

## READER REVIEWS IN THEIR ENTIRETY

Note: Last names have been deleted.

Greg wrote:

Your new book is awesome!!!!!! I got it early this week and since then i've been not able to put it down, or stop thinking about it after i have put it down...Just want to let you know that i like this book and am going to tell all the people i know (that read) about this one.

Dear Allan,

I finished the book tonight and thought it brilliant. It gets a 4 and 3/4 out of 5 stars. The last 1/4 missing is due to a lack of quotes I can randomly rattle off to someone for the sake of humor which is key in my way of relating to friends. But then it was not that kind of book. When I am reading books that I thoroughly enjoy, once I get settled in, I am no longer reading the words but am encompassed in the world of which it is set. When I take a break there is a slightly dizzy phase shift as I go from where I have been to where I am now, this happens in your book.

Thanks for entertaining my randomness,  
Ian

P.S. Nothing that I have ever watched or read has gotten five stars

Hello. Jeffrey here. I'll be brief as I am sure you're getting swamped with emails right now.

Wow. I haven't had a marathon reading like that since I read Henry Miller's Rosy Crucifixion trilogy a decade ago. Started last night at 9 pm read until 4am. Up at 9am, more reading, met a friend for lunch at 1pm, read for a few more hours in Madison Square Park, back to the apartment for a few beers and more reading. I just finished the book now at 8 pm, NYC time.

I love it. All the accolades I'd like use sound worn so I won't used them. But I really loved the book. I found the Lisa events to be the most compelling. I can't possibly compare my experience to your but I have felt "it" and I did indeed have the misfortune of getting entangled with a sociopath for seven years (during some of which, she was married.) (No, not to me.) No limits, indeed. I know too well that sickening feeling. But the story certainly snapped the entire experience into focus for me and, in a way, helped (or is helping me) see what happened. So thank you for that

I also agree with your assertion of art being only one of two worthwhile pursuits in life. So I pursue it.

Thanks again,

Jeffrey

Allan,  
 as I read I feel:  
 heartfelt exposure  
 open book life OMG  
 hilarious LOL  
 better than TV/film watching

Cat

Allan -

Poetry! Thank you so much.

I sleep well (thanks to a healthy dose of Lunesta at bedtime), but since your book arrived on Monday I have been back to my pre-Lunesta obsessing and tossing and turning. While to someone else this sudden return of full-blown insomnia might not sound so healthy, I wouldn't trade the sleeplessness of the last several nights for anything.

Looping or no looping, I found your book to be entertaining, disturbing, and informative. It was quite frankly a painful read at times. But had you not been so willing to bare your soul and be so open with the with the events of your life, I don't think it would have worked. Your insight on world and regional events also affected me to such an extent that I'm ready to do some further reading (and to keep my mind open while I'm doing it).

Gaslighting. I had never heard the term, but your book has changed my life. Simple as that. And I'm not gaslighting you.

Thanks  
to your book, it's all so clear now... Your book affected me.

Hey Allan, hope all's well. I just wanted to let you know I got the new book a few days ago - I'm about halfway through and it's turning into a "can't put the book down" kind of read!! Right now I'm in the middle of the "Zero" outline with your comments, and I can't put it down because I can't wait to read how you finally gain your manhood back and dump that bitch!! It's painful as a guy reading some of the lies she threw at you! I wrote you one other time and you took offense at me calling you a democrat - my point was the world is so messed up (as so many things in your book attest to) it's almost not worth pointing out unless you can offer a solution. And I'm not sure there are any of those...Keep it up, thanks for the good read, and I hope to see Sean Penn playing you on the big screen soon.

Allan -

Got home last night and couldn't open my front door all the way. Something had wedged between the mail slot and the floor, in that chair-under-the-doorknob way. Turns out it was your book. Figures, you troublemaker.

I made a promise in my head to save this for an upcoming trip to New Zealand, but that lasted all of about 15 seconds. So far, so good, to the point where I was laughing out loud on the train ride into work this morning. Now you're staring at me from my desk, where your title pretty much sums up how I feel about my job. But as they say, the waves are always better down the beach.

Anyway, thanks for your blood.

Michael

> I am 169 pages in. So far, I'm fuggin hooked; this  
> is the good news. The bad news is, I've found 3  
> editing errors. My question now, is simple, or  
> maybe not: is my good news and bad news the same  
> thing?  
>  
> So far, I have heard the rythm of your writer's  
> voice change as compared with Zero's tempo and  
> individual piece performance. You've grown as a  
> writer and for that alone, I am grateful. I find  
> few things in life as intolerable (which is My  
> problem alone) listening to someone drone on and on  
> about the same bullshit which I'm supposed to find  
> interesting because they are wearing a new hat.  
> back to reading...hasta  
>  
> Dove

I haven't had time to check out Manufacturing consent because I have spent all of my free time the last few days reading Can't You Get Along With Anyone.

I think you will be happy to hear that your book was totally involving, I laughed, I cringed and I yelled at the book (you) several times. I normally don't yell at books (or you for that matter), but, you succeeded in getting me stirred up. Thanks, I think.

Allan,

I received my copy (Brooklyn, NY) and can barely manage to pull myself away from it to work. ie I'm lovin it so far. Additionally, I have personal interest in "Big Turkeys" as I have a small property there and have been a number of times. Scary thing is, I know the names you've mentioned in association with certain events. The tico you mention as being responsible for the death of Max Dalton is of particular concern to me as I believe he may be the father of a local acquaintance with whom I have done some business. The acquaintance I'm thinking of is about 28 or so, Rasta lifestyle surfer, dabbles in real estate and drives a late 80's early 90's Range Rover. Sound like a familiar character?

**Note from AW: He sure does sound like a familiar character. He's the guy on the Home Page, bottom left with the knife.**

Last time I was there, I met with this acquaintance and our first stop was to pick up a .38 revolver from a friend of his. This was a first for the gun, but about the 6th or 7th time I've hung out with this acquaintance, usually for a couple days at a time. Thoughts...

If you know this guy, I'd really like to hear your take on him. I'm only being so vague because I don't know who else could see this.

Anyway, thanks for listening to my rambling (if you get to read this). Bottom line...Love the book (as I

have the previous two). Only about 140 pages in, but can't wait to see where it goes.

Thanks,  
Matt

Allan!

Firstly, Im 200+ pages into your new read...where do I have to UPS the lil bastard to get you to sign it?!...heheh

Secondly, if I ever wrote to you that I could write a book.....I'll take it back!

Thirdly, (is that a word?)...brotherman, its good to be reading you again. You've done well, very well. Im really sorry for all the BS you've had to go through.

Your book has really hit a nerve in me simply for the simple us vs. them IE those that seek the truth no matter where it is, and those that wallow comfortably in their own warped and pre-manufactured reality thats fed to them daily.

Each time I read one of your books theres progression, HEAVY progression for you as a writer as far as I can tell, or Im simply getting older and becomming more like ya!

And if you EVER have probs with any of those shitball motherfuckers (My new fav phrase)...you have a safe place in Chicago, and a goofy as fuck, properly armed, 6'7" behemoth at your call.

You done well son...ya done well. I hope you have 1000 reprintings...

Peace,  
Brad

Daniel wrote:

Dear Allan

On page 376 of CYGAWA you write "Please trust me on something: The belief in untruths is the primary reason why the world is so fucked up. In fact, all the reasons why the world is so fucked-up depend on people believing untruths. I know that I'm right on this one thing."

As soon as I read this it reminded me of a passage in another book in which the author says pretty much the same thing. That:

"In order for us to maintain our way of living, we must, in a broad sense, tell lies to each other, and especially to ourselves. It is not necessary that the lies be particularly believable. The lies act as barriers to truth. These barriers to truth are necessary because without them many deplorable acts would become impossibilities. Truth must at all costs be avoided. When we do allow self-evident truths to percolate past our defenses and into our consciousness, they are treated like so many hand grenades rolling across the dance floor of an improbably macabre party. We try to stay out of harm's way, afraid that they will go off, shatter our delusions, and leave us exposed to what we have done to the world and ourselves, exposed as the hollow people we have become. And so we avoid these truths, these self-evident truths, and continue the dance of world destruction."

The quote is from "A language Older Than Words" by Derrick Jensen. I thought it would be interesting for you to know that another writer has the

same view.

Both books, to borrow your quote from Ambrose Bierce on p472, describe things

as they are, not as they ought to be, and I think this is the main reason why I

couldn't put either of them down.

All the best

Daniel

Allan,

Wow, all I can say is wow. I finished today and still...wow, 2 days to read it, thanks for keeping me up till 1 last night..hehe

Balls my friend, gigantic brass balls you have. I don't really know where to begin, I've checked the site, seen the pictures. Now all I can do is wait to hear of the outcomes.

Your writing at times freaks the living hell out of me, simply because you cut too damn fine to the bone. You will be getting calls for work for this, mainly from guys wondering how the hell you got into their heads so efficiently.

My "one and only", currently with my ex best friend, (Ironically named Rich as well) I've been chasing for 16 years.....uh huh. Stupidity knows no bounds. Especially when you find one that knows you better than you do sometimes. We still talk, see each other, party (behind his back etc) but reading what you wrote just was kind of your statement of slapping that guy in the head to me mentally, only mine was more "Holy shit, cant wait to get her to read THIS!"

Your comment on hoping that people will, eventually, just want to be true because its the right thing to do is the resounding feeling I see today in the good ol

US of A.

As I was reading your words, the one singular thought that came to mind wasn't words....it was a sound. The sound of a WWII Stuka in full dive mode. The shrieking keeps getting louder and louder, the dive steeper, and only at the last second you pull out. That's your book to me Bro. The longest powerdive pullout I've ever heard of.

Im glad I was there for you with my last msg, because you're going to be with me for a loooong time, have been since I bought Banditos at the bookstore in Barrington IL all those years ago. (I was one of 800 then, now Im 1 of 1400) I DID want to know who AC Weisbecker was...regardless of him not wanting me to know, best decision my 14 yr old ass ever made at the time.

Now Im off for a post-book J of something really fine.

Pack a fat one tonight for me, sit back, make some popcorn, and wait for the fireworks. I know that it's still several months away from general release...calm before the storm.

Brad

PS. Books on the way for signing next week. Smile Allan, you did it.

I can't put the fucking book down. I did not expect this at all. A memoir? Yeah right. Every ten pages I get on the phone to tell anyone who will listen what fucking riot the new book is.

I need more copies!

