

Chapter 1 : John D. MacDonald - Wikipedia

*John Dann MacDonald (July 24, - December 28, ) was an American writer of novels and short stories, known for his thrillers.. MacDonald was a prolific author of crime and suspense novels, many of them set in his adopted home of Florida.*

The Wit and Wisdom of John D. MacDonaldâ€™ born on July 24th, â€™ saw some things in his time. He was, in nearly all facets of life, prolific. Westlake said of him: JDM ranks among the very finest writers ever to try his hand at crime. So, here it is: MacDonald on life, morality, the craft of writing, the art of storytelling, the futility of workaday employment, and so much more. What drives a reader: What happens next is the thing that keeps people reading, and the more important the next [thing is], then the more important the work is. Those with that shallow motivation can forget it. Take a person 25 years old. If that person has not read a minimum of three books a week since he or she was ten years old, or 2, booksâ€™ comic books not countedâ€™ and if he or she is not still reading at that pace or preferably, at a greater pace, then forget it. If he or she is not willing to commit one million words to paperâ€™ ten medium-long novelsâ€™ without much hope of ever selling one word, in the process of learning this trade, then forget it. And if he or she can be discouraged by anyone in this world from continuing to write, write, writeâ€™ then forget it. You set up a card table, and you lay out pieces of cardboard, construction paper, scissors, paste, crayons. Is the chicken going to get out of the way in time? Now you finish the picture. I do this with my own work oftener than you might suppose. Now take out the subjective words. For example, I did not label the air conditioner as old, or noisy, or battered, or cheap. Those are evaluations the reader should make. Tell how a thing looks, not your evaluation of what it is from the way it looks. Do not say a man looks seedy. That is a judgment, not a description. All over the world, millions of men look seedy, each one in his own fashion. Describe a cracked lens on his glasses, a bow fixed with stained tape, tufts of hair growing out of his nostrils, an odor of old laundry. Integrity is not a search for the rewards of integrity. Maybe all you ever get for it is the largest kick in the ass the world can provide. It is not supposed to be a productive asset. Crime pays a lot better. I can bend my own rules way, way over, but there is a place where I finally stop bending them. I can recognize the feeling. On a healthy aversion to -isms. Astrology, health food, flag waving, bible thumping, Zen, nudism, nihilismâ€™ all of these are grotesque simplifications which small dreary people adopt in the hope of thereby finding The Answer, because the very concept that maybe there is no answer, never has been, never will be, terrifies them. Must be in his 80s. All about Swedish maids with vibrators. What was I gonna do? I was fair to the book, I thought. I owe a lot to him. Some come to realize this after they are in the nursing home. I am wary of the whole dreary deadening structured mess we have built into such a glittering top-heavy structure that there is nothing left to see but the glitter, and the brute routines of maintaining it.

Chapter 2 : John D. MacDonald - IMDb

*This website is devoted to John D. MacDonald, author of 78 books, including the famous Travis McGee series. JDM is well-known in mystery fiction writing, especially for his books with Florida as a setting.*

During , while still in the Army, he wrote a short story and mailed it to his wife. She submitted it to the magazine Esquire, which rejected it. He learned of this just after his ship arrived in the United States. After his discharge, MacDonald spent four months writing short stories, generating some , words and losing 20 pounds 9. He would eventually sell nearly short stories to detective , mystery, adventure, sports, Western , and science fiction magazines. Hardboiled thrillers Edit This article does not contain any citations or references. Please improve this article by adding a reference. For information about how to add references, see Template: Between and , MacDonald specialized in crime thrillers, mainly of the so-called " hardboiled " genre. Most of these novels were published as paperback originals, although some were later republished as hardbound editions. MacDonald is credited with being one of the earliest to write on the effect of real estate booms on the environment, and his novel A Flash Of Green New York: Simon and Schuster, is a good example of this. Travis McGee , the "salvage consultant" and "knight-errant," was all of that. McGee made his living by recovering the loot from thefts and swindles, keeping half to finance his "retirement," which he took in segments as he went along. All titles in the series include a color, a mnemonic device which was suggested by his publisher so that when harried travelers in airports looked to buy a book, they could at once see those MacDonald titles they had not yet read. The McGee novels feature an ever-changing array of female companions, some particularly nasty villains, exotic locales in Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean, and appearances by a sidekick known only as "Meyer," an economist of international renown and a Ph. Death Edit Following complications of an earlier heart bypass operation , MacDonald slipped into a coma on December 10 and died at age 70, on December 28, , in St. It featured Rod Taylor as the main series character: Travis McGee The novella Linda was filmed twice for television, during with Stella Stevens in the title role and during with Virginia Madsen. It relocated McGee to California, eliminating the Florida locales basic to the novel. I loved it because he was the first modern writer to nail Florida dead-center, to capture all its languid sleaze, racy sense of promise, and breath-grabbing beauty. MacDonald would be a treasure on the order of the tomb of Tutankhamen. Stephen King stated in the book Faces of Fear: MacDonald has written a novel called The End of the Night which I would argue is one of the greatest American novels of the twentieth century. The slip is empty, with a small plaque mentioning Busted Flush. The popular mystery writer Dean Koontz has also acknowledged in an interview with Bookreporter. Before there were Lee Child and Carl Hiaasen , there was MacDonald "â€” as prescient and verbally precise as anyone writing today can possibly hope to be. Winners of the John D.

