



On Broadway

Damon Runyon

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A collection of the stories of Damon Runyon who presents the 1950s world of guys and dolls on Broadway.

On Broadway Details

Date : Published (first published 1950)

ISBN : 9780330245432

Author : Damon Runyon

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From Reader Review On Broadway for online ebook

Gerald Sinstadt says

These are the stories that gave rise to that best of all musicals, Guys and Dolls. Damon Runton's unique way with the English language brings vividly to life his chosen milieu - the 1930s Manhattan of minor crooks and their molls.

In today's politically correct environment, the book could never have been published - and we would be the poorer for that.

The enormous pleasure to be derived fromm the audio version is entirely due to a narrator who always seems to be telling a story, not reading from a printed page. The match is perfect.

Rachel says

Loved it! Each story is a little gem.

Paul Brazill says

You know you've made it as a writer when your name is used as an adjective: Runyonesque. Damon Runyon is probably best known for the film adaptations of his stories such as Guys and Dolls and The Lemon Drop Kid. He created his own world with a number of pithy short stories set amongst the low lifes of New York's Broadway during the 1930. These yarns, sometimes shaggy dog stories, are peppered with gaudy, fast talking characters and smart punch lines. The language and the style is Runyon's own. Much copied –think of the film Some Like It Hot – and never bettered

Joey Diamond says

In fact, I love me some Runyon.

Marco Ocrum says

This is a book of short stories narrated by a shady character living in 1930's New York. Each story is self-contained, usually with a clever plot and a surprise ending, but there are some characters that crop up from story to story, almost all of them comic gangsters.

Exemplary style. Written almost entirely in the present tense, with considerable deliberate repetition, and yet a delight. Read this if you want to broaden your appreciation of style while enjoying twisty story-lines and plenty of laughs.

Rebecca McNutt says

On Broadway is a dazzling, brilliant story and reading it is just like being up there on Broadway itself, complete with unforgettable characters and glittering scenery.

Roman Clodia says

Runyon must have one of the most distinguishable voices in literature: any sentence we read is wholly identifiable as his. And it's this voice which really makes these stories. Set in Broadway in the 1930s with Prohibition and chorus girls, bookmakers and gangsters, where all the men are guys and all the women dolls, these stories are old-fashioned yarns brought up to date by their linguistic vibrancy and the vividly-realised milieu.

It goes without saying that Runyon was a comic genius, but the tales are lit by a romantic streak as we find tough gangsters brought to their knees with undying love for a doll, and plenty of melodrama that, in Runyon's hands, becomes oddly moving (take a look at 'Earthquake', as an example).

This omnibus comprises three story collections and may well get a bit samey if read back-to-back - but spread out, a few at a time, they conjure speakeasies and delis, home-made liquor and cheap diners, and all the essence of slightly sleazy, slangy, full-of-low life New York.

Whistlers Mom says

Fantastic stories. TINY print.

Several months ago, a Kindle edition of the Runyon collection MORE THAN SOMEWHAT appeared. It reminded me of how much I love Runyon's classic "Broadway stories" and I set out to collect them all. I discovered that an English publisher (Pan books) printed two books said to contain all of Runyon's stories. I bought the second volume (FROM FIRST TO LAST) and came back for this one.

My other Runyon collections contain 20 stories and appear to be "trade" (library) publications. Since this one contains 47 stories, I was wondering how the publisher got them all into a standard size book. The answer is simple. Tiny print. I have perfect near-vision and I can read it only in strong light. So be warned.

It was a fine idea to collect all of Runyon's Broadway stories in two editions. Many of them are duplicated in some of my other collections, but nine of them are new to me. So I was happy to turn my reading lamp on high and become acquainted with those stories. Especially since one of them turns out to be TOO MUCH PEP, which is now one of my favorite Runyon stories. It shows Runyon's grasp of the complexities of New York City life in the 1920's and 30's. A burgeoning population of immigrants - the older generation clinging to Old World ways and their children becoming "real Americans" - made for a colorful, turbulent mix. Suspicious of the police, they all agree that most matters are best handled privately. But do we do it the new way or the old way? It's a great story.

The inside cover has a picture of Runyon looking like a particularly sour Presbyterian minister. In fact a man

who looked as stern and humorless as that would NEVER get a congregation these days. He certainly doesn't look like a guy who grew up in the Wild West and came to New York City to happily rub shoulders with show girls, gangsters, gamblers, crooked politicians, reporters, and other shady sorts. How a writer with such a grim face could have created some of the most hilariously eccentric characters in all of American literature remains a mystery.

The obvious solution to the tiny print problem is a Kindle edition where we can adjust the print. Until then, we have to make do with used books. If you haven't discovered Runyon's work, you don't know what you're missing. He was a fine writer and his stories are American treasures.

Ted Rabinowitz says

Damon Runyon was a Depression-era O. Henry, and a creator of an entire American vernacular. His short stories are fast, funny, cynical, sentimental, and the precursors to any American gangster, Mob or Vegas story told in the 20th Century, from Jimmy Breslin to Mario Puzo.

Lucy says

Just wonderful. I can't believe how few reviews there are, is he out of fashion? So funny, so clever, so consistent in style, I wish he'd written more. I can't recommend Runyon highly enough.

Andrew Peters says

Just brilliant. Sadly he's much neglected these days, but he's one of the funniest guys ever tom pound a typewriter.....read him, you won't be sorry. Awesome short stories.

Sion says

Vivid.
