

## The Drifters

*James A. Michener*

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#2827231 in Books 1982-03-12 1982-03-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 Binding: Mass Market Paperback 768 pages | File size: 62.Mb

**James A. Michener : The Drifters** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Drifters:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great for travel fantasies By Mick Jones I am re-reading the Micheners I read years (20-30) ago because I find Michener so incredibly educational. If you care to, you will learn dozens new vocabulary words. You will read about places you might never have heard of before or may never get to see. He always includes a smattering of politics, culture, economics, geography, race-relations and several other subjects entertaining you all the while. The Drifters is a little dated because so much of it was germane to the attitudes of the late 60s. He delved into the drug and music culture from the point-of-view of the 60-something narrator hanging out with a half-dozen young adults ranging from about 17 to late-twenties. (The narrator is a businessman who travels a great deal and knew a couple of the kids incidentally early in the novel.) Despite the fact that I am of the generation of the young adults (I was born in 1950), I found some of the youthful sneering at the old generation's music a little over-the-top. Yes, we thought we had everything figured out and our music was the best and we were going to be the salvation of humanity, but it didn't quite work out that way, And I, as well as many others in my age group, did like music from the 50s and 40s. There was a section where he made the breakthrough from perceiving the young people's music as little more than noise to largely "getting" it. It was interesting to me because Michener obviously went through this in order to write it. The biggest "take-away" from The Drifters is the travel fantasies. I don't know if all the places that were such a big deal then have retained their appeal or evolved into something quite different but they

would be magnificent to travel to if they still retain the character from the time. I know bulls still run at Pamplona and I hope that the game preserves in Mozambique haven't been destroyed. They (the characters) explore sites of historical significance and others for little reason more than the beauty or charm of the place. I highly recommend any of the Michener "behemoths". They are usually written in \*almost\* stand-alone sections so, if you get fatigued, you can take a break and return later.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Where have all the flowers gone  
By Wilke Renwick  
An intriguing exploration of the mindset of the youth of the 1960's, this novel visits some of the most exotic and alluring locations in the world. In the time of great changes in the American psyche, this novel digs into some of the most compelling issues of the day. Although the coincidences that led to four young people the narrator knew personally would actually meet is quite a stretch, the author works his magic in weaving their lives together in a way you would like to believe it could happen. Typical Michener, it is on a grand scale even though it spans a short time in history. This one is in my top twenty-five and one of the rare books I have read twice - once in the mid-seventies, and again this year.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not a great book, and not even a good Michener  
By Matthew F. Ferrari  
A summary of this book sounds appealing: James A Michener follows six disenchanting youths at the very end of the 1960s as they drift around Europe and Africa in search of meaning. But the book falls very short. The characters are more like caricatures, the historic landscapes that make Michener so interesting aren't fully brought to life, and some of the drug descriptions are downright silly. But it is worth look at that turbulent time -- of the end of LBJ and the Vietnam War and race riots across America -- from an international perspective and authored by a man (and voiced by a narrator) that studies the counterculture from the perspective of the establishment.

In this triumphant bestseller, renowned novelist James A. Michener unfolds a powerful and poignant drama of disenchanting youth during the Vietnam era. Against exotic backdrops including Spain, Morocco, and Mozambique, he weaves together the heady dreams, shocking tribulations, and heartwarming bonds of six young runaways cast adrift in the world as well as the hedonistic pursuit of drugs and pleasure that collapses all around them. With the sure touch of a master, Michener pulls us into the private world of these unforgettable characters, exposing their innermost desires with remarkable candor and infinite compassion. Praise for *The Drifters* A blockbuster of a book . . . full of surprise, drama, and fascination. Philadelphia Bulletin Rings with authentic detail and clearly descriptive sights and smells . . . The *Drifters* is to the generation gap what *The Source* was to Israel. Publishers Weekly [*The Drifters*] conveys a sense of a new time, a new generation. Chicago Sun-Times Michener has slid open a window on the world of the dropout and has spared no effort to make the reader aware of this new world. The Salt Lake Tribune

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From the Inside Flap  
In his triumphant best seller, James Michener unfolds a powerful and poignant drama of six young runaways adrift in a world they have created out of dreams, drugs, and dedication to pleasure. With the sure touch of a master, Michener pulls us into the dark center of their private world, whether it's in Spain, Marrakech, or Mozambique, and exposes the naked nerve ends with shocking candor and infinite compassion. "A superior, picaresque novel...and a revealing mirror held up to contemporary society." JOHN BARKHAM REVIEWS  
About the Author  
James A. Michener was one of the world's most popular writers, the author of more than forty books of fiction and nonfiction, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tales of the South Pacific*, the bestselling novels *The Source*, *Hawaii*, *Alaska*, *Chesapeake*, *Centennial*, *Texas*, *Caribbean*, and *Caravans*, and the memoir *The World Is My Home*. Michener served on the advisory council to NASA and the International Broadcast Board, which oversees the Voice of America. Among dozens of awards and honors, he received America's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1977, and an award from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities in 1983 for his commitment to art in America. Michener died in 1997 at the age of ninety.