By they way you hit some chords with me, for example your use of defenestration - we used to throw the word around all the time, for the same reason I suppose you included it; it's so fucking useless it serves a greater purpose. Good for a laugh.

Also, if you give a shit, I forgot you mentioned anything about threatening a famous actor until you mentioned it again. I'm telling you, this is laugh-out-loud material. People are embarrassed by me on the trains.

don't let it go to your head, it may only be that I had a pharmaceutical night last night.

Chris

Hey Allan,

I received CYGAWA on Sat. and just finished it last night. I basically spent the last 4 days power reading it (with the exception of Sunday which I spent traveling to Philly to see the Giants beat the Eagles).

I really really enjoyed it. It was surprisingly different than I expected from having read excerpts on your site, but in a good way. I really liked all the talk of sociopaths. I have been convinced for years now that one of my brothers is a sociopath and now after reading your book I am sure of it. I could really relate because like you honesty is extremely important to me and yet at the same time I am forced to deal with a pathological liar on a daily basis.

Ok, that's about it. I am gonna take a few days to decompress before moving on to the online appendix, but just wanted to drop you a note with a few kind words. You went through a shitstorm to get this book out and as a reader it is much appreciated.

Take care,

Fucking really good book Allen.

Jerry here in Kona Hawaii book.

I read Banditos and Zero and loved them. This tops the charts and I'm just to chapter 7.

CHARGE!

You have a winner. Thanks for taking us all along for the ride.

I'm 60, sailed and surfed all over the world, moved some sizable weight by sea and survived enough mind altering drugs to zonk a lab of rats. I may even be as sanely demented as you. The best thing, (besides breathing), is I can still surf and read this great story your laying down.

CONGRATULATIONS!

MAHALO & ALOHA,

Jerry

Dear Allan,

I recieved my copy of the book today at around 5:00. Apart from breaks for homework and some food I have been unable to put it down. I read the first seventy-five pages on the beach which I felt was appropriate, watching the bad bad waves we had in South Carolina today. I just passed page 108 and had to come to a full stop to drop you a note. I am not a writer but consider myself a brilliant reader and yet I have never been able to describe why I like certain things that I like to read. On Page 108 you told me something I already knew without knowing that I did. A good book is something that you read, and want to read again to hear the words in your mind.

Thanks for that,

Ian

all the way is all the way. I was actually on chapter 17 when I was inspired to say right fucking on. I haven't read anything this good since..... Banditos. (There have been some good Surfers Journal stories but G rated.

Aloha

Jerry

Allan, I am at page 379 and found a typo. I know you love to hear from the anal

retentive fact checkers of the world so here I is. My mom passed September

29, 2001, the day, really the night. I just finished "In Search of Captain Zero", but I am afraid to read it again, (I was going to say re-read, but I

knew  
 you would,will, have a field day with me) as something bad will happen  
 to  
 someone else.I should just go buy a couple hundred copies not read them  
 thereby  
 making you happy without warrant.In fact ,( let me be completely frank  
 is my  
 favorite phrase these days )I plan on never finishing this book,I look  
 smart  
 with a book in my bathroom.I hope this book somehow gets to "Imus In  
 The  
 Morning".He would love it. I am going to end by simply saying  
 "thank you "  
 I am in Nags Head,N.C.,"not as big as a barn door, nor as deep as a  
 well,but  
 '.will do" .Mercutio after being stabbed said it best.your fan ( I  
 could surf  
 circles around you,what a classic surf line)Paul

Hi Allen,

Still reading away at light speed(for me) and the book is awesome.  
 I've  
 left on a short get away with the family and I forgot to pack the  
 book....fuck....Can't read anymore til Tuesday. I've already recomended  
 it to  
 one of my bro's...Another guy our age who, I feel, will totally enjoy  
 your  
 story. He's one of the guys i escape reality with every few  
 months...Hangin on  
 boats, tellin lies, try'n to get laid (him not me...he's a player, I'm  
 a beer  
 drinker) Anyway, the book went from being real funny to real kinda  
 tense and  
 suspenseful. I'm about half way through and can't wait to pick it up  
 again.i  
 hope you're feeling well.Later, Bob, Naples Fl.

Hi Allan,

Just wanted to let you know I received my copy of the new book on Monday. I've gotten to about page 150 or so, and the stuff about Lisa is blowing my mind. I went through a similar experience about 7 years ago with a similar chick (also Italian, also really hot) who also exuded "ultimate femaleness" so this stuff is really hitting home. My story is a little different in that I ended up marrying her and then found out she banged some other guy at which point I packed my bags and got out. (The marriage didn't even last a year.) Good news though, I met a great woman about 3 years ago, we have a 3 month old daughter and are getting married in a few weeks.

Back to the book though... I am enjoying all the footnotes and I actually like the "looping" too. I will write back when I'm done with the book and give you more feedback, now I need to finish my work so I can get to one of my favorite spots a few miles north of Santa Cruz to enjoy this new Northwest/Southwest combo swell that hit today. One more thing, thanks for putting my name in the back of the book, I got a kick out of that.

Thanks for writing the book, I am really enjoying it.

Be well,

Steve

Allan:

Thank you for writing your new book!

So I am a little bummed about the delay (please read on) in the much anticipated release so I pack up the kids and off we go to Barnes and Noble for a little reading material. You know to get me through until your book arrives. This is Friday night. I purchase Bob Dylan's book *Chronicles*, a book by some cat titled *Blink*, and a few CD's from the music store down the street (Jerry Garcia @ Keen College and Willie Nile "Streets of New York", both are great) I am a few Chapters deep in each.

I come home from work and wahlaa your book is on the kitchen table. My kids assume anything not standard mail is theirs.

So I tell my six and eight year old your story. Sort of! The travel part anyway. It is a little tough to describe *Cosmic Banditos* to 6 or 8 year olds. Hell it is hard to describe to adults. Captain Zero to them is now a book about a guy who goes on a surfing trip. I have to leave it at that. I put them in bed as early as possible and read my ass off.

I don't read all that fast but get through a hundred or so pages. The

reason I tell you my little story is I had plenty of options in the reading material and listening material departments. I think I had trouble sleeping last night but it's too early in the day to tell. I like

the looping. I like the book. I like your style. It was worth every goddamn second of the wait.

I think I'll take the tomorrow off and read the rest of the book. I also hope the two storms/hurricanes churn up some nice waves for you at Ditch Plains.

Thank you again for writing this book. Damn it's good.

Zach

> > Brian wrote:  
 > > Almost through with the book...  
 > > Seriously, I have a job and family and wish I could  
 > > chuck everything until I'm  
 > > finished with the book. Goddamn it, when is Allan  
 > > going to finally get the  
 > > drop on this bitch?????? Every other human on Earth  
 > > would have kicked her to  
 > > the curb, but you are one tenacious bastard! I  
 > > suspect you have an unhealthy  
 > > appetite for digging out the truth, even though at  
 > > times it might be hard to  
 > > believe there is such a thing as the truth - your  
 > > book has me thinking about  
 > > that concept. Imagine how easy it is for the media  
 > > or Bush or whoever to  
 > > distort the actions of nations when you consider how  
 > > long Lisa could keep up  
 > > the charade between just two people!! Wow!  
 > >  
 > > My main question is, where the hell do I find the  
 > > picture of the break in the  
 > > hedge between your house and Barry's? - I've got to  
 > > see the picture of the  
 > > tiles placed on the ground. Also the other  
 > > documents, etc. mentioned in the  
 > > book? Please don't tell me these things are

> > fictional, Allan...  
 > >  
 > > Take care, loving the book.

The book came in the mail last week, and i was a finally able to go home and get it last night ( long story), but as expected so far i am super stoked about it!!! Your witty style and easy reading did not disappoint... Thank you!!!  
 Thanks again...  
 One Love,  
 Tim

Allan --  
 Just a quick note to say I've received the book and I'm hooked and happy... enjoying this new, even more free mode of \_expression your writing has evolved into. I, for one, say right on to everything you're saying re: hollywood assholes and bush & his bullies. Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead....

Never let the assholes get you down... keep writing!!

--Steve

I am around page 165 of the new book now. I have listened to you fret over your relationship with Lisa for a lot of pages. Not knowing what is coming as the pages flip , I'm thinking if you don't dump each other first, then you are probably a perfect match. When you told Lisa that you thought about her with other guys and she had an orgasm- I laughed. I even read it again just for kicks., Maybe I just enjoy watching someone squirm sometimes. Nothing personal of course. I suppose its really the "looping" that I enjoy about how its written and how with that you push and pull the reader around- essentially manipulating how we feel about the other characters and you and what could be more fun! These pages are moving a little slower for me, but only because I find myself having to pay attention so I don't miss something that will loop around 5 chapters later and really screw me up.

I will probably get a lot read over the weekend, but I may try to stretch it out a while.

Larry

Hey Allan,  
 I'm a fan of your work, and I'm reading "Can't You Get Along....", which I got on Monday (9/18) in Richmond, VA. I read a lot (and plan on writing a book someday\*), and I am always pleased when the story/premise of a book is not all that interesting, yet I still can't put it down. In other words, I'm not dying to see what happens next in your memoir, but I am completely entertained

by you, your style of writing, your (sometimes crazy) thoughts. As I'm sure you know, some books are a chore to get through. Some are too good to stop reading. Most are somewhere in between. "Can't You Get Along With Anyone" is one that I read at night until I can't keep my eyes open, and then pick up the minute my eyes open in the morning (or afternoon, whenever I wake up). I am a musician and a songwriter, and for some reason, this book motivates me. Not sure what it motivates me to do, or why it motivates me. I just feel motivated...or maybe inspired.

Pura Vida,  
Hart

Allan,

I have HUGE expectations of this book after being enthralled word by word with your other works. So far, this piece is everything I anticipated. Thanks for continuing to create outstanding prose in a time where most writers only relay shit, errors and more shit.

-Eric  
Ocean City, Maryland

I think that's a fair deal. I started it yesterday, read till about 1am, couldn't put it down. some good stuff. I can send it when I'm done in a couple of days.

Thanks, bert

Allan

Am enjoying the new book and laughing about how much fun you must have had broiling your old editor.

Almost through with the book...  
Seriously, I have a job and family and wish I could chuck everything until I'm finished with the book. Goddamn it, when is Allan going to finally get the drop on this bitch????? Every other human on Earth would have kicked her to the curb, but you are one tenacious bastard! I suspect you have an unhealthy

appetite for digging out the truth, even though at times it might be hard to believe there is such a thing as the truth - your book has me thinking about that concept. Imagine how easy it is for the media or Bush or whoever to distort the actions of nations when you consider how long Lisa could keep up the charade between just two people!! Wow!

