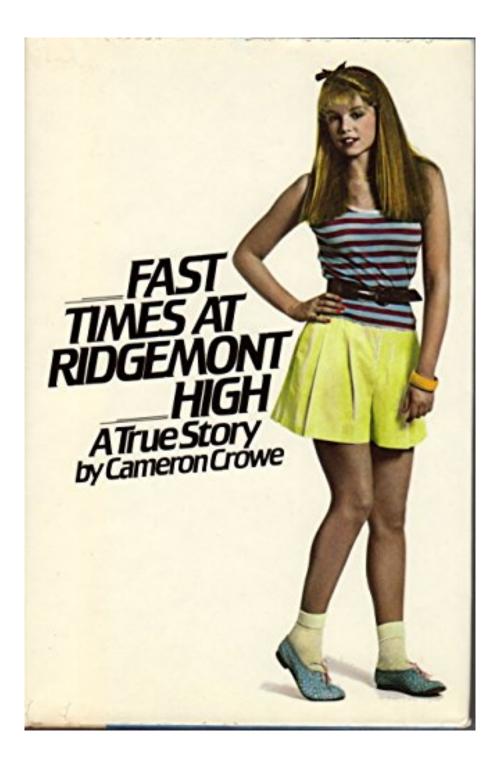


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This is a true story. In the fall of 1979 Cameron Crowe at 22 years of age walked into the office of Principal William Gray's office and asked permission to attend classes for the full length of the school year to research a book he was to write of his experiences inside the walls of Ridgemont High and Redondo Beach, California. This is the day-by-day journal of horny and wasted semi-blank adults who don't know a thing about their future.

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Features

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Falling Back Into High School

By Philip S. Wolf

In the fall of 1979 Cameron Crowe did something that many would describe as crazy. At 22 years of age he walked into the office of Principal William Gray's office and asked permission to attend classes for the full length of the school year to research a book he was to write of his experiences inside the walls of Ridgemont High in Redondo Beach, California. The sights, the sounds and even the smells of a High School of the late seventies are described within the covers of this most excellent document of being a teenaged wasteland of thirty years past.

The author walked the halls in a proper uniform of tennis shoes, jeans, t-shirt and backpack and blended in as best that he could while he transcribed everything and everyone around him. In this book you will discover: Brad Hamilton, the guy would takes pride in his fries, Damone, who has already mastered" "The Attitude" Mark Ratner, still hoping to nix the tie, Stacy Hamilton, listening to every pearl of wisdom about sex that Linda Barrett would describe in the lunch room while 15 year old boys observed from the un-cool tables and gazed at still-developing, female-type chests with big wide eyes of teenaged lust. And then, at last we arrive at Mister Hand's classroom where Jeff Spicoli is looking at a history textbook drawing cartoons with bloodshot eyes trying to figure out if this Thomas Jefferson dude was cool or extremely bogus.

What makes this book and the movie that followed it as the classic American story of teenagers coping with life as teenagers in a world they didn't create is that this ain't: "Leave it to Beaver" or: "The Brady Bunch."

This is the truth about what you gotta put up with when you are pimply-faced loser to the rest of the world and the kid that cannot score tickets for the Zeppelin concert at The Forum next month. This is the day-byday journal of horny and wasted semi-adults who don't have a clue of what their future holds before them. This book is an accurate account of what music makes sense and which car you gotta drive to take a girl (a real one, not an inflatable one!) up to the point to have any chance to score.

There are many more stories found inside this book than the ones that made it onto the script of the very popular and most excellent film that followed this most fantastic book. Ridgemont ROCKS!!! And this is an outstanding document of what went down there.

FIVE STARS !!!

16 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

Yeah, it works.

By Gabriel Neeb

A few things, yes this should be reissued. No, the edition I'm reading came from the library. I've no idea if there is any appreciable difference.

My only exposure to 'Fast Time...' had come primarily through the 1982 film. Loved it. Raucous with hearta mix that is often attempted but more often failed, but the movie managed to do that. So I went looking for the book. Only to not find it on amazon or bn or Borders. OK. Check again. Nope. A few years later. Nothing. Now, about ten years after I first saw the movie, I decided to get the book out of the local library. And I'm glad I did.

If the book can be remembered for anything, it will be because the reader can read a part here or there and remember something like that. The uncertainty, the false bravado, the awkward search for conversation, a misread gesture. All the hallmarks of growing up and trying to relate to your peers. It's a book that only a few hundred actually experienced (Mr. Crowe and his classmates), but everyone that has ever attended an American high school will feel a high degree of familiarity with ("Well, no it didn't happen exactly like that...").

Mr. Crowe is smart enough to keep his cast small and focused on certain aspects of their lives. As a reader, I thank him for this as our desire to get a little more under the skin of the experience is always rewarded. My only misgiving is that, 28 years after the events described, the story isn't complete.

As stated, a re-issue would be invaluable. The ideal re-issue would include annotations to the real areas described (Ridgemont is really Clairemont, Lincoln HS is probably Madison HS, the Strand is in Ocean Beach, the Charthouse is in Seaport Village, Marine World is Sea World, I've no idea if the Regal Theater is really the MAnn Sports Arena, etc) and a follow-up feature on where the real life counterparts of Stacy, Brad, Jeff and such ended up. The lack of these does not detract from the story, but the passing of time has created this desire.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Worth Tracking Down

By fatorange23

I was in high school myself when the movie came out. The dollar theater Friday and Saturday night showings became THE place to be and be seen and the gathering point for our own late night adventures. We howled at the screen, drooled at the nudity, laughed at Spicoli, and threw our empty beer cans at Mr. Hand. Then the movie was gone and started the inevitable dissipation from our consciousness. But suddenly, a few years later, those of us who thought about it were astonished by how many excellent movie stars used this teen party flick as a launching pad. Then the movie was revisited and reconsidered, surprisingly standing up very well to the test of time. Then some more years passed. It started to come to light that the movie spawned from a book. OK, that's not so unusual. That may be worth picking up at some point, if I see it. More comes to light. It was actually written by Cameron Crowe. No kidding, wow, he's really talented, that's interesting. Actually it's non-fiction and he went undercover for a year and researched it at a real high school. Holy

smoke! Now, I had to read it. Except it's out of print and stolen from practically every library in America. A hundred bucks on Amazon. Good grief! Finally, a couple years after that I see a copy for \$35 and I snag it. Man, that's about the most build up for a book I can remember. Time to dig in. Can it live up to expectations? It blows them out of the water. It was one of the most beautifully nostalgic experiences to ever come to me from a work of art. The sex was just as sexy. The jokes were funnier. Spicoli was realer. Mr. hand was smarter. And Stacy's abortion was much more brutal. As Crowe took me through the year, it was that same melancholy feeling of loss as when you were actually experiencing the magic of youth slipping through your fingers while at the same time loving every second of it.

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