
J.G. Ballard

Olá, América!



Title: Olá, América!

Author: J.G. Ballard

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Description

«O imperio do Sol» consagrou mundialmente o nome de J. G. Ballard. Mas Ballard já tinha atrás de si uma obra particularmente admirável no domínio da ficção científica. «Olá, América!» é um dos seus livros mais famosos, em que um grupo de novos «peregrinos» retomam contacto com uma América abandonada, desembarcando numa Nova Iorque deserta e silenciosa. Depois, atravessam o continente, sempre mais para oeste, até ao Pacífico, encontrando pelo caminho Eisenhower, Nixon, Sinatra, John Wayne e Charles Manson. Mas será que os encontraram? Leia este livro espantoso e não se esqueça que a Caminho de Bolso já publicou de Ballard «O mundo de Cristal» (nº 23) e «Aparelho Voador a baixa Altitude» (nº 49).

Insightful reviews

Dan: When I was done with this all those years ago, I beamed. He's a genius I thought. I would love to have his talents, his insights, his poetry.

But I was young and I knew that I was somewhat disappointed by it deep down. The big tipoff was Charles Manson as a long-lived fellow who seemed more grandfatherly than a blathering maniac. He still is weird and evil. But there was more that was somewhat disappointing but I can't recall. I'll read it again soon. It was a good adventure for the most part, a dippy road trip. I'll find another way of thinking about it now that I'm older and more critical-minded (I hope).

Craig DiLouie: In HELLO, AMERICA by J.G. Ballard, depletion of energy resources results in America being abandoned, while damming the Bering Strait has resulted in most of the continent being turned into a desert populated by derelict cities. After detecting radiation reaching Europe from the continent, an expedition sets out to discover its source.

The novel is classic Ballard, with an affectionate but tense relationship between a man and a boy, a boy who wants to claim the world as his own, and a villain who wants to seduce the protagonists to join him. By the end, the story takes on the feel of a fable. The animosity between the characters manifests naturally but is never really explained. The book features many clever elements, such as natives who worship the dead culture of their predecessors, and continual fascination by the explorers for the vibrant dream that was America and its cultural icons.

I enjoyed the read, and it was innovative for its day, but it's not as deep and abiding as other classics such as ALAS, BABYLON, ON THE BEACH or THE DEATH OF GRASS.

Tisbutehname: I couldn't finish it. Got tired of the story.

I thought the explanation of the energy crisis, and the details of America's decline, were realistic and well conceived by Ballard. I thought that was some of the best writing in the book, but the problem with that statement is that this portion of the book is maybe three pages near the beginning. His execution of everything afterwards is poor or just kind of dumb. Some of the jokes are stupid: the tribe names and their stereotypical behavior or outfits . . . cheap laughs that aren't funny in the first place.

I don't really know any of Ballard's work, but I've heard high praise. This was not a promising intro to him. I hope the next two or three attempts I make towards his fiction are better than this one.

Chris Meigh: certainly not Ballard's most sensible yet nonetheless a first-rate instance of his brilliant and twisted imagination. After an strength quandary the united states is left a baron desolate tract that have been abandoned. a hundred years later, an excursion lands in a wilderness big apple as a way to reclaim the land. whilst a few explosions and earthquakes force the day trip west, they arrive head to head with the defacto president of America, Charles Manson, who ideas his country from Las Vegas. it's common Ballard with environmental catasrophe blurring with psychosis and illusions. when hi the US isn't the most sensible instance of Ballard's work, his prose are once more attractive and the imagery vivid.

Michael: I stumbled over this one in the course of a short expedition into the library. i made a decision it sounded strong and checked it out because it slot in with my fascination of put up apocalyptic societies and stories.

Miguelg: i would have all started studying Ballard at the mistaken book. Regardless, i'll be analyzing extra of his stories. It reads like a gentle e-book yet leaves you considering within the end. fairly relaxing and fun.

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