My main question is, where the hell do I find the picture of the break in the hedge between your house and Barry's? - I've got to see the picture of the tiles placed on the ground. Also the other documents, etc. mentioned in the book? Please don't tell me these things are fictional, Allan...

Take care, loving the book.

Allan, First of all I started reading your new book that arrived in the mail the other day and so far so good. It keeps getting better the more I read.  
Pura Vida, David

started reading your book by the way...just wanted to let you know it's fantastic so far...well done once again.

-leon

Allan,  
I can not imagine that this has any impact on the glance of reading this...hopefully it sends a good vibe...I got hooked on your books through reading about you in a surf mag...

I can't wait to give up the hollywood

lifestyle....getting to the point...coming from a world that is so plastic...it is so nice to actually read material that is so honest...hell it is hard to come close to that in everyday life...I haven't gotten that far into the newest book...but already i have to give you credit for being a real man....it takes a certain trait...be it sane or insane to just state the truth..of course the other choices that were made....were you ever scared of what could happen? Taking a chance of spending the rest of your life behind bars?? Or is it just being young and bold? Thank you for not being afraid of being real and honest...doesn't happen much....

I agree, they seem like good people from your writing, lazy at worst. I just enjoy the conflict (I'm a sicko who enjoys defending criminals), and I'm sorry it's nonfiction and happening to you. I finished the book - just couldn't put it down. Am I the first? Excellent work. The ending was perfect. Yet, I have not checked out the website (hold on...) to look for an update on your life now (found it).

I'll stop rambling now. Thanks for all the insight and enjoyment, even if at your expense. I'm proud of you.

-Ashby

on another note I did start the new book last night and have to say that something about your books make me want to just keep reading and reading. I get to the end of one chapter and say to myself, one more then i'll go to sleep, alot of chapters later, I stayed up way to late an am paying for it today.

I like the flashbacks to Captain Zero, makes me want to re-read it.

take care.

Jeff

Hey brother,

Just wanted to send my congratulations on the new book. Started reading my ARC two days ago, a handful

of chapters into it, and so far it's nothing short of outstanding. :)

Rock out,

/Micheal

Allan,

I recieved my copy the other day. I'm just getting into part two, and as you say it's a bit loopy but I'm still reading. I must say your tolerance for your woman is something else. I just read about the two surf sessions at Pavones with Mr thirty something.

I would have snapped a gasket for sure. I read Zero in three or four sittings and loved it. I also rreally enjoyed Cosmic Banditos. I'll let you know what I think when I finish. Can't you get along with anyone.

Thanks

Gary Augustine

Hey Allan -

No politics here. You and I agree - Bush is a dickhead and it's not worth rehashing right now.

BUT - I got your book on Monday (in Colorado, not bad work for those POMS!), and I'm on, what, Chapter 6 of Part II. You fucker, I think I blew a job interview today because I was up so late last night reading your damn book (that's just my clever way of shirking responsibility for not really wanting the job and sabotaging myself). I'm liking it. A lot, actually. You don't dissapoint.

Kind regards,  
Roger

On a pleasant note: Rec'd The Book over the weekend & am well into it. Really enjoy your stuff & especially the way the words flow. I could never, ever, write a book.

Since I'm only part way thru, I don't know how it came out with Lisa but with all due respect – how did you get to be so old (my age) & still be so dumb about women? Admittedly, she's a special case (hard to imagine anyone screwing around like that after they're about 25-30) but my God man, she was playing you & the rest of the cast like a violin. On the plus side, only an extremely

intelligent person could pull all that off, even with the gaps/holes that you ID'd. She must be something else.

Doug

Hi Allan,  
 I am reading CYGAWA. I am on page 218. I am enjoying it very much. I liked your other two books and I like your pull-no-punches style and I like CR. I find it ironic, however, that a man of your experience (I'm 46) in a country teeming with beautiful, available young women (albeit mucha prostitutas) is (was) so hung up on an American woman, who was/is playing you like a fiddle. I feel that you have spent too much time (in your book) agonizing over this "bitch" (loose term). I am enjoying all the rest of the book (might be also a little too much obsessing over the CFH editor). Anyway, I will get right back into the book after this email. I like the real squatter politics, and etc. You are likely the first to expose (from first hand experience) genuine tico attitudes/actions/politics/crimes/conspiracies. That is something very new. All The Best To You. I hope you are well.  
 Dave  
 PS I am honored to have my name presented in your book.

got the book in so fl a couple of days ago have started in on it and as you said " i would find it interesting" with our past having been down in pavones way back thanks  
 duffy

I'm on page 120 of your new book. I'm stressed out so much that I can only take a few chapters at a time. I can't understand how you put up with all the bull shit without picking up an AR-15, putting on a flak jacket, and going "hunting." With all the blood you must have shed writing this one is there going to be anything left for another

Dear AC,

I wanted to send a thanks to you for writing CYGAWA?

A couple more things...

I'm up to chapter five in the book and couldn't be more enthralled, but I've got a few questions/comments/and one gripe

First the gripe...the paper that CYGAWA? is printed on is too thin, to the point that the words from the next page are bleeding through and creating kind of a blur on the page your trying to read. I hope this has to do with the whole ARC thing and that subsequent versions will have a thicker paper, either way the book (so far) is a real screamer so bloody eyes and double vision are a small price to pay.

Comments:

You are a fucking madman and I love it. No one and I do mean no one, has your mix of obvert self confidence, heightened awareness and bold bravado to bring up getting gang-raped in a Panamanian whorehouse then in the next breath (literally its 6 pages later) proclaim that you've found the love of your life...and even going so far as to include a photo...like I said before you're a madman and in turn I couldn't be more pleased.

Also, I agree that writing is difficult (this email alone has taken up the better part of an hour and half) and that people who've never written anything should shut the fuck up.  
Yours in longboarding,

Max wrote:

```
> > Just finished the book in two days. Great shit! I
> > was worried a little about the
> > Lisa relationship stuff (too long at times, at
```

> > first) but yowza, I'll be damned  
> > if it didn't "Tie the room together" in relation to  
> > all the weird jungle crime  
> > "I couldn't make this shit up" noir hoopla that was  
> > goin on.  
> > thanks for another neato read.  
> > Best  
> > -Max

Hey,

Love your DSP's. Always enjoy the hell out of them.

My buddy in LA is about half way through the book and is really stoked about it. Has nothing but good things to say so far. Can't wait to get my copy.

eric

Allan,

got it on Monday, just finished part 4 (p. 334) a minute ago. As always, very entertaining and insightful. I thought I was the only one who so meticulously debunked peoples' lies in my head with simple logic and physics, so everything about Lisa has been wildly entertaining to me, even if at your expense (sorry). As I read, sometimes I begin to think that you are utterly crazy and wonder why the hell you would think other people would want to read about your well-founded paranoia. But then, as I continue to think and read, I realize, through self-reflection(!), that I am just the same. I love it. You could've maybe cut down on the Lisa-lying stuff (proper hyphen?) as you could still get your important point across with all its vigor. I'm just afraid it might alienate or bore some portion of yor readership. They are not all sickos like you and I. It's great work, and here are some other notes before I get back to reading it.

-Ashby

Got the book, I'm in Philly. Can't put it down! I love being able to relate to Banditos and Zero whenever mentioned...so yeah it helped that I

read them.

I think you are a funny freakin dude.

Thanks for all your perspectives,

ok, I am about half way through "can't you get along with anyone," and to tell you the truth I can't put it down.

Since I have been a part of this since day one I guess it makes it that much more interesting. And I have been in a relationship very similar with an alpha ultra insecure female that needs constant attention from the opposite sex to remind her that she is still hot. Included in this relationship were lots of lies and cheating and plenty of great sex. So I can relate to the gut wrench you felt (feel.)

I would have never included her in that land deal, what were you thinking, besides this is one way to get a hot young chick to move in with me?

But what the fuck, you didn't (haven't so far) held anything back and are calling people out left and right. And I don't blame you, shitball motherfuckers need to be held accountable.

It is going to be wild to see how they (the shitball motherfuckers) respond.

J.B.

Allan,

I'm into the second section of your book and really enjoying it. I have two problems with it so far. The first is that it seems to jump right into a lot of details right away, but I'm getting used to that and learning to enjoy it. Not sure how I feel about Lisa right now, but I imagine that's your point. You didn't seem to know how you felt about Lisa for a while either. Am I right? I also don't follow the G.W.Bush sitcom very closely so I find that a bit much for my taste. But I don't disagree with your distrust . . . I just don't care for the details. My general sense of disgust/distrust is enough for me. Not that it'll stop me from reading, of course.

The other little problem with your book isn't something I think you're expecting. You see, I was so excited to get it and the first couple chapters pulled me in so deeply, I set a large glass of milk down on the edge of my shelf next to my bed. This is unusual, as my eye and hand coordination has been trained heavily by video games in my youth.

Being that gravity wasn't quite as tired as I was and was keeping a close eye on the glass, the milk ended up all over my carpeted floor. So, if you wouldn't mind, could you send me some carpet cleaner? Your writing skills are clearly to blame!

Seriously though, as I was cleaning up the spilled milk, I decided I would have to tell you about it. I've been a fan since *Cosmic Banditos*, a book that I rarely ever have as I lend it out to someone else as soon as I get it back, and am really enjoying reading about your adventures in Hollywood and Pavones (and Montauk and the Carribean and . . .).

So, thank you for the book and for starting off my winter reading schedule with a bang. For the rare bits that don't interest me about it, there are ten other bits that I love. Keep up the good work and I hope you continue to get great response from your readers.

Hey Allan. As per your request to those of us who have started reading your book.... I am about 11 chapters in and absolutely love the book. I have found myself laughing out loud on quite a few occasions. I love the ripping of the Demented Editor! I usually only get a chance to read during my lunchbreak from the grind, but I may have to shelf some other obligations to read more at night. On another note, my new wife, Kim, decided to pick up Captain Zero a week or so ago. She is an avid-reader (you like my senseless and utterly-inappropriate use of hyphens? See -I AM reading your new book!) and honestly could not put the book down during her nightly reading sessions. She kept saying "I hope he finds Christopher" to which I replied " Careful what you wish for, honey".

