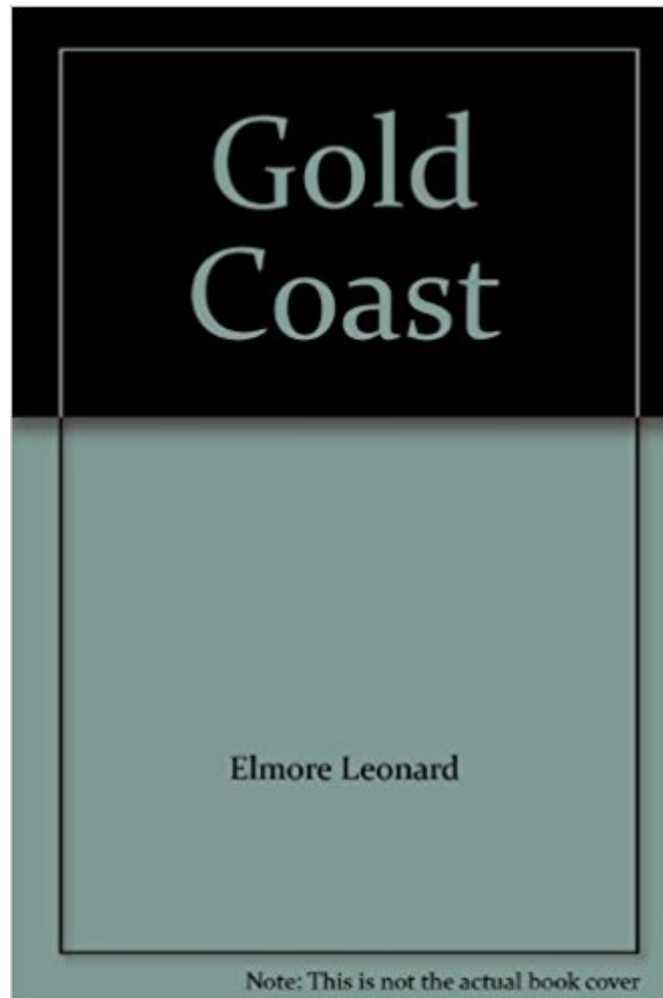




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Gold Coast



Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 866 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Great peek into the by gone era of Long Island's elite society and how it has evolved in the 21st century. Also a peek into the lives of some of the, albeit fictional, Maffia families. Having been born and raised on Long Island but moved away many years ago, I have become nostalgic for the simpler times then and a little homesick for the Island. The novel was a little slow to develop but once you got in to it you wanted to know what would happen next. The author gives the main character a great sense of humor which is probably needed in dealing with some of the family's situations. Great book and I am already ready the sequel, The Gate House.

Leonard paints a steamy, seedy Miami with it's gangster past and it's cocaine 1980's cowboys while still creating a timeless noir feel. One of my favorite writers I have been revisiting his books lately and enjoying hem all over again. This book has all the Leonard characters, the grizzled old bookie, the aimless drifter-part time criminal, and the damsel in distress who's no damsel and is too hard a block of ice to ever be in real distress. A fast paced read with a bitter ending that brings every one down a peg or ten. A great read from a writer who elevated the 'pulp' paperback genre with his tight dialogue and quirky characters.

First read this book many years ago and bought again on a Kindle daily special digitally. Wry, non-stop dialogue and descriptions that amuse, make you laugh out loud, and nearly impossible to see how one author kept it up the entire book. The Gold Coast still exists today with lesser players, and it's a glimpse into a rarified world. Love this book.

Lots of background information lays the foundation of understanding of the protagonists duties and

the story of two families next door neighbors but who come from very different backgrounds and the effect each person has on each the others. Engrossing!

This book does not have any big bangs or soaring flights of imagination, instead it is a very straight forward linear extrapolation of trends present in the mid-eighties involving the military-industrial complex and the urbanization of America. Both trends have had some deviations from that straight line in the years since this was written, but that does not invalidate the main focus of this book, that of not only how an individual can make a difference in the world around him, but why he should try to make that difference. Jim, the prime protagonist, is a much conflicted individual, who really has not found out what he really believes is right or what he should do with his life. Involved in a seemingly endless round of parties with his friends, having no serious commitment to his lady friend, holding two desultory part-time jobs that he has no enthusiasm for, considering himself to be a writer with a strong interest in the history of Orange County but without any finished product he thinks is good, and still partially dependent on his parents for support, he is a prime target for suggestion and peer pressure to define his actions. When one of his friends suggests that he should actually do something to change the domination of the country by the military-industrial complex, he jumps at the chance, and soon finds himself involved in industrial sabotage. His father, in the meantime, is also fighting the same war, but from a completely different perspective of an engineer actively employed by that same complex, trying to find a technical solution to the MAD arms-race. Along the way to Jim finding his own resolution to his life, we are treated to historical snapshots of Orange County from its very early settling by native Americans to the coming of the Spanish, to its flowering as an agricultural paradise, to its great industrial expansion during and after World War II, and finally to the condition depicted at the time of this book, as an almost totally asphalt covered warren of apartments, malls, offices, and neon lighting that has forgotten its historical and ecological heritage. These sections, viewed separately from the rest of the book, form something of an extended prose poem, with a very heavy 'back-to-nature' message, that intertwine with Jim's search for meaning in his life, and provide a strong under-current to the novel's action. The opening of this book is very rough, with too many characters introduced too briefly, with trivial and sometimes outdated dialogue, and without any apparent clear focus or direction. It is not till almost halfway through the book that it settles down and starts showing depth and direction. From this point on, the novel becomes much better, as the reader becomes interested in the characters and moral dilemma's they and their world face. This is not KSR's best novel. The book wanders for too long before finding its legs, and the ecological sub-theme is sometimes too strident,

the bashing of capitalism inadequately supported. But it has something to say about both our current industrial society and about the everyday individual's place in that society, about making a difference, about having commitments and moral integrity, about both the 'how' and the 'why' a life should be lived.

Interesting book for thinking about possible futures. Unfortunately the plot is kinda blah and the pace is sloooooooooow. Also the audible narration isn't that great, especially when he tries to do a woman's voice or a laugh.

Slow start but once into it, really into it. Being Italian, fun to read about familiar foods and vernacular. And being from New Jersey, close to manhattan, lots of familiar sounding eateries in little Italy.

I hate to sound like an old man , but I'm going to say it : they sure don't write books like this anymore ! Having read a few of DeMille's books many years ago , this one caught my eye as one that 'had escaped ' my attention , so I set about reading it expecting it to be a bit of light distraction after a rather heavy book I had just finished . I was totally unprepared for , and pleasantly surprised by , how engaging a tale this is , written with immense skill , and including characterizations that get the reader so involved and captivated . Dare I say the relationship between the two apparently incompatible lead characters is built in a credible , touching and wonderfully humorous manner . The plot unfolds at a wonderfully comfortable and 'just right 'pace , never unrealistically frenetic , and never realistically dull . What a brilliant story teller this is ... miss it at your peril .

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