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# Coffee: The Epic Of A Commodity



## COFFEE

*The Epic  
of a  
Commodity*

H.E. JACOB



## **Synopsis**

“A cup of coffee is a miracle, a wonderful assemblage of relationships.” This classic follows coffee’s journey around the world, from London to Brazil, telling in fascinating detail and amusing anecdote the singular history of the legendary commodity, from its discovery that chewing on the beans were keeping goats awake in Yemen to the author’s own experiences with the bean in 1935. Referred to as a “documentary novel” back during its inception, H.E. Jacobs pioneered the concept of creative nonfiction, combining the reality of nonfiction with the epic presentation and prose of fiction. This genre exploded into popularity and remains so today. *Coffee* tells the story of this popular beverage in short, fun to read essays that will entertain anyone that enjoys a good, strong cup of coffee.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 33983 KB

Print Length: 320 pages

Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing; Reissue edition (March 10, 2015)

Publication Date: March 10, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00U7Y5TTG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #337,783 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #73 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Kitchen Appliances > Bread Machines #83 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Drinks & Beverages > Coffee & Tea #142 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Gastronomy > History

## **Customer Reviews**

Wasn’t sure if I’d like this book - is there enough history about coffee to fill a whole book written in the 1930s? Surprise! There is. Fascinating, too. Who would have thought that goats discovered coffee and the Ottoman Empire failed in Europe because of coffee. And it turned out to be a quick

read. A little jumbled. Sometimes confusing. Seemed to be written by a committee rather than a person. Regardless, if you love coffee, you'll find this book fascinating. Oh, if you don't understand economics, there's a portion of this book that uses coffee to explain the world's economy. Really!

This was an enjoyable (though scholarly) read, filled with many interesting bits of history regarding coffee. I limited my stars due to the lack of footnotes to translate the frequent French quotes, and because there is almost a hundred years missing, having been written in the 1930's.

My dictionary did not help with some of the words and the author is rather wordy at times - but I found it all very interesting. I have even started sampling a wide range of coffee beans!

Strictly for a historian

cute

I read this book through to the end, to see how it came out, but several things about the book annoyed me. It became annoying how the main character was always acting in the frenetic, out of body experience, coming to a stop and not realizing she had gotten out of the car, coming in to a parking lot at 30 miles per hour, etc. Everyone has to deal with stress of losing a loved one at some time in their life, but I felt like telling the main character, that she needs to get over herself. I also did not like that practically all persons the main character came in contact with were described in demeaning terms. For example, why do the delivery men at the beginning of the book, who are just trying to make a living, described as gorillas, and it goes on from there. I was also very disappointed with the disrespectful way God was addressed in the book. It seems that with most every novel I read, the author has to make a point of stating that the character is a non believer. It's as if the author thinks this is necessary to assure anyone will read his or her book. I did finish this book, but I will steer of any other books by this author.

A book from another time. The author reveals at the end he traveled to Brazil via Zeppelin from his native Germany in 1932 to research this history of coffee. I wish he was around today to bring it up to date

Coffee is best just black and smooth tasting, like this wonderful read. The author reveals intriguing

information about the history of coffee through the rascals that discovered it, coveted it, and brought the savory bean to the world.

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