Allan,

I received the book here in Washington (NW) 4 days ago, so as you can see the shipping was efficient. I've been reading it ever since, every spare minute. I've even

temporarily put down "American Prometheus", the Robert Oppenheimer biography, in favor of your book!

I can't say yet that yours is the better book (ha ha), but it's certainly got my attention. What's struck me so far are the emotional tugs I've felt while reading about your travails with Lisa. Years ago (at least 25 years now...) my first girlfriend did many of the same things, and even looked a bit like Lisa. What's interesting is that your book instantly brought out the same feelings I had then, and I almost felt as if I was back in those times. Your writing and clarity has done that.

So, yes, I'm enjoying your book. I'm only in the first third still, but it's certainly been worth every second of time reading it.

Thanks, and I'll give you more input when I'm done!

Walter

Max wrote:

Just finished the book in two days. Great shit! I was worried a little about the Lisa relationship stuff (too long at times, at first) but yowza, I'll be damned if it didn't "Tie the room together" in relation to all the weird jungle crime "I couldn't make this shit up" noir hoopla that was goin on. thanks for another neato read. BTW- I think I might have the great honour of being the only person on the long thank you list to not have a last name start with a CAP. Groovy!  
Best  
-Max

Dear Allan,

As for your book, I received it Monday and have already gotten

through  
 it. (I have already started to re-read.) Allan, you are the Real  
 Thing. Right. But all bullshit aside, it is really quite an accomplishment. As  
 a reader I could feel a palpable sense of catharsis knowing that the  
 book actually made it to print given all the obstacles you encountered  
 along the way.  
 For me one of the most interesting parts was reading about the  
 emotional rollercoaster that was your summer 2005.  
 August

On a final note I would like to re-iterate that the book is a real  
 accomplishment. The way you describe your dealings with Lisa hits so  
 close to home that it is frankly very hard for me to read. However this is a  
 complement to you as a writer as you really have conveyed the absolute sense of  
 frustration and smoldering rage that comes with dealing with such  
 people. The final chapter is just;Ä cold. Cold in a good way. Cold as in ;Èthis  
 is real life and you can criticize it, deny it or understand it but it  
 is what actually happened - a self consistent truth.;É If only we could get  
 that kind of brutal honesty about what really happened on 9/11. Congratulations on  
 some really good work Allan.

Sincerely

Hey Nutcase (trademark r)... I see your point about  
 "nonfiction" not being in the dictionary... but don't  
 you think you're coming down a little hard on  
 "defenestration"? I admit, it's hard to swing it into  
 everyday conversation, but when you do... oh man,  
 that's a food feeling. Formication on the other  
 hand... I have yet to be able to find use for [a  
 tactile hallucination involving the belief that  
 something is crawling on the body or under the skin.].  
 see if you can squeeze "callipygian" into a normal  
 conversation; chicks dig it (not really).

why am i bothering you with this? well... it's probably late where you are, and seeing as your book as kept me up late three nights in a row... well, you get the picture.

i like it so far. thanks.

~B

Allan

No time to type – around the 280 page mark – fitting reading around my dead end gov job (when Im not skiving off for a surf) and two kids.

So far:

Up to page 60 – unsure

60 to right now – well hooked – looking forward to bed time, well the nightly reading session before hand.

Appreciate the link to the 9/11 – it clarifies alot

Live, love, laugh

Stuart

So- I dove into your book and now at page 65 (*Lisa puts Mauricio in his place*) it is already worth the wait and whatever I paid for my copies. You can stop fretting about that now. The chapters are like potato chips- I just kept devouring them until, like the Pringles can, I just had to put them away and leave the room so I could get some sleep for my date with the dawn patrol. Each chapter providing me a reminder or entryway back in time to something I did, said, read as though it was written to me. The scolding about talking about writing (guilty), Blue Highways and William Least Heat Moon took me back to my days at East Carolina University and how his overnight stay on campus ran him into the sorry ass campus police, or that story about the Police Officer at the unnamed beach town and your mother. Having lived through a stint as a town manager in Topsail Beach, NC I had visions of my former employees and similar chained accesses that likley exist all up and down all coasts. The common element of course is the people and I suppose at the end of the day, despite the fact you can't stand a jerk no matter where he lives, the good people that surprise you are everywhere too if you let yourself find them.

Looking forward to the rest of the book and as long as it doesn't bore you, I will keep letting you know what I think.

Take care.

Larry

Hi Allan,

Received my book on Monday. I haven't gotten very far, but I do like what I've read to this point. I've learned to read and re-read your stuff a bit slower than usual. Subtext and such easily eludes me. (That's a compliment.)

Steve

First and foremost, i received CYGAWA and i am loving what i read!

Secondly, i appreciate that your life doesnt revolve around writing emails to all of us, but im glad for one that you started! In fact, the recent stuff about 9/11 needs to be said - how can people be so naive? Anyway, ive started a DSP update in the office - spreading the word - so to speak! So please keep the DSP's coming as they brighten up my otherwise dull day!

thanks again.. kieron

Glad it seems to lessen the stress, so maybe this will lessen it more. If your book is accurate about what you were paid for the movie rights to "Zero" I believe you got screwed.

I'm sure you understand the economics of Hollywood and felt like it was a good time to take the money and run, but I really think "Zero" is a literary classic and you sold cheap. Whether or not the people whose opinions count in literature would say the same, I don't know.

I'm fairly well-read and through the years have loved Vonnegut, Hunter S., Kerouac, Bukowski, etc. You're in their league. I've read all the surf shit as well: Dan Duane (Caught Inside - a damn good read); Kem Nunn, etc. Sophomoric compared to "Zero" with the exception of Caught Inside, but "Zero" is better.

"Can't Get Along" is a brave piece of work - you really hung your ass out there. I couldn't do what you do, and I thank you for doing it.

Don't stress it, Allan, and if you're in the LA/Orange County area and need a break, send me an email, I'll loan you a board and we'll go slide a couple waves at San Onofre.

I'll tell you this much. It took catching my woman lying to me and doing some of the same shit to me, to get my act together. I got on a plane out of West Palm Beach one way to L.A. with a hundred bucks in my pocket. That was seventeen years ago. I'm now married own my house and have a family and a good job. and still surfing. I'm going to dive back into the book now and see what else she put you through

Gary

I believe that I have a problem with your tautology:

“Notwithstanding evidence to the contrary, people believe whatever makes them feel most comfortable about themselves and their world.”

If this was true, you would only believe what you have written if this made you feel more comfortable about you and your world. In other words, believing in the unscrupulous nature of government officials and prominent magazines makes you feel more comfortable.

But then again, there are exceptions to every rule.

Cheers,

Tim  
Chattanooga, TN

P.S. I am about half way through "Can't you get along with anyone?", and I am finding it a very enjoyable read. Good job.

allan:

so far i am 15 chapters into the book --it's a fun read so far---hope it keeps it up....as to the nutty theorys, i enjoy reading you more on the surf travel stories and epic of writing a book.....please leave the nuts their own stuff to chew on ;-) good surf down here in jersey this week---but , i have much school stuff to do

chuck

But who needs this shit..particularly when I may have been one of the first people on the West Coast to get your book, like over a week ago direct from Humdrumming...and dove right in, reading and reading...not what I expected, exactly [cowabunga, dude; the fucking boat epic is one of my all time favorite stories]...but, on the other hand [clever lad that you are], I couldn't put this one down, either...and it's not just from my own personal experience in these kinda deals...though they did wring back not so fond frustrated memories of my own, your looping voyages are doozeys...anyway, I think you did a great job with some pretty sleazy material [that's your life, bub, heh heh], and I hung in there for the whole thing, laughing, gritting teeth, and digging the way the structure was sometimes the subject and vice versa, whatever that means...oftentimes that alone was just hilarious. On the other hand, you do come off as a sort of nutcase with cause [in my case the sociopath was a writer, and she was taping ME at times], but boy do I understand the cause...it's all different, though, and let's not go there. Suffice it to say you probably drove her pretty nuts, too, and she was just showing her love in the only way she knew how...by trying to destroy you. Well, like the man said, "living well is the best revenge"...hope your health is improving.

But, anyway, thanks for the good and crazy work..

Best

Mike

Im reading the book! ...and love it so far! Herein lies the problem. I am on page 325 and cannot force myself to read "The Horror" that will surely transpire on page 326!!! I can't do it! I have been in the same situation-one where I KNOW the other is a cheating bitch. Reading your words makes me relive those moments and I cannot bare it! Tell me something, anything, to make me read on....Give me a light at the end of the "Fucking Tunnel"....

over half way through your book...laughing my ass off. im going to write you again later about that, i mean the timing of your book, you know when you read something that just comes at the right time... anyway im writing you now because well im bragging about my surf trip to my future home far beyond the end of any road. im so fuckin stoked im tellin everyone...check out the google pic ive attached minus coordinates sorry. AND ive got a fresh 6'6" round pin curing as we speak, you know the feeling.

charlie

Allan hi,

Hope this finds you and hope it finds you well.

Just finished CYGAWA and wanted to write you a short note saying how much I enjoyed it and how much some of the themes of the book resonate with stuff I have been thinking about. (Whenever one writes something, I guess, it sits within and is informed by one's own context but when it is read it read from within the reader's context which means that what I takes as themes may, in fact, not exist in your context).

As well as the parallels with the uncertainty principle I think there are parallels with Russell's Paradox:

<http://plus.maths.org/issue20/xfile/index.html>

[http://www.redpython.co.uk/Paradoxes/russell\\_paradox.htm](http://www.redpython.co.uk/Paradoxes/russell_paradox.htm)

... which arises when something refers to itself and is therefore related to "This sentence is false". Self-reflexive sentences always fuck you up. So a book which refers to itself or a memoir where one of the themes is writing the book itself has relation in some way to the paradox. Russell's Paradox forced many mathematicians to rip up years of work and belief structures and retire to the pub.

Self reflection is also the theme of Goedel, Escher, Bach (each of whom (who?) I their work used self-

reflexion or recursion as a central framework). The book is a ramble but an entertaining one – the thesis is that self-reflexion is what leads to consciousness.

It's a weird thing, I guess, to wish for you to go through torture but if that is what it takes to get the next book out ... :)

Later,

:bM

Allan,

I'm about finished with your new book. It's a hoot. Your remarks about Lisa being in the PR business reminded me of a joke. I thought you might enjoy it. Here it is:

A woman goes into the gynecologist.

The gynecologist looks at her chart and then remarks that he is surprised to learn that she has been married three times but is still a virgin.

