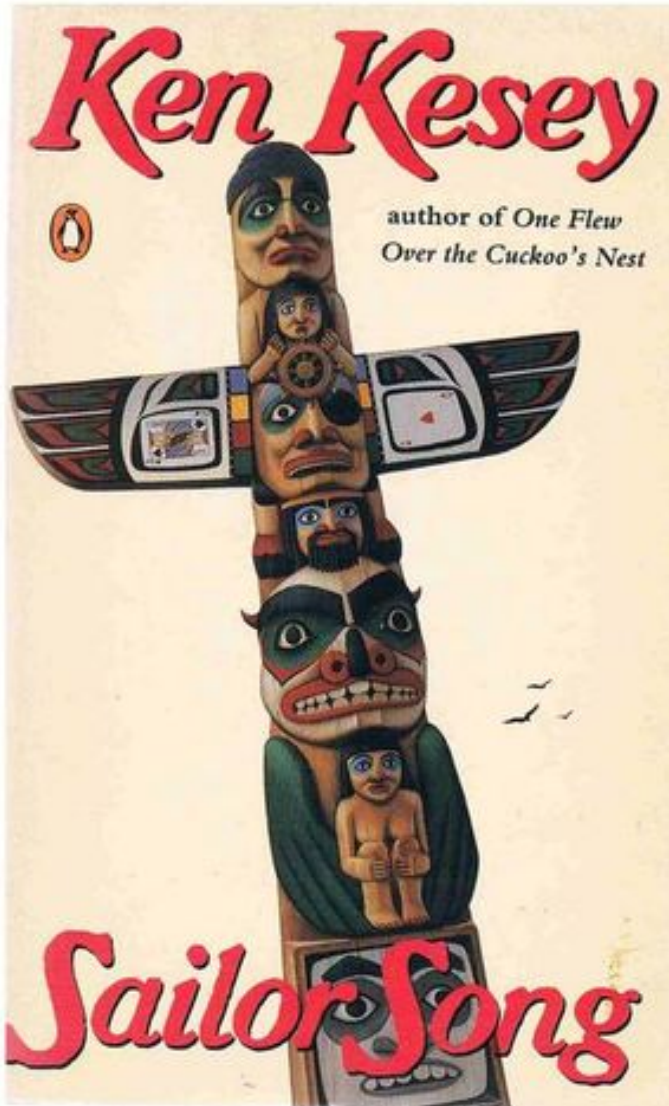


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**Ken Kesey**

**Sailor Song**



Title: Sailor Song

Author: Ken Kesey

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 533

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0140179593

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 6.1 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

Set in the near future in the fishing village of Kuinak, Alaska, a remnant outpost of the American frontier not yet completely overcome by environmental havoc and mad-dog development, **Sailor Song** is a wild, rollicking novel, a dark and cosmic romp.

The town and its denizens —colorful refugees from the Lower Forty-Eight and Descendants of Early Aboriginal People- are seduced and besieged by a Hollywood crew, come to film the classic children's book *The Sea Lion*. The ensuing turf war escalates into a struggle for the soul of the town as the novel spins and swirls toward a harrowing climax.

Kesey has given us a unique and powerful novel about America, and this epic tale of the north is a vibrant moral fable for our time.

## Insightful reviews

David Cohen: Though a bit more nautical than I was hoping, this book was an epic journey into the backatcha bandit and scruffy masculine heros. Reading this book before Sarah Palin was announced to be McCain's Vice President definitely damaged my view of her. This book gave me exactly the Alaska I wanted.

Andrew: The phrase I was searching for throughout "Sailor Song" was "wish fulfillment." It's difficult to read the protagonist, Ike Sallas, as anything but the man hero that Kesey constructed in *McMurphy* of "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest," and really anything but a stand in for the agonized activist Kesey himself. I'm loathe to draw comparisons between authors and their subjects, but Ike Sallas is simply not a believable character, and if he's just a construct, well, then I guess that's the only option we've got.

