

The book was found

## Post Office: A Novel



## Synopsis

"It began as a mistake." By middle age, Henry Chinaski has lost more than twelve years of his life to the U.S. Postal Service. In a world where his three true, bitter pleasures are women, booze, and racetrack betting, he somehow drags his hangover out of bed every dawn to lug waterlogged mailbags up mud-soaked mountains, outsmart vicious guard dogs, and pray to survive the day-to-day trials of sadistic bosses and certifiable coworkers. This classic 1971 novelâ "the one that catapulted its author to national fameâ "is the perfect introduction to the grimly hysterical world of legendary writer, poet, and Dirty Old Man Charles Bukowski and his fictional alter ego, Chinaski.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Ecco; Reprint edition (July 29, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061177571

ISBN-13: 978-0061177576

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 460 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,938 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Humor & Satire > Dark Humor #45 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Self-Help & Psychology #691 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

## Customer Reviews

"An amazing, hilarious and unfalteringly entertaining account of a man trapped in a kind of Catch 23" Sunday Times "Takes you by the shoulders and shakes you until your teeth rattle" The Times "Cunningly, relentlessly jokey and sad" Observer "One of the funniest books ever written" Uncut "Amazing, hilarious and unfalteringly entertaining" --Sunday Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Charles Bukowski is one of Americaâ ™s best-known contemporary writers of poetry and prose and, many would claim, its most influential and imitated poet. He was born in 1920 in Andernach, Germany, to an American soldier father and a German mother, and brought to the United States at the age of two. He was raised in Los Angeles and lived there for over fifty years. He died in San Pedro, California, on March 9, 1994, at the age of seventy-three, shortly after completing his last

novel, Pulp.

This book chronicles the (fictional) later life of main character Henry Chinaski, who has for most of the book a dead-end Â¢Â œcareerÂ¢Â • at the Post Office over 12 years. His regular spells of drudgery there are interspersed with lots of drinking, women, race track betting, and some cynically amusing commentary. Chinaski is not upbeat by any means, yet at the same time, never seems quite completely ground down by his life. As depicted, work at the Post Office (and on at least one other job) is every bit as depersonalizing as most of us imagine. The long hours, tedium, disrespect and abuse are peppered with ChinaskiÂ¢Â™s slovenly disdain for the bureaucracy and the plodding supervisors he works for. Chinaski does not seem to want to work when he doesnÂ¢Â™t have to, but for much of the book, seems to go along with it anyway, in part perhaps because it seems like the path of least resistance given his circumstances. On the surface, none of his work quite seems to totally shackle him, but in less obvious ways, he finally discovers that it has gradually wrung him out anyway, in spite of himself. I read this immediately after Â¢Â œHam on RyeÂ¢Â • (by the same author, Bukowski). Although "Ham on Rye" was written later, it is about ChinaskiÂ¢Â™s early life from his time as a young boy through adolescence, and is even blunter than this one. I therefore started this book with the character from Â¢Â œHam on RyeÂ¢Â • fresh in my mind. Although Chinaski is still recognizable, one has to wonder what beat him down in between, since at the end of "Ham on Rye" I would not have said that he would be pursuing work in the way he does in this book. Although I liked Â¢Â œHam on RyeÂ¢Â • better, this is both an excellent and an easy read. BukowskiÂ¢Â™s style is simple, direct, blunt, and straightforward.

Confirms what we have come to suspect about how the Postal System worked then and still works now. Have just completed reading "Post Office" for the second time. As usual, one gets a bigger and better picture the second time around, but Bukowski, as Chinaski, paints the grim picture of life and specifically life inside the Postal System. It may be worse today depending on the Station and the particular employees and bureaucrats and "high tech" technology. I know that Route Drivers or Carriers are on some kind of monitored timer. They only have so much time to "stick" mail in say, a gang mail box for an apartment house, and then they must be off to the next address down the block. They have no extra time to talk to you or pass some time of day with the public, etc. They are automatomic slaves to a system of bureaucratic slavery. It would drive anyone to drink, etc. as Chinaski displays. We have all heard and read about employees "going postal."

Wow, I must be getting old....Many times I found myself laughing out loud, that's why the 3 stars. But for some reason I felt like I had Stumbled across the diary off the creepy dirty old man down the street. The guy all the parents tell their kids to stay away from, just because of the way he looks. The language was a bit more vulgar than I had expected. I am far from being a prude, and I guess it works for the developed caricatures. Definitely not a book I would expect to be required reading, below the college level.