The woman confirms it. She indeed has been married three times, but remains a virgin.

The gynecologist asks the women how this can possibly be true. She explains:

"The first time I was married, my husband got shipped out to Vietnam on our wedding night and he never returned"

"The second time I was married, my husband realized he was gay on our wedding night and the marriage was never consummated."

"And the third time, I married a public relations man."

The doctor said he didn't get it. He wanted to know the connection between her virginity and being married to a public relations man.

She explained: He just sat on the edge of the bed saying "Oh baby, it's gonna be good. Just wait baby, it's gonna be good."

The punch line to this joke "Oh baby, it's gonna be good" always runs through my head when someone starts jacking me around and making promises.

Later,

Brent in Idaho.

Just so you know I have started to read your new book. Wasn't sure when I was going to get to it, since I have a couple of other books going...that I haven't read in months. Oh, well.

So, I started your new book the day after I got it. I was excited! I'm not very far into the book being the slow reader that I am. However, I can tell you this: I have read your book nearly every day since receiving it. Man, that's like 3 or 4 days in a row of book reading! I stay up late reading it and usually late night reading in bed is a great way to help me fall asleep, but not with your book. Neat trick! Anyway, even though I just got a newer and bigger TV to watch, I can't wait to go home from work and crack open your book and read some more.

One thing that is a criticism is that there are too many footnotes in my humble opinion. I mean I like the additional information, but I found myself reading along about to turn the page and hoping there wouldn't be more footnotes to read. It takes away my reading flow, which as I said is slow. Maybe it's that way in the beginning of the book. I know I don't have to read the footnotes, but then they are there to be read.

Thanks!

Harold

Hey Allan,

I am so stoked. Got your book (received two...might have bought two, might have got a freebie...don't know) just lovin' it. Loved the bit about the editor on C-SPAN. your Dad, your Mom.

yeah, your footnotes are a hassle. But, that's YOU my man, that's you.....

Let me say "thank you" for expressing your insecurities (in your e-mails) even as you boldly go where so many of us wish (literally and figuratively).

Having said that: Keep on doing what your doing. You're expressing thoughts and experiences that, (for me at least) many of us have had and have not been able to express. This goes from

surfing to the warrior ways of the outlaw days...(a rhyme? oh my...) Much of the old days I still deny....with good reason. To me you are brave.

#

On a happier note, I gave your book to my writing girl to read and tho she's not a huge reader, she texted me to say it has her riveted! She is going thro a divorce with a psycho. I will transcribe the text here:

I have been so enraptured in allan's book. It's cool, clever and so damn funny! It's also healing my anger, turning it into humour! I'm loving it. I think it's genius and hope it does well. I want the liars of this world to be humiliated!

And then she goes on to say that she googled the traits of a psychopath (clearly taken from your book and sociopath) and discovered that her husband shared many many traits with the psychos. He is certainly a pathological liar.

Allan,

I may not agree with you on all of your political & Sept. 11th views, but I just wanted to let you know I have not been able to put your new book down. You are one hell of a writer, and I know this might be premature but I can not wait for you to follow up with another master piece.

Justin

Allan,

I just got the new book in yesterday's mail. I'm two chapters in, and I love it. You delivered. Thank you.

Steve

Allan,

The conspiracy theory stuff is interesting. The things you bring up barely scratch the surface of the immense bullshit and evil that goes on. The problem is most people are more comfortable living in a fantasy world, a subject you deal with in your book.

I just got the book and have only read the first 50 or so pages. I really like it, its interesting, entertaining, and has some very serious commentary on our society, and I'm just beginning to read it. The book reads a lot like the phenomenon of the forehead bleeding. I really don't know how to describe what I'm talking about here. I read the book very quickly and very clearly and my mind doesn't wander. I love to read and usually my mind wanders while I'm reading, even during great books, for some reason this book has me totally focused when I'm reading it, its almost like I'm more alert or something while reading it and I can't figure out why. Maybe by the time I'm done I'll know.

Howard

Just through the first 13 chapters and I almost cant put it down. Great stuff.. Wendy Hubbert must be the editor.

Yep, we are among those who are sucked in to your book. I started to tell you this yesterday, but really \*should\* be doing the rewrites on this project management textbook I'm working on. harumph. Instead, I hide in the bathroom and read your chapters as snacks, found the clinton remarks provocative, editor rant funny, commend you on being a sex god... my husband, also a surfer, also a sex god... could there be a relationship?... We still haven't (bought or) read capt zero, will get to it eventually... yer fans are legion.  
regards,  
AC

Hey Mr Allen,

On a lighter note, Your new book thus far is great. Ive only made it to chapter nine, but have been laughing all the way! (except the part about your father, not funny, in fact very sad and im sorry) I love the story about your editor, and the piece about Clinton and Sudan was hillarious, but not without some sadness as well.

I have no idea what happened down there in Pavones, and i must say its a bit upseting. But I cant wait to find out.

Take Care,  
jeff

Hi Allan,

Well i received "Can't You Get Along With Anyone?" last week monday, so a week ago. I finished it on Friday and i have to say that it is one brilliant piece of work. Balls. That is what it takes to write shit like that and still go to print with it. Not only to put yourself out there physically with the info. you wrote about but emotionally with the shit with Lisa. That takes balls man. I honestly could not put the book down. I was in the middle of Moby Dick when i received your book. I immediately put Moby Dick down and read your book. I am glad you decided to include everything, ie the Max Dalton investigation section. Very interesting to read about and I can probably say scary as shit to live. Again, that took some big ones to leave in their.

I have read a few books on physics and can say that you are dealing in the same matters, truth and answers for what makes this world what it is. You found the truth in your little niche' of the world with the Dalton investigation, with the gaslighting by Lisa, and with who your true allies are. I feel that is what we are on this planet to figure out, truths. Not to be repetitive but you have a big fucking pair Allan.

ok, finished reading your book sunday morning about 4 am. Gotta say, you're a complete and total nutjob. but the fact that I could not put down your nutty book might say something about me being something of a nutjob myself. Anyways, I'm not sure if oprah's gonna be inviting you on her show anytime soon, or that it'll be on the bestseller list, but definitely will have something of a cult following. I would reccommend it, but not to everyone.

What I'm saying, I guess, is that youve got to be somewhere to the right on

the nutjob scale, probably, to get any enjoyment from your nutty book.

Good job, hope it does well, hope you're ok, and I'll need the address to

send the book to so you can sign it. (do you mind signing my copies of zero

and cosmic banditos? since you'll already have your pen out and such.

If i'm

being greedy just say so.)

Thanks,

Bert

PS here's a link to what some people are saying about your nutty book

<http://2ndlight.com/forum42ndlight/messageview.cfm?catid=3&threadid=50375>

enjoy!

allan: i just wanted to let you know i am sitting in the 'vendor' room of

the killington grand hotel, listening to all these insurance types blab on

and on about absolutely nothing, and am really wanting to read this email,

but what's more important, i started reading your book and am loving it.

you may be a jerk off, but you're a terrific jerk off.

later

melanie

i'm a third of the way through your book, no

wonder your forehead is bleeding. when you

handed it in, it was perfect. it was flawless.

you'll never change my mind about anything.

i don't have to read your book to tell you how

long it should be. you couldn't make this shit

up. you don't have the imagination.

that is a crazy-ass paragraph. what it means; is

that me, my pms'n wife, and my 2 big dogs that

sleep on each side of our bed dig what you do.

Later, dayne

Tracy L Hays wrote:

I-FUCKING-LOVE-YOUR-BOOK!!!

I could not put the book down! I had to force myself to stop to shower, sleep, and cook dinner for my family! Poor things, they had to eat spaghetti two nights in a row!

I am so impressed that you thanked your loyal readers! Imagine my surprise when after finishing the book I looked at the SPECIAL THANKS pages and saw my name! I ran from my room to show my husband and daughter. I have never known an Author to do this. I highly respect you for it.

I just have one small criticism about the book. I was very much looking forward to you KICKING THAT SNAKES ASS\* in the end but you didn't!!! For me the end kind of sizzled out (or petered out if you wish). I do realize that by publishing this book (CYGAWA?) your revenge will be sweet but your Kind Readers will never REALLY know how pissed off she\*\* is or what she does about it! Maybe that's another book, hmmm?

While I was reading about your relationship with her\*\*\* there were times that I didn't know whether I wanted to slap you or hug you! The Hollywood shit was hilarious and the Costa Rican mob stuff was riveting!! Also, your devotion to your beautiful mother is very moving.

Thank you Allan for sharing your most intimate moments of your life for our

(your Kind Readers) entertainment.

I wish you Health, Happiness, Peace, and Love. YOU DESERVE IT!

Sincerely,

Tracy

Tracy wrote:

In the words of David Cassidy....

"I Think I Love You!"

Lee wrote:

What happens next? I am only half way through but I pray that you have already begun work on your next book, because when I finish this one I am going to re-read Captain Zero and Cosmic Banditos again. I actually thought more about this book in the last couple of days than of pussy, beer, and surfing combined.  
Fucking Great Job. Duer.

i've read it once. will have to go thru it again before i may comment intelligently. but guess what? you've been with better ladies. she may have been striking-sensious but that woman was never pretty. go surfing-started with longboard and am finishing with longboard...carl...the chicken wire really works doesn't it. best part of your book, so far, is your dogs and your maid.

rseponce#2 (dam can't spell tonight!)

OK< finished the thing----at first i wasn't THAT into it----but you SuCKED me IN.....over all a great read, now i have to go back to marking chem papers and such to catch up on the time i lost finishing "DAs BOOOK" even though i really like your descriptive writing of the act of surfing, the whole Big Turkeys scene was just so real i kept on going and going and going, you get the idea.

thanks , Allan good job, now, go surfing!!!

Your book arrived at my mailbox outside Boston late last week. Was in the early stages of a book by Ian McEwan (one of the best writers alive) and so planned to just dip into yours to get the flavor. Well I haven't returned to Ian yet; too busy cringing, fuming and laughing my way through the last few years of your life. Good god, man, I don't know how you survived, let alone managed to get all that drama, confusion, frustration and raw pain into words. Sure am glad you did, though.

