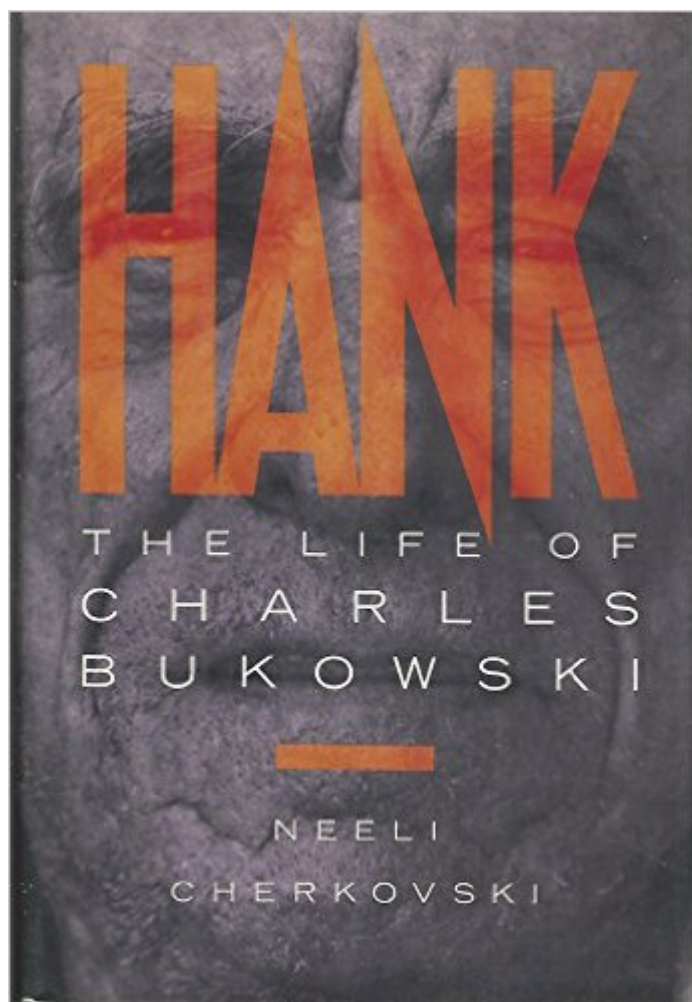


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Hank: The Life Of Charles Bukowski



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Book Information

Hardcover: 337 pages

Publisher: Random House; 1st edition (February 27, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394575261

ISBN-13: 978-0394575261

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Ah yes! The good old days...back in the day. Rough life of a freelance writer. Only wrote a few books, maybe 50, well, including poems, er more. Not sure I didn't keep count. How did he manage to drink and write? Just write about what happened that day from memory (in a fog). Worked for him!

Neeli Cherkovski is especially well situated to write the biography of his longtime friend and literary compadre, Charles Bukowski. Cherkovski has a true poet's eye and heart and understand that poets function on feeling--succeeding in their poetry by the amount of feeling they can capture, and managing to survive the slings and arrows of everyday life by submerging much of that feeling behind various kinds of soul armor. Perhaps because Bukowski first met Cherkovski as a teenager, he opened himself to his later biographer as he did to few others in his life--let Cherkovski glimpse the real pains and frustrations and desperate need for love that drove him to become the wild man and roughneck of contemporary American poetry. This book has an exceptional insight into Bukowski's creative process--into the black humor, relentless work ethic, indomitable drive for survival, gutsiness, and at times just plain craziness that Bukowski was able to meld into as

distinctive a poetic sound as any we've heard in the last century's prosody. This book is highly recommended for anyone who wants to understand what separates real poets from pretenders, and real poetry from the supremely irrelevant verse that clogs up most academic curriculums as the official canon. Above all, in the agonies and ecstasies of Bukowski's life, it shows the price real poets have to pay to do their work.

The author is usually described as a sniveling wordhorse driveling snapjacket snop. Despite his prestidigitration of some constraining elements, the verisimilitude avg. is very good (on average). Thanks!

I am a huge Bukowski fan but this book seemed to list stories and events in a very awkward manner. It had great detail and I learned a lot about Buk but if given the chance I would have rather have read 15 essays on Charles Bukowski then have to read this book again.

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