



The Twenty Dollar Bill

Elmore Hammes

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Follow the path of a twenty dollar bill as it is stolen, given, spent or otherwise passed from person to person, traveling from place to place. No bombastic explosions, steamy sex scenes, political intrigue or cosmic encounters. Just slices of life from the people you walk by every day - glimpses into how ordinary people interact, how they think, how they feel and how they love. A contemporary novel exploring every day interactions and relationships.

The Twenty Dollar Bill Details

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Author : Elmore Hammes

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From Reader Review The Twenty Dollar Bill for online ebook

Elaine says

This buck—twenty bucks to be exact—doesn't stop here. It gets generously handed to a street person, gets stolen, given as a tip more than once, and used as taxi fare. It buys drugs and alcohol. Whoever thought \$20.00 could purchase so much? Yet, one has to assume it is the same \$20.00 that is being passed along.

Patricia says

Got this book on a bargain and thought the concept was rather interesting. The book is divided into chapters told in the first person by each person who handles a single twenty dollar bill. It follows the bill through making change, buying items, thefts, tips... The chapters are short, making it a quick, easy read. Not much thinking involved, no plot really. Just following the path of the twenty dollars. It is, though, interesting and entertaining. A good read for when you don't want anything heavy that will make you think too much.

Donna says

I've always thought if I had a super power maybe I'd like to be able to read people's minds. On the other hand, that would probably be really scary! But I got the opportunity in this unique novel which follows a \$20 bill as it is passed from person to person and lets us glimpse their impression of the exchange as well as a snippet of their life with it's hopes and fears. What I found most intriguing were the different inner reactions of people to the same situation. It really got me to thinking about how we all impress people, for good or bad, in a million little ways each day and we'll most likely never know it, or how easy it is to make assumptions based only on what we see on the outside. Well, written, thought provoking little book. I enjoyed it.

Kari says

Didn't know what to expect reading this book, but really enjoyed meeting the different characters along the way. With some, I would have like to know more...I wanted to know more about their story after the \$20 left their hands. I'm glad it at least came full-circle with one character. A quick, pleasant read.

Ben Campbell says

Short and sweet, this novelette is one short epic after another, as you know, which follows a twenty dollar Bili as it exchanges hands. A few of the stories were interesting but didn't really stand creatively from the others.

Disappointing to me was that the narrative of the episodes were too similar. The new owners of the twenty dollar bill all thought alike and narrated their stories basically in the colloquialisms, attitude and perception of the situations.

If each story had distinctive character development, for examples; the taxi driver as opposed to the affluent housewife, the waitress as opposed to the flower vendor, the Mexican mother as opposed to the punk kids then I'd have been more entertained and enthused about reviewing The Twenty Dollar Bill.

If you want quick short-short stories because of limited time then this is for you.

I'm Ben Campbell, the author of seven urban adventure reality/fiction novels. You can preview and purchase them on amazon.com. <http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B002BM7U4O>

Jimmy Mcphink says

Great book but may prove frustrating to some because it is pretty much a collection of short stories that cut off abruptly.

I really enjoyed this book. I liked the fact it showed small glimpses of so many lives & then just cut off because the money was passed on to someone else. Some might find this frustrating. Did they ever fall in love? Who won the game? Where did he get that wad of cash? etc. I'll give an example of what I mean. This story was not in the book but it should have been.

Let's start the story when a man who has the \$20 bill walks into a bar & orders a drink. He sees the waitress & thinks she is perhaps not Hollywood gorgeous but certainly next door gorgeous. She reminds him in some small way of his ex fiancé' Cindy. He starts thinking about the past & how 6 days before their wedding she was killed in an automobile accident. He then starts thinking about how many times he has been to that bridge. The bridge that invites him every so often to end his suffering once & for all. "Tonight is the night" he says to no one in particular. He realizes he could never love again even if she was as beautiful as the waitress. He pays for his drink & gives the waitress his last \$20 as a tip. No need in the money sitting at the bottom of a watery grave. Of course he suddenly realizes what if he once again cannot summon the courage to jump. Then he will not even have bus fare to get home. No! He must do it. He exits the bar almost running toward the bridge before he changes his mind.

That would be the end of that portion of the book & it would start talking about the current holder of the bill, the waitress which we'll name Deborah.

This can be frustrating because we never learn if he jumped or not. So many unanswered questions in this book but it sure is a brilliant idea. One I wish I had thought of.

Sarah Sammis says

I first heard of The Twenty Dollar Bill by Elmore Hammes on Breeni Books back in February. Shortly after adding it to my wishlist, the author was kind enough to offer me a review copy.

The novel follows the two week travels of a twenty dollar bill from the time Claire gives her last twenty to a homeless man on her way to work. The bill changes hands forty-two times and even travels as far south as Mexico before coming full circle.