## Joanne

Whew!.....Fuck.....Hmmm.....Well, my thoughts  
 about  
 your book.....we'll get to that, but first I think you could have  
 saved  
 yourself alot of grief just by changing your views on whores.....or  
 cows for  
 that matter! I've not been with a bovine creature but whores are a  
 different story(I lived in Germany for a year and a half.....legal  
 prostitution, all that jazz.....saved myself alot of money and grief).  
 But  
 I understand how Love grabs you by the nuts and pretty soon you're  
 whipped.....as my friend Scott says "A pussy hair could tow a  
 battleship!"  
 Anyhow I think you went to the whores at the right time....bustin down  
 that  
 door that led to Kim and Lisa would have only played in her favor.

So here are my thoughts on your book.....I read it in about  
 four  
 days.....couldn't pull myself away from it...kinda like ....reading...a  
 train wreck..... if you catch my drift. I just happen to be in the  
 middle  
 stages of a breakup with a girl 9 years my junior and the only thing we  
 have  
 left is the sex. Since I've read your book my thoughts on our (mine  
 and  
 Erikas) relationship has shifted a bit. I now want to cut it  
 completely and  
 be a lone wolf for awhile. (I'll be cussing your ass in about two  
 weeks!)  
 But seriously, reading about your relationship with Lisa I was thankful  
 for  
 my two years with Erika, but realised it definitely had to end....so  
 thanks  
 for engaging my primary brain....the other had been in charge to long.  
 By  
 the way....I know I'm digressing but....Bukowski came to mind early on  
 in  
 the book when, by your tone concerning Lisa, I knew that you were rid  
 of

her. The poem is this.....

Oh Yes

There are worse things than  
being alone  
but it often takes decades  
to realize this  
And most often  
when you do  
it's too late  
And there's nothing worse  
than  
too late

Charles Bukowski

It seemed apropos at the time. Hope you could use it.  
Anyhow....back  
to the book .....I must say it was a hell of a ride and I enjoyed it  
immensely, deeply and I questioned your sanity at times for allowing  
her to  
stick around .....but again I understand.....pussy  
hair.....battleship,  
right! Was this book as good as Zero? No, not for me.....I read Zero  
the  
week after 9/11 and the timing couldn't have been better. In fact Zero  
along with Edward Abbeys "Desert Solitaire" are my favorite travel  
narrative  
books , so you are in good company.( By the way I loved the references  
to  
"The Brave Cowboy" and "Lonely are the Brave and I remember hearing  
how  
Kirk Douglas saw the screenplay and bought it outright, which is  
exactly  
what I thought of when you first acknowledged that Sean Penn was  
interested  
in Zero). The strange thing is I feel the same for the timing of this  
book  
and it's message.....i.e. why the world is so fucked up( and my  
relationship  
with XXXXXX as well). I love both books, Zero and Can't, but for  
different  
reasons. Cosmic Banditos?..... never really grabbed me but fiction

rarely  
does.

The last memoir I read was by Jim Harrison of "Legends of the Fall"  
fame and it seemed a total bore compared to the edgy driven angst of  
your  
latest work, which as I review the scenes in my mind ....seems to come  
off  
as a novel rather than a memoir. It definitely has the protagonist/  
antagonist elements which make it a rather unusual memoir....based on  
the  
few I've read. I'd say you pulled off a major coup given all the  
turmoil in  
your life over the past seven years.....to come forward with a book  
such as  
this.....entertaining as it is. My hat's off to you!!

Good luck on sales and all  
that  
happy horseshit.....I'll recommend Can't to a few who I know could dig  
it.  
Thanks again for giving me self-reflection through your writing.  
Whatever  
that means.

SVN

Ron wrote:  
Hey Allan,

Just finished reading the book(XXX of 1418)...almost done in a one day  
marathon  
session. Missed alot of footbsall yesterday (Sunday) I am not really  
good at  
analysing literature, so I wont try. I really enjoyed it and am very  
interested  
to follow the situation from now on;hope you'll provide some updates  
from time  
to time.

I've had a bitch like that before, not quite to that extreme as the sociopathic bitch Lisa. I think people who are that good at the deception end up believing their own shit and never recover. Someone should tear her ovaries out in case she ever gets the desire to reproduce....I think I have a nice Henkels in the kitchen that would do the trick. But I digress...

Mr. Weisbecker,

First of all let me say that I am thoroughly enjoying the book. I am also someone who is losing sleep as I try to finish the thing. Every time I finish a chapter I can't help myself from starting the next one. I've just got to see what happens next. With all that being said please take what I am about to say as constructive criticism.

You seem to write in circles occasionally. I'm not talking about the looping. I agree with you that foreshadowing is a good and necessary literary tool. What I'm talking about are the times you use three sentences to make the same point. You'll make your point, and then reword it in the next sentence. The following sentence will complete the triple play, but doesn't make any new points. (As I have just tried to demonstrate with the three above sentences.) Sometimes it seems as though you're talking down to us as you would a retarded kid brother.

Then there is the language. At the risk of sounding like a prude I would like to say that you don't need all the swearing. It diminishes your great gift of storytelling, but that's just one man's opinion.

Lastly, this book has made me concerned about you. The ranting against

society makes me worried that you're slipping into late career Lenny  
Bruce

territory where the only thing that concerns you is bringing out the  
TRUTH.

The TRUTH will get you killed. (By the way, that is not a threat.) It  
killed MLK and RFK, so please be careful. I like you. Well, I guess I  
don't know you. I like the Writer You, and would like to hear from you  
for  
many years to come.

I would like to sum up by reiterating that I really enjoy the book. I  
have  
a 1st edition of Banditos, an ARC copy of Captain Zero, and now an  
advance  
copy of CYGAWA with my name in it. I am a man who enjoys your writing  
immensely notwithstanding the fact that you use the word  
"notwithstanding"  
maybe a little too often.

Keep up the good work.  
Tim

Dear Allan

In short, I loved the book. It disturbed me for days. That is a good thing  
for a memoir.

I have read your other books and am a subscriber to your newsletter. I was  
really looking forward to this book.

Ch11 in part 5 and the last 2 chapters in the book were absolutely brilliant.  
The endpiece about your mom moved me to tears (as it did the first time I  
read it, I believe it was on your website).

Two things bothered me .....

1. I almost did not finish it. I am a librarian at the end of the road, and  
I finish every book I start - even if it reeks. I fall into the group you  
reference on pg 60, a woman who says "What did you expect,  
asshole?" . I get that the Lisa thing is huge here, but I could not help  
but feeling, for the entire first third of this book, that this man is

enraged, not because this woman is a lying skank, but because this lying skank told him he is a sex god, maybe she is lying about that as well. Many of the Lisa diatribes were way too much - makes you sound really deranged (which you probably are, but controlled crazy makes for a better read). Bottom line, it really detracts from the book. I have given it to 3 folks, all big readers, who simply could not get past the first few chapters. I can't tell my readers, *if you can just get past the initial hysteria, it will blow your mind.*

2. It is a memoir. You said the most important things are true. You stated that eloquently in Part 5, Ch12. Loved it! Keep the references to the website, rants about the facts, etc to an authors note for the anal retentives who care. Readers who invest in a memoir trust you already. That trust may be misplaced, ala James Frey, but that is the risk the reader is willing to take. We believe you. You couldn't make that shit up.

I hope a lot of people read it. I think it is fantastic. There are passages that I had to read over and over, they are so good. I am not surprised they made your forehead bleed. Thank you.

Allan,

I also recently received the book and have had no trouble putting the damn thing down, however, it is usually just to pause and laugh or pour yet another cup of coffee. The foot notes are a nice, informative, and often times down right comical addition. Like most I have read Zero, and kept up with the DSP for some time now. I feared that the first few chapters would be all review for me, but was I dead wrong. And I keep stumbling over the- "ok now is he not with Lisa, currently, was she not part of the problem, ok think she is with him, but no this is back-story, so Alan is setting me up, right." Then I remind myself that's why I

got the damn book in the first place- I want to hear the story, and just from hearing your hints and looking at the home page of the new website, does not mean I know what's going on.---in other words, enjoy the

ride dickhead! Well I'm not too deep into the book but the ride so far has been a great one, and it doesn't have to be all cowabunga material

to make it a great one, you have proved that because early on, I think I have found very little if any cowabunga. I am pacing myself for only one reason, booked flight to Rio San Juan, North Coast D.R. So your bleeding forehead is taking that little adventure with me. Anyway, great

read so far, and I guess an author also must love to hear that their book has the reader talking to themselves. So you will be happy to know that while I force myself to look across the room at the book, in order to keep my perfected trip plans in order, you do have me talking to it, the book that is. Where in the hell is the Lisa angle going? What happened down at the end of the road? Is Allan in danger currently? And lastly, when I see previews for the new Sean Penn flick, --Just how big of

a shit-ball motherfucker is this guy really? I look forward to the answers, but more to the winding road you lead us readers on, the journey to the destination.

Ralph wrote:

Best read since in search of captain zero.Great job Allan!! Hope this finds you in good health.Christ i would have shot them all. Now get some good waves this coming winter then get your next book started.Ha! Hope to meet you in the water some day Good luck and good waves my friend.. Ralph

Allan:A funny thing happen on the way to reading your book; my wife stole it to read first. I'd gotten about 6 chapters into it and was laughing my ass off at some thing and just going "oh yeah" to others. I laid it down (after telling her it was about writting, editors, and stuff to go piss and when I came back she had it. As a published author (6 books, an Edgar, plus numerous mag articles) she was nodding her head and muttering stuff to herself. The part about the new editor of "Zero," the fight for your integrity as a author vs publishing the book, and the insane

responses from a editor who had written a "flawless" book cracked her up.

I guess we'll have to buy another copy so we each have one. Coming from a book crazed family that's high praise indeed. In fact there is only one other book in our house (we have about 2,500 volumes) that there is two copies of: The Old Man and the Boy by Robert Rourak. So a big Bravo Zulu guy, ya done good.

Rick

Elizabeth

So today I took the day off. Not feeling well, not sleeping well, it's the 5th anniversary of my best friend's death. I needed a mental health quiet day. And I have 2 books I want to read. Yours is one of them. And now I can't put the fucker down!!! You keep saying you are looping but you are weaving a hypnotic (sp) tale. I love it And have I mentioned how I loath Lisa? She hurt you and took advantage of you. And I haven't even gotten to the worse part that I know is coming!

You have put a smile in my mental health not feeling so good day. More when I finish it.

Hi Allan, I thought I would just unpack your book and perhaps check out the intro. Well, eight hours later at 3am, I fell asleep, so put me in the couldn't put it down category. Of course I knew all about the producer of Zero so this added to my enjoyment. I overslept and missed a 6 AM phone call but it was worth it. Can't wait to finish it !!!!

