

Moonshine: A Cultural History of America's Infamous Liquor

Jaime Joyce

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Jaime Joyce : Moonshine: A Cultural History of America's Infamous Liquor before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moonshine: A Cultural History of America's Infamous Liquor:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Serious and informativeBy Todd ThompsonIt's a concise, seriously-researched book on the cultural history of moonshine (white whiskey). Written well, and filled with stories from its Colonial beginnings, through prohibition, the early days of NASCAR, and today's artisan distilleries, this book is a delight to read, and is a topic proven worthy by this author for serious attention in the study of American culture.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rum Runners-- Not Just a Function of ProhibitionBy

Deestarr1 We've all heard of moonshine, we've all heard of Prohibition. What really has never been publicized is that running moonshine is a practice that has existed in the liquor producing regions of the United States since the time of the American Revolution. Beginning with the Shays Rebellion of 1786 farmers who relied on the sale of Whiskey and other alcoholic beverages as a means of getting perishable crops such as, corn and rye to market began to make and illegally distribute alcohol. This occurred for several reasons including the fact that taxes on alcohol were high and bit deeply into the farmers products, as well as the fact that farmers often felt that the government should not have the right to tax or regulate items made for public consumption. This book provides a short history of moonshine and how it has not only influenced American history through Shays Rebellion, Prohibition, and the early history of the FBI but how this has influenced culture in areas where people make produce and sell moonshine. As he says moonshine is not just alcohol in many places it is a way of life. This is an excellent book in spite of some formatting issues that primarily have little to do with the quality of the book itself. Often things do not translate from hard copy to Kindle as well as they should through no fault of the author. This book would receive 4.5 stars if I had the ability to do so on 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this is a good place to start learning By Ava Lynn If you know much about the history of moonshine, whiskey making in general, or have ever toured one of the ever-increasing number of craft whiskey distilleries, there's probably not a lot of new information here. If, however, you're not familiar with that particular area of history, this is a good place to start learning. It's well written, well organized, and fast paced. There is a lot of particularly good information about the role of whiskey in early American politics and economics, as well as illegal bootlegging and whiskey-running in the 20th century, during and following Prohibition. If you're interested enough to be on this page reading reviews, it's probably something you'll quite enjoy.

Nothing but clear, 100-proof American history. Hooch. White lightning. White whiskey. Mountain dew. Moonshine goes by many names. So what is it, really? Technically speaking, "moonshine" refers to untaxed liquor made in an unlicensed still. In the United States, it's typically corn that's used to make the clear, unaged beverage, and the mountain people of the American South who are most closely associated with the image of making and selling backwoods booze at night—by the light of the moon—to avoid detection by law enforcement. In this book, writer Jaime Joyce explores America's centuries-old relationship with moonshine. From the country's early adoption of Scottish and Irish home-distilling techniques and traditions to the Whiskey Rebellion of the late 1700s to a comparison of the moonshine industry pre- and post-Prohibition and a look at modern-day craft distilling, Joyce examines the historical context that gave rise to moonshining in America and explores its continued appeal. Even more fascinating than the popularity of the liquor itself is moonshiner's widespread effect on U.S. pop culture: moonshine runners were NASCAR's first marquee drivers; white whiskey was the unspoken star of countless Hollywood film and television productions; and numerous songs inspired by making shine have come from such musicians as Dolly Parton, Steve Earle, Metallica, Ween, and others. While we can't condone making your own illegal liquor, reading Moonshine will give you a new perspective on the profound implications that underground moonshine making has had on life in America.

"In an age of craft distilling, moonshine has been reborn as an artisanal spirit. So it is only fitting that white lightning has also gotten as eloquent and learned a chronicler as Jaime Joyce. Her book, so informative and so pleasurable, deserves a toast of its own." - Samuel G. Freedman, journalist and author