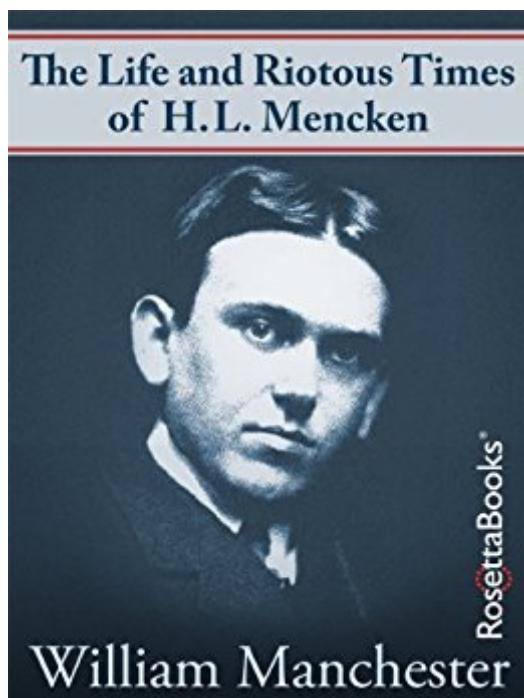


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# The Life And Riotous Times Of H.L. Mencken



## Synopsis

In 1947, a young William Manchester--the man who would later become a celebrated biographer, historian, and novelist--was working as a reporter for The Baltimore Sun. It was there that he met fellow journalist H.L. Mencken, the influential writer and cofounder of the magazines The American Mercury and The Smart Set. While attending the University of Missouri, Manchester tackled Mencken as the subject of his Masters thesis. When the resulting biography was published on the wider market in 1951, it made a splash--establishing Manchester's reputation as a skilled writer, biographer, and political commentator. This book tells the story of "conservative anarchist" H.L. Mencken's life in compelling detail--a story that's energetic, controversial, and surprisingly intimate. Crafted in vivid prose, William Manchester brings Mencken's world to life. William Manchester was the most popular and highly regarded historian and biographer of his time--and this powerful book supports that reputation. "Manchester's book is written with verve, intellectual sophistication, and a prickly wit worthy of its eminent subject.... [The Life and Riotous Times of H.L. Mencken] performs a considerable service for American intellectual history. It is, besides, a first-class piece of literate entertainment." --The New Yorker

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** William Manchester (1922-2004) was a journalist, Professor of History Emeritus at Wesleyan University, and the best-selling author of several noted histories, novels, and biographies. Notable works include *The Last Lion*, a biography of Winston Churchill spanning several volumes; *American Caesar*, on the life of Douglas MacArthur; *The Arms of Krupp*, *A World Lit Only By Fire*; and *The Death of a President*. His awards include the Dag Hammarskjold International Literary Prize, the National Humanities Medal, the Abraham Lincoln Literary Award, and the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

A fine account of the life of the most caustic reporter and literary critic of the first half of the 20th Century. Well worth the read for the historical content included.

I've always known Mencken as a witty newspaperman, but how he lived his life and why he was so clever wasn't known to me. Now it is. Highly recommended.

Had always heard of H. L. Mencken but never new much about him. Manchester's book gave me a real feel for the "Sage of Baltimore," his writings, and his life.

Informative, a look at America at an earlier time that is gone forever. But it struggled to hold my interest.

Manchester is my favorite writer and I hope to get all of his books on my Kindle!

William Manchester provides a detailed look at the life and times of one of journalism's most caustic critical writers in the 1920's. His description of how Mencken chronicled the "Monkey Trial" setting in Dayton, Tennessee is worth the price of the book.

Once. Not Now. Ol' H.L and H.S. Thompson would have gotten along famously. I'm sure I've benefited from his pioneering efforts in some measure, but am hard pressed to recognize that distant past. If you find yourself referring to an Uncle as a "Whangdoodle" in your Christmas cards, take off your racoon coat and come in from the cold to cozy up to the crazy within this read!

I bought this book for my Dad who loves this author. But he did not like this book. It was not what he

was expecting. I think I am going to return it.

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