Congratulations....

Best,

Tony

the INCUBUS producer

Ron wrote:

Alan,

Just finished your new book, wow !

I don't read much Alan sad to say, but got to admit I couldn't put it down. I'm so jealous, your ability to express your feelings in words makes me feel dumb....

But, your now read book, sitting on my coffee table makes me feel like getting back into reading, thanks for that !

If you ever want to get away from it all please consider visiting Liv and I down here in North CARolina. It's a great place to sit back and watch the boats go by, just don't bring Lisa.

Sorry about your losses both love and physical....

Ron & Liv

ok

on page #120 and so far its pretty cool

I CAN put it down though; sometimes your rambling gets tiresome.

I guess most of us came to be fans/friends; can you be friends with someone you have never met; through surfing or through your great past books.

I never thought I would send someone a letter/email though while reading there book.

Pretty cool in so far as I can relate to some of your stories and of course fantasize about being a pot smuggler, surfing insane waves and living in remote islands.

The reason for this email is it is obvious you love/loved Lisa more than she loves you.

I have personally had my heart ripped out of my chest 3 times in my life and never forget about that girl until love again rears its ugly fucking head.

The games you play with her; lying about your best week of sex, getting hurt (yes hurt) by her comments etc about thinking about sex like a man...underlining sentences about infidelity...

all these things usually are felt more by the person in the relationship who is more in love; never is there a relationship where both parties love each other equally.

You are/where obviously very "whooped".

I can relate up to this point in the book and I guess thats why I am writing to you, even thought I know this is going to come out later on in my reading.

I am obviously not a writer, English major or phychologist.

I own a surf shop 2 hours inland from the Maryland coast and obviously work to much and surf way to little.

let me write your response for you.

either,

"DUH"

or

"keep reading"

ACW,

I just wanted to let you know for logistical purposes that I received your new book yesterday. I'm in Florida , if that helps.

You did it again; I couldn't put the damn thing down.

I also owe you an apology: I was one of those idiots that said I was going to write a book, and you are 100% correct in your assertion regarding the creation of a novel, fiction or nonfiction (whatever that means.)

For now I will continue reading yours, and hopefully gaining insight into this crazy business they call writing, eh?

Mahalo,

Ryan

Allan,

Well, I am done with CYGAWA. What a great read. It was hard to not e-mail you before I finished. The way it worked was every time I started to send off an e-mail I thought "Hey! This could take and hour or more. I could be reading the book!"

As I told you the book sent me down memory lane.

Here is one.

I was sitting in the cantina having a post morning session beer with Billy and Jim (I think it was Jim, he lived near Pilon with his wife who got attacked by the Black Hats. ) comes hauling ass up the road and runs into the bar. "They just killed Max!"

When I got back to the states I faxed a letter to a shitload of government officials and departments. I found the original on one of my old computers. The date I used in the letter for the incident was November 11, Tuesday, 1997. I could be wrong. I will see if I can verify from notes. Two days to get their stories straight sounds about right.

Commencing second read.

more later

Bill

david wrote:

After finishing reading CYGAWA, I find that you are a man who possesses extraordinary and (fastidious) attentiveness to detail(s). This quality (in and of itself) is entertaining and amazing. I do not question the veracity of (the lion's share of) your story, save for a bit of curiosity I hold re: why you stayed at gringo gulch hotels with Lisa. Seems like the only really good reason would be that you (and she) partook of (perhaps with some regularity) the activity you claim (as a personal matter of taste) to disdain. I liked your book after all and your website afterward. I'll stay tuned and again I wish you well. I'm glad that you don't have the "big casino in the chest" - you scared me with that one and made me feel really sorry for you. I concur that life really is full of treacherous shitball motherfuckers and lying bullshit artists. I hope that we both can avoid them as much as possible (although I know we can't really avoid them). Thanks for the really different reading

experience.

You let it all hang out!

Jesus.

What a book.

I'm so sorry for being ignorant and presumptuous. I was cringing with embarrassment within just a page of having sent that email (about true love etc.....cringe). Of course I cringed all the way to the end too.

Now at least, I can take my foot out of my mouth and say it's Another Masterpiece.

Before I get back to My Life which has been *on hold* all this while (fully empathizing with the guy with wife and dogs), may I just say that you're very brave and/or crazy to publish it (when do you get to stop watching your back?) - but it's BRILLIANT.

Much respect, Shimonti

Loving the book so far Allan. The new one that is. I'll have to go check out your previous books ASAP.

Allan – You sent the e-mail below to my partner Marco a couple months ago. I remembered it as I just received (and am well into) my advance copy of *Can't You Get Along...* (Vintage Weisbecker, and thus far some very satisfying blank-filling [I hesitate to use hyphens] for us long time subscribers to your website.) Thanks for putting my name in your book.

Anyway, in the event there is *excremento* colliding with a *ventilador* or two in your world, I offer you our firm's legal services at a discounted "bro rate." Moreover, while I take great delight in your (largely deserved) ridiculing of lawyers, I think you'd begrudgingly like our crew of attorneys here. Surfers all, and straight-fucking-shooters. (There are many quality breaks within a mile of our office – and we don't bill clients for meetings in the water.) I head up our firm's litigation team and have handled many defamation cases. In fact, I'm currently working on a few. They can be *errrrr..... emotional*.

Brief back story on me, not included on our firm's website: I visited the Hogfish Ranch and hung out with Patrick in late '92 – no overt coke usage then but no overt evidence of his surfing either. Also, to cement the ass-kissing nature of this missive, *Cosmic Banditos* is one of my favorite

books. Finally, I spent a week in May with Dale Dagger in Nicaragua , a classic fucking character.

Let me know if you want to talk.

-Dave

Allan,  
 Words are vision, and you have helped me find mine. I will definitely give it a shot and let you know, although you already realize that takes blood, sweat, tears, and of course very real physical pain. Coincidentally, I have arrived at the part in your new book regarding your health and threats on your life. Get better if you have not already done so!

Hope you are getting some waves, pretty flat down here in Fort Liquordale, no hurricane pulses yet. That usually sets up for a pretty nice winter season. To quote a famous person I correspond with, "...it will be interesting to see what happens next."

Ryan

page 155

most likely you will get a "of course you fucking idiot" response to this question.

these folks have never, ever felt the LOVE (as one sided and sick as it is) that you were/are feeling for Lisa. the same crapola I felt for XXXXX when I lived in Vail.

a sick story.

(I've deleted most of this due to details that could identify the people.)

I wanted nothing to do with my beautiful blond ex-wife and stayed high and on the couch the whole time, and even left early to get back to my lying, blacking out, sex oozing slut.

Allen,

Was reading the book, and enjoying it, until recently. I had to put it down because I have to do a bunch of reading for my work.

It's an interesting book, and I've enjoyed discussing it with my girlfriend. She's two things: patient and a non-reader. Also, probably a third: indulgent of my interests. So, we've discussed your book on and off as I've read it (I'm about 1/3-1/2 way in...had to quit reading it a few days ago).

As with all your books, your new book has funny moments. These are probably the times when I laugh or chuck and my girlfriend asks me what's up, or when I feel like sharing something with her. And she generally laughs too, of course. But, of course, in a response I'm sure your book will draw from lots of people, she also asks--"Gosh, is this book anything other than one big series of rants?" In fact, that's probably how she thinks of it: the book I'm reading by a guy who rants a lot.

So, then, how do I answer? Obviously, the first answer is "Yes." But then I try to explain what makes it more than a rant, or why I continue reading it. The first reason is that I have a sort of "investment" in you and your writing. I've read your other stuff and enjoyed it to one extent or another; I've followed your email threads; I've had you personally respond to my own emails; etc. So that's something. Then, of course, there's the fact that you are funny from time to time. That's good too. And there's the fact that you touch on issues that are of interest to me (surfing; Costa Rica; living

in  
Costa Rica; surfing in Costa Rica; attractive women with nice bodies  
and  
long, dark hair; writing; movies; death and dying; our current  
political  
situation; and more). But I guess what keeps me reading the book, and  
enjoying it to this point--even though I've had to stop for the  
moment--is  
your exploration of the power, skills, tricks, and techniques of  
writing.

So that's what I tell my girlfriend. So far, your book is a lot of  
things,  
but it's an interesting look at nonfiction writing. And I was enjoying  
it  
before my work made me put it down. But I'll get back to it, and look  
forward to it.

Thought I'd write to let you know that since your last email asked for  
comments on the book.

Also, since it's obviously light on surfing stuff, thought I'd send  
some  
photos a friend took on a recent surfing trip. This is the Olympic  
peninsula of Washington State, a hike of 3+ miles through the woods  
and  
onto the coast. It rained on the way in, the first night, and the first  
morning, as you can see from the photos, but after that--as you can  
also see  
from the photos--the weather was great. Surf was nothing to brag about,  
but  
the water was glassy, so there's that. And the waves, which ranged from  
knee-high to just-overhead (those were rare, but happened) were a  
little  
better than the typical Washington state close-out. All told, pretty  
fun.

Take it easy. Sorry your mother passed away while you were writing the  
book.

I've been through a few deaths of loved ones lately myself (I was  
through a  
little heartbreak incident too but that's a different story) and in  
fact my  
girlfirend just called me today from the hospital and it appears her  
grandfather will die in the next few days.

Best of luck,  
Jeff

Hi Allan,

Received my ARC of your book (with thanks) a few days ago. Blazed through it in about 4 sittings (finished it last night at about 2am)...Fascinating. I'm still shaking my head in amazement - not slowly as in "no way, man...", but vigorously - as in trying to get my own sense of reality back. Holy shit... I need a surf. Don't generally exclaim/laugh/cry out loud when I'm reading - I might chuckle a bit under my breath if something moves me to do so. Did so a few times with CYGAWA, but I also screamed out BIIIIITCH! and AWWW, MAN...a few times. A 400+ page train wreck. Like I said: fascinating... Talk about reader big mo. 'Course I'm biased. I'm a big "Zero" fan and have otherwise immensely enjoyed your dsp's and Cosmic Banditos. But still. Great job, dude... What's next?

Peace and Love (and not in any "new-agey" sense - I also hate that bs),  
Patrick

PS: There's a swell on the rise and a long weekend ahead - I have a semi-secret spot up my sleeve, so I might just get a little perspective myself soon.