Toward the end of Post Office, Bukowski's next best novel after Ham on Rye, the protagonist Henry Chinaski has a revelation. Most of us scramble for job security, even if it comes at the price of our physical and emotional health, our creativity, and our identity. Anything's worth the cost of keeping a paycheck coming in on time. So we "accept" what we're given. This, Chinaski realizes, is "the wisdom of the slave" (p. 189), and he wants nothing to do with it. So he walks away from his civil service job with the postal department. Twelve years is enough. The tussle between individual autonomy and economic security is one of the more obvious themes in both Post Office and Bukowski's other "working man" novel, Factotum. We become dependent on our jobs, psychologically as well as materially, and the dependency is hard to break. Post Office is the story of a guy who starts out free and loose (Part I), but who finds himself drifting toward spirit-deadening "respectability" and job security (Parts II-IV), only to finally break away and face the great unknown of unemployment--and artistic creativity (Parts V & VI). Along the way, Bukowski writes a few genuinely brilliant sketches of bureaucratic stupidity, and (uncharacteristically) a few moving ones in which Chinaski plays with the child, Marina, he's sired off of Fay. There are also some moments of quite good psychological insight, as when Chinaski, disoriented by the sudden loss of routine (even though it's a routine he despised) falls to pieces right after walking away from his job. Thankfully, there's less of the relentless-to-the-point-of-tedium drinking in Post Office than one finds in most of Bukowski's other novels (although there's still a lot). Moreover, the novel is less impressionistic and better constructed than any other Bukowski tale except Ham on Rye. Even though it's difficult to understand the cult status granted Bukowski by his admirers, Post Office is a good novel--not great, mind you, but pretty darn good.

Hysterical is understated. Kept putting the book in my lap 'cause I laughed so hard-- took a few moments to read on. Also, felt a lot of empathy for Chinaski. The book will change perspective about your own job, especially if you're low on the totem pole. And, I mean LOW! Good therapy!

I'm by no means an avid reader, I have my adhd to thank for that, and novel was very enjoyable. I read it from time to time whenever I wanted to pass the time and eventually I could not get enough. I was able to hyper-focus on reading which is super rare for me, the book is hilarious, raw and real. If you enjoy crude humor this is a must read. Bukowski has me hooked!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Your Office: Microsoft Office 2016 Volume 1 (Your Office for Office 2016 Series) How to Start a Family Office: Blueprints for setting up your single family office (Family Office Club Book Series 3) Your Office: Microsoft Access 2016 Comprehensive (Your Office for Office 2016 Series) Your Office: Microsoft Excel 2016 Comprehensive (Your Office for Office 2016 Series) Postpartum Depression Cure: The Self-Help Guide To Overcome Depression After Childbirth (Post partum anxiety, Post partum weight loss, Post partum depression) Post Office: A Novel The Electronic Health Record for the Physicianâ ™s Office: For Simchart for the Medical Office, 2e 5 SECRETS OF HEALTHY LIFE IN THE OFFICE: Easy Way to Be Healthy and More Productive Working at Home or at the Office Microsoft Office 365 Home and Business | iPhone Microsoft Office 365 , Excel, Word, PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, Access, Project, Visio.: Desktop And iPhone Using Full Course Single Family Office: Creating, Operating & Managing Investments of a Single Family Office The Single Family Office: Creating, Operating & Managing Investments of a Single Family Office Exploring Microsoft Office Excel 2016 Comprehensive (Exploring for Office 2016 Series) Exploring Microsoft Office Access 2016 Comprehensive (Exploring for Office 2016 Series) Enhanced Microsoft Office 2013: Introductory (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions) Shelly Cashman Series Microsoft Office 365 & Office 2016: Advanced MyITLab with Pearson eText -- Access Card -- for Your Office: Microsoft Office 2016 GO! with Microsoft Office 2016 Integrated Projects (GO! for Office 2016 Series) Enhanced Microsoft Office 2013: Introductory, Spiral-bound Version (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions) GO! with Microsoft Office 2016 Getting Started (GO! for Office 2016 Series) GO! with Microsoft Office 2016 Discipline Specific Projects (GO! for Office 2016 Series)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)