

Dead Distillers: A History of the Upstarts and Outlaws Who Made American Spirits



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Dead Distillers: A History of the Upstarts and Outlaws Who Made American Spirits

Founders and award-winning distillers of Kings County Distillery Colin Spoelman and David Haskell follow up their successful Guide to Urban Moonshining with an extensive history of the figures who distilled American spirits. The book presents 50 fascinating—and sometimes morbid—biographies from this historic trade's bygone days, including farmers, scientists, oligarchs, criminals, and the occasional US president. Readers may be surprised to find the names George Washington, Henry Frick, or Andrew Mellon alongside the usual suspects long associated with booze—Jasper "Jack" Daniel, Jim Beam, and Julian "Pappy" Van Winkle. From the

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What others say about this ebook:

Review 1:

Dead Distillers tells the history of American spirits in an informative and entertaining voice. A great addition to my whiskey geek library!

Review 2: The publisher sent me a copy of this book for review.

The authors have done an impressive amount of research, and have supplied this book with numerous illustrations including old newspapers and maps. While it's reasonably well-written, the one and two page vignettes never come alive. The experience is a bit like reading an encyclopedia in order. It would probably work better as a "bathroom book" for people to pick up and read a few pages at random. A parallel comment is the book contains quite a bit of US history, distilling science, human interest and geography; but not enough of any to be really satisfying.

Overall, this felt like great research notes that needed additional work to make into a really good book. If you have a strong interest in distilling or American history, you should probably get this book. If not, I doubt you'll dislike it, but after a few dozen pages, you'll probably lose interest.

Review 3:

I was really looking forward to this book so I preordered it. It's not a bad book. It's not badly written. I was just expecting a traditionally written book and this is more of a collection of short biographies. It doesn't lace the stories together as much as I would like. And it doesn't have a well-rounded representation of the US. There are barely any stories out of the northeast.

Review 4:

This is an enjoyable informative book about American Distillers. Most of the distillers included were bootleggers. There are short chapters with biographies about well known distillers and many long forgotten ones. There is a also a collection of short newspaper clippings of many unfortunate workers who had workplace accidents. Lots of wonderful historical photographs accompany the text. Enjoy this unique shot of American History.

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for my honest review

Review 5:

Very informing for the person wants to learn the history of distilling, I'm reading it for the 2nd time, well worth every cent.

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