There's going to be a lot of discussion of the ending of the book, a lot of angry confusion that at first gives you the sensation you're at the wrong end of a prank. But, in a strange way, the ending works in a novel about futility and failure. Sure, the book is merry enough along the way, with a wildly constructed future of Alaska featuring eternally burning garbage heaps, overweight Irishmen dancing with their own bellies, sudecitive/innocent "primitive beauties," high flying adventures against gargantuan mormons and pigs fighting bears. In fact, in many ways, the book works best simply as a prank or a joke - it's funny in the same ways that Benny Profane of "V" or Orin Incandenza of "Infinite Jest" are. But whereas both of those characters meandered through absurdity, they were always reigned within the confines of a novelistic purpose, even if not a personal one.

Which brings me back to failure. Ike Sallas was once a freedom fighter ala Cesar Chavez, and then calmed down some. We never really see any of this, except in peekaboo flashbacks and the odd grunt. But Ike's time is over. He's let his fire go out, and the eco-terrorists have lost. Temperatures soar across the globe, the wilderness is dying. Ike manages to rally once, firing off an impassioned speech against encroaching globalization on his Alaskan wilderness town, and he utterly fails, impressing no one and changing nothing. The point is, Ike's time is past.

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Kesey's time is past.

So when an event occurs in the last sixty pages of the book that renders all of Ike's struggles moot (some could say the ending is alluded to, but the novel has so many sidetracks and deadend turns it resembles the Alaskan coastline, so if we were to catch on to the impending events, it was either sloppy writing or an afterthought), it's almost understandable. The previous 460 pages were futile in the face of this catastrophe and accomplished nothing, just as Ike's efforts did nothing to stem the erosion of the environment, just as Kesey didn't stop oppressive elements in society.

To call this book a swan song would be going a bit far, I think. But Kesey was at least aware of the parallels he was creating between two tired warriors, embittered by their failures and doing their best to cling to their lovers and friends, their merry pranksters, waiting to overcome the ignorance of the masses in their wilderness shacks.

All in all, the book is a failure too. It entertains without saying anything, dangles characters and plot points like a hyperactive puppeteer more interested in his mental whispering than his audience. In a way you wonder if Kesey was trying to join his contemporary Pynchon in a postmodern examination of characters and themes, mixing pop songs and folk tales with emotional drama, ambassadors and bowling alleys, a sea of fishkids and a sea of lost refugees. And maybe, maybe he just realized he couldn't get there, and wanted us to remind us that this wasn't his fight anymore, and bowed out, wishing us a cackling 'good luck' on the future we made by ignoring his advice.

Hortense: Kesey's split-rail characters-- I think I know them, if knowing them means anything other than day glow highs. They are just dispossessed hangers-on, drifting drunks, forced visionaries blinded in the snowy waters, the breathing fuel dumps, they smell like decaying fish scales and gasoline. People attracted by some mongrel jobs lasting a few months. They are the rush of fools, the slurred speech and 10-pen brains. But sometimes they go off like angelic lace, announcing the end of creation through the curtains of mist, seen through fogged binoculars. You just have to forgive the ugly fuck-wads. For what I don't know, at least I am not certain. For having to live in the default modes of all their affronted muddy choices? Harangue heavenly, the intoxicated. Mr. Kesey sails blowsy on an ignored ship of night, with several exploding overweight women, brains drip from his words, read like fish imprints in the miracle of slime. I believe the world has ended already. We are in the after times and we claim we don't know how we are supposed to behave.

Jaime: This ebook was once amazing. It did not make feel constantly yet did not have to. jogged my memory of a post-apocalyptic Watchmen, yet method better. have to learn extra via Kesey.

Anna Zenchenkova: " - ??? ??? ?????! ?????????, ? ??? ?? ????????????? ????? ??? ?????????? ?????. ??????????! ????????????? ?????????? ????????????? ?????????? ?????????? ? ?????????? ??????????????. ????????? ?? ????????? ??????????, ??? ????? ??? ??? ?????????????"????????? ??????. ????????? ??????, ????????? - ?????? ?????????.

Mike: this booklet is excellent for me. it truly is enjoyable to learn and absorbing. kesey has a

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tendency to color an identical protagonist in all of his novels. basically, he replicates himself into his protagonist: strong-minded, strong-bodied, radical and independent. Kesey additionally knows the failings a personality like this may have, in addition to the issues all of us can have. This creates an epic atmosphere within the novel, as each one personality types via their very own life's targeted difficulties whereas attempting to continue to exist the plot.anyways, this ebook is humorous and outrageous at times. it has a pair scenes of fine outdated motion and a gentle quantity of middle or no matter what you name it.

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