

Ask The Dust By John Fante Summary Study Guide Ebook Bookrags

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published here for the first time this text presents a collection of recently discovered stories by john fante

john fante an important figure in the history of the italian american novel is proving to be fascinating to contemporary readers richard collins has caught fante s spirit from several crucial angles as an ethnic writer as a comic novelist as a serious writer struggling to remain so in hollywood intelligent balanced informative and empathetic this book combines criticism with scholarship and biography with history to make what henry james would have called a perfect literary portrait for it gives life to an interesting subject

fante s depiction of the italian american experience in california in novels and novellas like full of life and my dog

stupid has been recognized as part of the national drama of assimilation and ethnicity kordich looks at the life and works of fante whose long underground fame has evolved into a mainstream literary readership

it s not every day that a writer almost unheard of in his lifetime emerges twenty years after his death as a voice of his generation but then again there aren t many writers with such irrepressible genius as john fante the john fante reader is the important next step in the reintroduction of this influential author to modern audiences combining excerpts from his novels and stories as well as his never before published letters this collection is the perfect primer on the work of a writer underappreciated in his time who is finally taking his place in the pantheon of twentieth century american writers

this volume assembles for the first time a staggering multiplicity of reflections and readings of john fante s 1939 classic ask the dust a true testament to the work s present and future impact the contributors to this work writers critics fans scholars screenwriters directors and others analyze the provocative set of diaspora tensions informing fante s masterpiece that distinguish it from those accounts of earlier east coast migrations and minglings a must read for aficionados of l a fiction and new migration literature john fante s ask the dust a joining of voices and views is destined for landmark status as the first volume of fante studies to reveal the novel s evolving intertextualities and intersectionalities contributors miriam amico charles bukowski stephen cooper giovanna dilello john fante valerio ferme teresa fiore daniel gardner philippe garnier robert guffey ryan holiday jan louter chiara mazzucchelli meagan meylor j aime morrison nathan rabin alan rifkin suzanne manizza roszak danny shain robert townes joel williams

in this biography of john fante one of the great lost souls of 20th century literature stephen cooper untangles the enigma of an authentic american original by turns savage and poetic violent and full of love such novels as ask the dust reveal and disguise the author

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over the span of a half century from the early 1930s to the

early 1980s the italian american fante 1909 1983 wrote short stories and novels that drew on his own life from his catholic childhood in colorado through his down and out days in los angeles to his adventures as a screenwriter in hollywood he writes about all these things with gusto humor directness and an honesty tinged with the irony of a true modernist book jacket

john fante s 1952 novel the inspiration for the film starring judy holliday and richard conte if you have ever been a member of a family that has ever been in a family way this is your book the narrator of this extravagant domestic comedy also named john fante finds himself a homeowner and expectant father almost simultaneously while his wife joyce reads up on pregnancy and motherhood john finds himself at loose ends as he struggles to deal with his quickly changing life when termites destroy the kitchen floor the fante family must deal with yet another arrival the narrator s father the best bricklayer in california soon the crowded house feels a bit too confining for confinement and there are still months to go before baby fante s arrival written with wit and a sharp observational eye full of life is a one of a kind novel about what it takes to grow a family

fante s captivating letters trace his emergence from poverty to life as a hollywood screenwriter complemented by many photos and interesting appendices the book is most distinguished by fante s letters to his mother letters in which he is just as apt to lie about church attendance as he is to describe with peculiar candor skinny dipping with a girl friend

arturo bandini arrives in los angeles with big dreams but the reality he finds is a city gripped by poverty when he makes a small fortune from the publication of a short story he reinvents himself indulging in expensive clothes fine food and downtown strip clubs but bandini s delusions take a worrying turn when he is drawn into a relationship with camilla lopez a beautiful but troubled young woman who will be responsible for his greatest downfall ask the dust is an unforgettable novel about outsiders looking in on a town built on celluloid dreams

i had a lot of jobs in los angeles harbor because our family was poor and my father was dead my first job was ditchdigging a short time after i graduated from high school every night i

couldn't sleep from the pain in my back we were digging an excavation in an empty lot there wasn't any shade the sun came straight from a cloudless sky and i was down in that hole digging with two huskies who dug with a love for it always laughing and telling jokes laughing and smoking bitter tobacco

a powerful lyrical and touching tale of a turbulent adolescent trying to break out of the suffocating prison like confinements of family poverty and religion in a small town wait until spring bandini tells the story of a winter in the childhood of arturo bandini oldest son of italian immigrants living in colorado during the great depression with its powerful and evocative account of tragic love affairs grinding poverty and adolescence in turmoil this first novel from the bandini quartet is a much neglected masterpiece of modern american literature

this book offers eleven essays on fante's career ranging from close thematic analysis of individual stories and novels to broadly informed assessments of fante's life and art in the context of his times major areas explored in the book include fante's treatment of the italian american experience his relationship to other american writers of the 1930s and beyond the deeply catholic nature of fante's fiction his unique and still seminal vision of los angeles and his lifelong concern to render in fiction both the comedy and the horrors of the writing life

west of rome's two novellas my dog stupid and the orgy fulfill the promise of their rousing titles the latter novella opens with virtuoso description his name was frank gagliano and he did not believe in god he was that most singular and startling craftsman of the building trade a left handed bricklayer like my father frank came from torcella peligna a cliff hugging town in the abruzzian lean as a spider he wore a leather cap and puttees the year around and he was so bowlegged a dog could lope between his knees without touching them

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