Allan,  
Took some time off after reading the book to digest it. A crazy feeling reading it, I too could not put it down...even stayed up til 4:30 am to

read  
 it, thereby missing out on a morning surf at OB san francisco that  
 morning.  
 Many points rang true, especially about Lisa, and your research looking  
 into  
 a lot of people's behavior in life. pretty crazy. somehow it put  
 random  
 things into perspective for me, and when my dad asked what I was  
 reading and  
 asked if it was a "surfing" book, I had to tell him not really.

It feels like you put your balls on the line with the book, dude  
 cuidado con  
 Gerardo et al!! All I have to say is Bravo...if it's true, the  
 literary  
 equivalent of Noll's middle finger last wave at makaha. (but it seems  
 like  
 you still have more to say about other subjects!!)

Anyway thanks for the entertainment.  
 David

Allan,  
 Been peeking at the site - looks great - and I'm pretty sure I'll have  
 a lot  
 of fun perusing it. Kinda chokes me up to see photos of your piece of  
 (now  
 soiled) paradise though. And that wave...  
 I can relate to your sense of perspective being shot (I didn't quite  
 have  
 the same depth of experience, although similar to an extent, ie:  
 getting  
 dicked over by someone I though was "the one", with all the lying,  
 duplicitous bs and PM - or the tenacity to see it through to the bitter  
 "end"), but believe me, I think it was well worth it. You're a brave  
 (if  
 slightly warped) mf and totally have my respect.  
 Take care,  
 Patrick

Dove wrote:  
 just finished, still shaking, can't reply more than this at this time.

hasta

Robert wrote:

Hola!

Love the new book. Finished it in two days, and now I am re-reading the parts

that had my jaw hitting the floor in disbelief.

As a practicing Buddhist I know intellectually that Evil exists, however, it is much harder to see it coming at one in the form of a female

(Gods' cruel trick). You have truly been through the wars my friend.

Finally,

where are the photos and archived parts referenced in your new book on the

website?.

Thanks,

Robert

sure.....you can use my last name too if you want.....even

mellolane.com.....if you want.....what ever you think is suave.....I

taint

afraid of guilt by association.....even though I am dealing with some

B.S.

of my own now.....con mi cartoon project nightmare with those Hwood

numbed

out cabezas.....which after reading your book has made me snooze a few

phone meetings I was suppose to have this Friday passed with these

agent

kooks.....cause I was under your written trance and obsessed ....which

caused me to blow off a 2nd day of work catchup stuff....and because

your

new book also motivated me to want to regroup ....rethink.... how I can

try

to avoid if that is possible some of the D inferno stuff you had to go

through with the mental vacuum of the industry.....lo siento if this

is all

over the place....I am still recouping from su libro nuevo.....didn't

finish it until 5 a.m. ayer muy temprano.....then was sooo wacked out

on

coffee I couldn't fall asleep until later in the morn..... from my 59

hour

marathon read.....gotta be honest....I did zonk out for a few hours  
 Friday  
 morn from like 8 to 10 a.m. in my so called lazy boy chair, but was  
 awakened  
 by my numbing feet...damn chair looks better then it feels.....all I  
 remember was putting my head back for a moment to rest my eyes and  
 baaazoom I woke up with my feet prickling away...got up walked around  
 a  
 bit.. sipped some cold coffee....sat back down and kept going.....my  
 wife  
 is totally sick of me telling her about your book and what you were  
 going  
 through...your virtuoso sense of humor... and that I feel you are one  
 eccentricly (shit an adverd) golden soul to even walk this dirt ball  
 revolving around the sun.....and then she accused me of being in  
 love  
 with you.....currently... I am on Allan restriction..... meaning I  
 can't  
 mention you or your book until Tuesday...I think she said  
 Tuesday.....not  
 sure if she meant this week or all the way until next week....

I finally slept ...pretty much all day yesterday from like 11 a.m to  
 until  
 10 a.m this morn ...I missed my buddies wedding today....too tired and  
 have  
 the runs probably from cold pizza, nutter butters, and bannas....which  
 was  
 my diet during the marathon read.....

Allan....don't feel too bad about my friends wedding.....this is his  
 3rd  
 one....so I'll catch him on the next one.....although...you should feel  
 bad  
 about my burnt finger....I was spacey as hell or hyperfocused from your  
 babblings and on that one page ...your last submission page...the  
 italic one  
 like 2/3 the way through the book .....where you stated how you were  
 stressing about your readers ( one of my favorite pages in the  
 book.....even  
 though...I had to throw the book in the air during it ) and my cig was  
 burning my finger and I didn't even notice until it was too  
 late.....fuck...bee sting...I dropped the smoldering fag....just missed  
 your  
 book...bounced off my thigh...and it rolled off into the nook of the

chair...I had to abandon ship...toss your book and get to it before YOU  
burnt down my house....then I lost my page...and I was pissed.....

.....I need another nap.....brian

Christian wrote:

Allan,

I just finished your new book . I kind of put my life after work the  
last two  
nights on hold while I read about yours.

I kept giving you advice along the way about how to handle this and  
that, and  
laughed a lot, was pissed off a lot and was scared for you a bit too.

At the end I really wanted to you to kick in that door and go ballistic  
on that  
fuckfestering cum dumpster and fake bro. The success of your book will  
be the  
ultimate payback. You showed amazing restraint by not letting that evil  
consume  
you.

The book pretty much blew my mind. I don't know how you kept yours  
together well  
enough through all that to maintain such an articulate voice. I no  
longer have  
any desire to go to Pavones but if you want to give me tip about the  
secret  
island in the Carribean I could use it since it gets dam cold and dark  
here in  
Maine in the winter.

Heading home now for grilled cheese and turkey sandwiches with a side  
of orange  
soda with the love of my life which I never could have found or  
appreciated  
unless I had been through a pretty traumatic experience similar to  
yours. I'm  
just glad I got that over with early on in my life. Hope you find your  
peace in  
this world soon as well.

IP: 24.

Allan,

Just wanted to drop you a note as I just finished the book. Haven't gone to the website yet but will in short order. You wanted feedback so here it is:

Holy Shit. I couldn't put the book down since I've received it. To say

I identified with you and your relationship with Lisa is and understatement. In fact at 2AM this morning right there at the bottom of page 378 you brought me to tears. It's been almost ten fucking years since I got out of /it/, but man this morning right when I read (and I'll use quotes here since I'm copying it out of the book) "You'll know /it/ should you go through /it/, God help you."

Brother you took me right back there. I had to put the book down and take a break as I couldn't see the print through the tears. I won't bore you with the whole sordid tale but as I began to read (and why I couldn't put the book down), I identified my ex-wife's personality in Lisa pretty early. Suffice to say they'd get along really well with each other. Where you hung in there for the reasons you stated, I was trapped trying to 'do the right thing' for my son. Whatever the fuck that was supposed to be. Suffice to say the right thing to do was get the hell out which we both ultimately decided was the right decision. Took me a couple of years before I was able to think straight and regain my self confidence. To finally realize that you aren't the one that's all fucked up was such a relief....but you already know what I'm talking about.

Oh and BTW if your little island hideaway was a particular island where Ian Fleming wrote a few novels, I've enjoyed that wave that wraps into the bay that looks out toward Buccoo Reef

Best Regards,

Sprocket

Hey Allan,

I just finished reading your book. ... Holy shit! I couldn't put it down. I went to Pavones for the first time this year(although I've been to Costa Rica several times)

It seemed so peaceful. I reflected back on hanging out at the cantina and walking around the soccer field oblivious to what was/is going on. Best of luck.

Regards,

John

Dear Allan,

just finished my advanced copy of 'Cant you get along with anyone'. I finished it in Hotel bar in Algeria. I am here on business. well i say on business i am here because the technicians and site engineers who work for the company i work for, were too scared to come to Algeria! So I had to fly out and fix a system. Glad i did, I have never been to North Africa before. The landscape is like nothing else i have ever seen. So i thank my yellow bellied colleagues for giving me the chance to see the sun set over the desert and meet the decent folk out here.

anyhoo i digress.

I feel i know you to some small extent from reading your previous two books, and receiving your downsouth perspective emails, and although i was on 'your side' from the start, I was still waiting for the 'Beautiful mind' moment when we find out that you are in fact totally bonkers (and not just partially bonkers like the rest of us) . But no, its all true!

Well fuck me!

Your book was brilliant and succeeded in making me laugh and cry. I feel bad saying that I enjoyed the book, in that it means in some ways i am taking enjoyment from all that bad shit that you have had to go through. I would rather your book had been shite and that you have not had go through the mouth of madness.

After going through the emotional rollercoaster with you, it felt really special to turn those last pages, cry about your mum, and then see my name printed along side the rest of your mailing listers, who have total faith in you as a writer and as a man.

One complaint, I loved Stacy Perelta's early skate films such as 'the search for animal chin' and I though 'riding giants' was a first class bit of entertainment. Now every time i watch them i will be thinking the man who was reasonable was an arse! I suppose the fact that he is an idiot should not effect my appreciation of his work, in the same way as Sean Penn being a 'shitball motherfucker' does not make 'Colors' any less of a good film (even if it is spelt wrong).

thanks for the book, and thanks for the opportunity for ARV version of the book. I got number 85 out of 1418.

Maybe some fiction next from you? A chance to let you imagination and gift for the narrative, run completely free, without the risk of you getting shot.

I understand if you don't have time to reply to this email. I would not expect a reply from Herman Melville either.

Cheers!

Allan,

I will start this correspondence by first pointing out that I have email you more in the past months than any member of my family or close friends. Whether this observation gives you grief or comfort, its an observation none the least.

I write you at this late hour after having worked an extended shift, the ninth in a row, tired and having planned on retiring some 4 hours ago. Before that time, I made the egregious mistake of opening the innocuous little package from Humdrumming I recieved today a few hours before I planned on going to bed. The book has been glued to my hands since. I finally was able to rip it from my clenched fists moments ago, as I need to wake up in four hours. In any event, I felt compelled to write you immediately, lest another drop of blood exudes from your brow. Worry not, the book is everything I hoped for thus far (and I set the bar pretty high). It is an engaging story in a conversational tone reserved for close friends, all in the palm of your hand. I did cheat and flip to the back as I was first admiring it. That was very kind of you to include the names in the "Thank You" portion. My fiance was giddy when she saw my name. In any case, my hope was to provide you with an email length moment of respite from and quesiness, and I hope I accomplished my goal. I'll save any further comment till I finish the book, but so far, so good.

Keep light, Man.

John