of the book felt like a chore: the premise was over-determined, the plot overwritten, and the characters were so over the top in whichever attitude they represented that they felt like characters in a morality play that could have been called "UPTIGHT DUDE LEARNS TO LIGHTEN UP". This book was written before the onslaught of Manic Pixie Dream Girl movies but in this book the whole grotesque cast serves as a MPDG for the protagonist to live a little. IN particular the brother's con man brother Gates, who provides the bulk of the humor, could be said to fulfill this foil function.

Malone seems like a really good guy, but the author's omniscient and judgmental commentary on Raleigh (the main character) made the result predetermined; unlike Ray from *Dog of the South*, we know exactly what's going to happen to Raleigh: he's going to learn to live a little. We know this because the author keeps elbowing us incessantly in the ribs using every plot event of the structure to point+ this out.

Which gets to my main problem with the book: it goes on forever. Even though I thought some of the family-based flashbacks were good, and in one case (when the author points out that Raleigh doesn't really know his family, and do we every really know anyone (paging Heinrich Boll)) it's very good, it felt like a grind to follow this zany treasure hunt filled with completely unnecessary tangents. Despite the books light tone, the weight of events dragged it down... this was particularly annoying because it's so obvious how the book will end. *I compare this to Portis only because I was told this was one of the funniest american novels. I would say that beyond style and chops, there's a big good reason why Charles Portis's books were so short: to keep something zany up for so long, especially when the end is so predictable, is really exhausting for the reader.

Carolyn Zeller: This book is hilarious, sort of like watching Chevy Chase in European Vacation only much wilder. Lots of crazy laughs in this fabulous epic comic. My husband and I both have it on the Kindle. The characters and language are a tour de force. My husband and I read and laugh together. We think it should be a movie and Billy Crystal can be Weeperberg. Eddie Murphy can be Kingstreet and maybe John Goodman can be Mingo. John Ham (Madmen) can be Raleigh. A young George Clooney can be Gates. Hahahahaha. This book is such fun.

Lisa: I give up. I almost always finish books, but life is too short and this bad book is keeping me from reading good books. I read about 1/3 of it (200 pages!) and do not like it. The main character is constantly annoyed (for good reasons) and that made me annoyed. I wanted to like it because the reviews are amazing and it was highly recommended by a friend, but I dislike it and am moving on!

Maggie: I simply accomplished this and laughed the entire means through... Malone's nice for a comic book read, and this is often my favourite of his so far. Why is not he extra popular? And anyone please make this movie, even supposing i do know the probabilities aren't nice i will like it. yet i like the opportunity of an outstanding motion picture in line with "Handling Sin." Someone? Anyone?

A-bookworm: Out of the hundreds of thousands of books i have read, such a lot of i cannot even consider part simply because i did not maintain a listing then, this one stands blazingly out from among these lengthy forgotten. I by no means forgot this one. Cliched because it may perhaps sound, Michael Malone had me guffawing out loud, (all alone, via myself) with this one. It additionally has nice heart, you are going to snicker and cry. i've got given this publication away as a present greater than the other book, that is how a lot I loved it. an excellent story from begin to finish. no longer for the prudish or those that cannot giggle at themselves and life. i am not going to destroy it for you, you will get the synopsis off the cover. simply locate it, and browse it.

Megan Baxter: this can be an exuberant, raucous, Drunkard's stroll of a book. it is the form of publication phrases like exuberant and raucous have been coined to describe. and that i enjoyed it. Note: the remainder of this overview has been withdrawn because of the adjustments in Goodreads coverage and enforcement. you could learn why I got here to this selection here. In the meantime, you could learn the complete evaluate at Smorgasbook

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