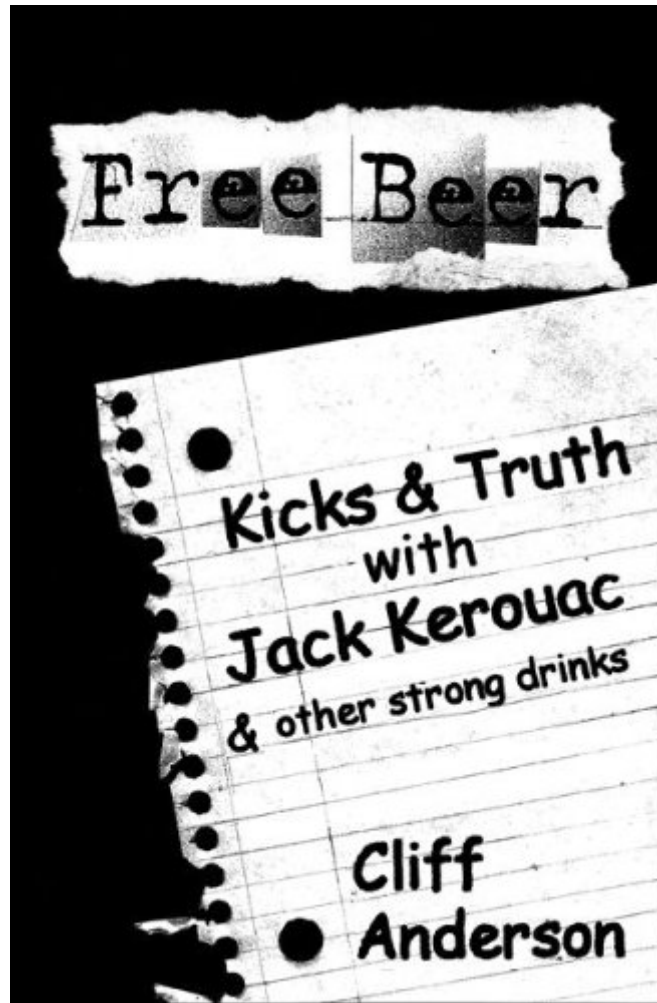


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Free Beer - Kicks & Truth With Jack Kerouac & Other Strong Drinks



Synopsis

I met Jack Kerouac in a honky-tonk bar and became his friend, pool partner and driver. The title, Free Beer, was suggested by Kerouac and records our adventures together. I stand up to unfair critics who surfaced after Kerouac's death, show Kerouac's comedic genius, and explain the enlightenment that he experienced in the beatitude of his tempestuous life. The strong drinks mentioned in the title are snapshots from the last half of the twentieth century that show something of real life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Free Beer: Kicks & Truth with Jack Kerouac, and other strong drinks" is a collection of twelve stories, as well as Kerouac scholar Rod Anstee's 1990 interview with Anderson, titled "Dare to be Kind."In the tale that gives this collection its title, "Free Beer," Anderson recounts his friendship with Jack Kerouac, which began in St. Petersburg, Florida and spawned many entertaining adventures over the course of several years in the nineteen-sixties. This tale, along with the interview, is the heart of the book.After an accidental encounter with a drunken Kerouac at the Tic-Toc Whiskey Bar in St. Petersburg, Florida, the two quickly became friends.Their adventures together include

Anderson bailing Jack out of jail for peeing in public, wild nights at the Wild Boar tavern ("a bum's Camelot"), encounters with the local press and Jack's family, among others. There's also a drunken road trip to see Allen Ginsberg and John Clellon Holmes, and Lowell, Jack's hometown. Others have painted Kerouac as an unpleasant, desperately sad character toward the end of his life; in "Free Beer" Cliff Anderson shows him instead as a brilliant man, full of life, human moods and complexity (Anderson labels his alternating moods "Jeckyll" and "Hyde"). The short story Anderson and Jack wrote together, "The Bottom Drawer Affairs of Woolie Williams or Kicks and Truth," is also included. Rod Anstee's interview with Anderson offers further enlightenment, and spans a wide range of topics. The 11 additional stories are fun to read, too.

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