**Chapter 3 : My 10 Favorite John D. Macdonald Standalone Novels**

*The Travis McGee Series By John D. MacDonald. Travis McGee, hero of 21 disposable paperback adventures, still has a huge and devoted following 12 years after the last of these tales was written.*

The family relocated to Utica, New York in 1917, with his father becoming treasurer of the Utica office of Savage Arms. In 1921, MacDonald was sent to Europe for several weeks, which began a desire for travel and for photography. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, but he quit during his sophomore year. MacDonald worked at menial jobs in New York City for a brief time, then was admitted to Syracuse University, where he met his future wife, Dorothy Prentiss. They married in 1928, and he graduated from Syracuse University the next year. The couple would have one child, a son. He was later able to make good use of his education in business and economics by incorporating elaborate business swindles into the plots of several of his novels. He was discharged in September as a lieutenant colonel. In 1931, he moved his family to Florida, eventually settling in Sarasota. In 1932, while still in the Army, he wrote a short story and mailed it to his wife. She submitted it to the magazine *Esquire*, which rejected it. He learned of this just after his ship arrived in the United States. After his discharge, MacDonald spent four months writing short stories, generating some \$10,000, words and losing 20 pounds. He would eventually sell nearly short stories to detective, mystery, adventure, sports, Western, and science fiction magazines. These pseudonyms were all retired by the end of 1935, and MacDonald thereafter published all his work under his real name. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Between 1936 and 1940, MacDonald specialized in crime thrillers, mainly of the so-called "hardboiled" genre. Most of these novels were published as paperback originals, although some were later republished as hardbound editions. MacDonald is credited with being one of the earliest to write on the effect of real estate booms on the environment, and his novel *A Flash Of Green New York*: Simon and Schuster, is a good example of this. Travis McGee, the "salvage consultant" and "knight-errant," was all of that. McGee made his living by recovering the loot from thefts and swindles, keeping half to finance his "retirement," which he took in segments as he went along. All titles in the series include a color, a mnemonic device which was suggested by his publisher so that when harried travelers in airports looked to buy a book, they could at once see those MacDonald titles they had not yet read. The McGee novels feature an ever-changing array of female companions; some particularly nasty villains; exotic locales in Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean; and appearances by a sidekick known only as "Meyer," an economist of international renown and a Ph. D. Following complications of an earlier heart bypass operation, MacDonald slipped into a coma on December 10 and died at age 70, on December 28, 1982, in St. Petersburg. The novella *Linda* was filmed twice for television, in 1954 with Stella Stevens in the title role and in 1961 with Virginia Madsen. It relocated McGee to California, eliminating the Florida locales basic to the novel. In the writer Robert X. Crayton, I loved it because he was the first modern writer to nail Florida dead-center, to capture all its languid sleaze, racy sense of promise, and breath-grabbing beauty. MacDonald would be a treasure on the order of the tomb of Tutankhamen. Stephen King stated in the book *Faces of Fear*: MacDonald has written a novel called *The End of the Night* which I would argue is one of the greatest American novels of the twentieth century. The slip is empty, with a small plaque mentioning *The Busted Flush*. The popular mystery writer Dean Koontz has also acknowledged in an interview with *Bookreporter*. Before there were Lee Child and Carl Hiaasen, there was MacDonald – as prescient and verbally precise as anyone writing today can possibly hope to be. Winners of the John D.

