

(Free pdf) The Moronic Inferno and Other Visits to America

# The Moronic Inferno and Other Visits to America

*Martin Amis*

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#1950655 in Books Viking Adult 1987-01-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 20.00 x 20.00 x 20.00, #File Name: 0670814326208 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Martin Amis : The Moronic Inferno and Other Visits to America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Moronic Inferno and Other Visits to America*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Limey's view of the US By Steek Early Amis, great price 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Treasure trove and a joy to re-read By Alfred J. Kwak This 1987 selection of writings by a young Martin Amis (MA) about the USA has been kept in print, and rightly so. It is a delightful collection of his journalistic articles published between 1977 and 1985, corrected, rewritten and provided with afterwords when needed. Most articles concerned his favourite writers, many dead now. Only Philip Roth and Hugh Hefner (not a writer, founder of Playboy) are still among us. Its title comes from Nobel Prize-winner Saul Bellow. MA's essays about his work and worldview bracket this collection like sturdy bookstands. Few readers will read every piece about the US writers, iconic Americans (Presley, Reagan), weird venues (Palm Beach) or pressing issues (AIDS) presented. Some entries are 1,200 word reviews, others lengthier and better documented. MA's best portraits display deep research plus an interview with the main subject. His best pieces (on e.g. Kurt Vonnegut, Norman Mailer, Saul Bellow) cannot be ignored by today's students of literature. His piece on AIDS (1985) was courageous and hard-hitting, and was well received in gay and medical circles after publication. Highly recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good times during the age of disco By Triplicate Brilliant reading this, 30 years later. Norman Mailer, Gore Vidal, William Burroughs, Hugh Hefner are all dead now. No one pierces the egoistical veil of "great" men with the tongue-in-cheek of Mr. Amis. He's insightful, accurate, sensitive, brutal, and forgiving. Had fun

remembering those days. Oh this mortal coil, that screws us all.

A collection of essays on America by the author of *London Fields*, *Money* and *Yellow Dog*. At the age of ten, when Martin Amis spent a year in Princeton, New Jersey, he was excited and frightened by America. As an adult he has approached that confusing country from many arresting angles, and interviewed its literati, filmmakers, thinkers, opinion makers, leaders and crackpots with characteristic discernment and wit. Included in a gallery of Great American Novelists are Norman Mailer, Gore Vidal, Truman Capote, Joseph Heller, William Burroughs, Kurt Vonnegut, John Updike, Paul Theroux, Philip Roth and Saul Bellow. Amis also takes us to Dallas, where presidential candidate Ronald Reagan is attempting to liaise with born-again Christians. We glimpse the beau monde of Palm Beach, where each couple tries to out-Gatsby the other, and examine the case of Claus von Bulow. Steven Spielberg gets a visit, as does Brian de Palma, whom Amis asks why his films make no sense, and Hugh Hefner's sybaritic fortress and sanitised image are penetrated. There can be little that escapes the eye of Martin Amis when his curiosity leads him to a subject, and America has found in him a superlative chronicler.

From *Library Journal* Using an engaging tone in which disdain and affection appear equally mixed, Amis looks at some of the more glittering facets of American fashionability. About half the essays are on writers (Bellow, Capote, Didion, etc.); the rest, seemingly scatter shots at the American scene, skip from film makers to feminism, from the New Right to AIDS. Although *Inferno* is a selection of occasional pieces, it is disproportionately weighted to the freakish fringe (Hefner, Claus von Bulow) and thus bestows a symbolic importance on such figures that is simply incommensurate with reality. British readers will make of this what they will; American readers, at the least, can take an amused delight in Amis's performance especially in the sequence of arch figure-eights and ironic reverse-spins that he cuts on the glitzy surface of our times. Earl Rovit, English Dept., City Coll., CUNY Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. Martin Amis's *America* is funny and horrific. The *Times* As a foreign journalist-cum-essayist on America, Mr. Amis has no equal. The *Economist* About the Author Martin Amis is the author of 13 novels, the memoir *Experience*, two collections of stories, and six nonfiction books. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.