Although the twenty dollar bill is the main character, Hammes creates unique voices for all his characters. It is easy to forget that the story is about what twenty dollars can mean to a person and the ways in which a

single bill can travel when the individual stories are so compelling, even the ones that only take a page or two.

Suffice it to say, I loved the book. I hope whomever wins the contest will also love it.

Neil Blaiberg says

Very unusual read, this novel tracks the life of a \$20 bill (hence the title) as it passes from one person to another.

In doing so you get a fascinating, albeit brief, look at the lives of the people the note touches.

It's a well written novel, my only complaint being I'd love to know what happens to the people once they have passed the note on - some of the stories are left on a cliff-hanger, and I'd love to know what happened to them - but I guess that is not the point of the book.

It's not the longest book, but given the subject matter it's feel about the right length. Well worth a read over a lazy weekend!

Leah Sperlongano says

I was surprised by how much I enjoyed this book. A short and easy read but an enjoyable one. I liked how we only meet each character for a short while and we get to use our imaginations to create the rest of their story. I very much enjoyed the journey of the \$20 and I loved how the people that touched it had very different lives and personalities. I also enjoyed the underlying message that we should not judge someone by our short interactions with them.

Hooskadoo says

Some years ago there were a few popular web sites onto which you would track dollar bills that you had come into contact with. You would go onto the site and put in some info about the bill and where you received it and where you spent it. The bills were marked with the website name. Sometimes next person would log it in but sometimes it would take months before you knew where it went and wonder how it got there. I personally logged in one but quickly forgot about it after and did not even think about it again until coming across this book. I can't even remember the name of the site. I did work with some people that were always tracking their money and telling stories of where it had been and what it had purchased.

This is a great book for anyone who has ever wondered where the money they physically held had been and where it was going. This \$20 is gifted, stolen, bled on the list goes on and on. Proves your grandma right yet again when she told you to wash your hands after handling money because you never know where it has been.

Bonnie says

I absolutely loved this book. I thought the premise was more than creative and the stories kept me engrossed from one to the next. This is the kind of book I will read again.

Elmore Hammes had a very creative idea and intriguing format for The Twenty Dollar Bill. The book follows a twenty dollar bill and each chapter is a glimpse into the life of the person in possession of said twenty dollar bill. I like to see how the bill changed hands as much as I like to hear about the holder's story. I admit that I was initially a bit wary of the premise but once I started reading I was so glad I gave it a chance because the book was brilliant. I was wary because I didn't know if it was somehow going to be told from the point of view of the twenty dollar bill or if the twenty dollar bill was going to have super powers and save everyone who came to hold it. Neither of these are the case, which I discovered early on and realized how much I was enjoying Mr. Hammes' style and format.

Because each chapter is a new character and new story, I felt the book was a quick read. There was something and someone completely different with each chapter. There were often times where I wanted a follow up on the character in a chapter. I wanted to know what happened after the end of the chapter or where the character wound up. However, I don't think this is a weakness of the book but part of the format. I kind of liked not having everyone's entire story. It was fun for me to decide where they wound up.

The description of the book from Amazon describes the book as "slices of life from the people you walk by every day - glimpses into how ordinary people interact, how they think, how they feel and how they love." And that is exactly what this book shows you in a well written, enjoyable journey.

Ruth says

Overall I probably would have rated the book a 3 or 3.5 but it was so clever it just earned extra points in my book. The premise of the story is a \$20 bill passing through the hands of different people and what the story of each person was. I wasn't sure how the story could be ended but the author handed this very well, also. A fun read.

★ e r i c a says

The Twenty Dollar Bill was a clever idea for a book, and I think it was executed wonderfully in this quick read with diverse subplots. It was interesting to see to who and how the money would exchange hands. Sometimes I made stereotypical judgement on characters based on how they were presented to me, sometimes my assumption about the type of people they were correct, and other times I was terribly wrong. This book made me question my knee-jerk reactions about people. I really liked this book, especially the adorable ending. I have nothing bad to say about this book.

Carol says

Author: Elmore Hammes // What a great concept for a book! The author follows the path of a \$20 bill as it changes hands in more ways that I could have ever thought of. A vignette is devoted to each recipient of the

bill, while they have it in their possession. What a mix of humanity!! Fascinating read that will make you ponder some things about life. Very creative!

Gina says

I love this book, both for the original subject -- the life of a \$20 bills as it travels from person to person -- but also for the slices of human life portrayed without any trace of judgement on the author's part.

What I find particularly effective is how each story intersects the next in the moment when the \$20 passes hands, a moment that is described from the point of view of two different people, so that we see each character both from the outside -- through someone else's eyes -- and from the inside, through the character's own thoughts. A brilliant technique that naturally resulted in the perfect circularity of the story's structure.

I quick read I'd definitely recommend.