**Chapter 4 : John D MacDonald**

*John D. MacDonald was born in Sharon, Pa, and educated at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Syracuse and Harvard, where he took an MBA in*

But he was more, much more than that. He was one of the most successful authors of his time, and he continued to regularly appear on the bestseller lists well into the eighties. While stationed in the Far East, to amuse himself he wrote a short story, and sent it to his wife. Inspired by this success, MacDonald decided to become a writer, and upon his return Stateside, he wrote hundreds of stories, mostly for the pulps. He continued to pump them out until, as he put it, "the last of them were shot out from under me. Those crime novels that he produced during this period are masters of the form -- spare, tight, often dark and even nasty tales of desperate men in way over their heads; taut morbid fables with psychological underpinnings and a burgeoning environmental awareness, often set in his adopted state of Florida. In fact, MacDonald is often credited with being one of the first crime writers to focus on the environment and made greedy real estate developers and the politicians who feed off them his frequent punching bags, with his novel *A Flash Of Green* a likely contender for perhaps the first environmentally-correct hard-boiled novel think of it as "green noir". The protagonists were often simply working joes, harried businessmen or low-level crooks, but there were also cops, journalists and other investigator types, most notably the cynical insurance investigator, Cliff Bartells , who appears in the powerful *The Brass Cupcake* , reporter Jimmy Wing , who shows up in the afore-mentioned *A Flash of Green* Both these early novels, in my opinion, seem to me like like dry runs for McGee, and are worth tracking down. An honest-to-god private investigator, Paul Stanial , figures prominently in *The Drowner* , as well. And these books certainly served MacDonlad well when he finally unleashed his series character, the colourful and larger-than-life McGee. And, oh yeah, simply as pure adventure, they kicked ass. I loved it because he was the first modern writer to nail Florida dead-center, to capture all its languid sleaze, racy sense of promise, and breath-grabbing beauty If a cypress swamp got plowed to make way for another shopping mall, he took it personally: The customary targets are greedhead developers, crooked politicians, chamber-of-commerce flacks, and the cold-hearted scammers who flock like buzzards to the Sunshine State. MacDonald, these were not just useful fictional villains; they were villains of real life. When he passed away unexpectedly in , millions of fans worldwide wondered what would become of Travis McGee. I wondered what would become of Florida without him Suffice it to say that in his lifetime, MacDonald sold over six hundred stories in his lifetime, to all sorts of magazines, in all kinds of stories. He wrote sports stories, science fiction, adventures, romances, westerns and mysteries. Often more than one of his stories would appear in the same magazine, often under some pseudonym or another. No wonder he resorted to pen names.

Chapter 5 : Travis McGee - Wikipedia

*John D. MacDonald () was an American author who was best known for crime and suspense novels, including the popular Travis McGee novels. MacDonald is very highly regarded by his fellow authors, including Dean Koontz and Stephen King.*

MacDonald is most famous for his phenomenally popular Travis McGee novels about the adventures of a tough, cynical, philosophical knight-errant living on a houseboat, *The Busted Flush*, in Fort Lauderdale. He spent the later years of his life in Florida with his wife and son, and died in MacDonal three times over the years, twice for *Mystery Scene*. My impression of him was that he was neither humble nor arrogant. He told me once that he sometimes judged his books by percentages. He was generally kind to other writers, notably Charles Williams, whom he mentioned in two different interviews. He seemed to feel, as do I, that Williams should have broken out. Most of us die little deaths except for the final big death. We lose jobs, mates, dignity. *A Key to the Suite*, for instance, charts the demise of several careers and at least two marriages in ways every bit as powerful and memorable as any shootout. I enjoyed the Travis McGees but always felt that they were inferior to his non-series work. They made him rich and brought him fame, but I often sensed that he wished he was still writing books such as *Dead Low Tide* and *The End of the Night*. Those early Gold Medals and Dells were some of the best crime novels of his generation. In January, Random House will begin to release, for the first time ever, ebook editions of 70 of John D. At the same time, Random House will publish also for the first time ever the McGee novels in trade paperback. Robert Mitchum and Gregory Peck starred. In this early book JDM found his voice. The romantic, the social scold, the intelligent avenger. Man married to a bimbo and employed by her father throws in with an old Army pal to pull off a caper that will make them rich. When the protagonist talks to his probably faithless wife the rancor is merciless. *Soft Touch* is a brutal ride with an ending Jim Thompson would have envied. The problem being that this is the town where Doyle grew up living in a shantytown. He returns reluctantly, with a grudge, looking for a killer and a way to purge himself of his rage. Five disparate groups of people take shelter in an old house to wait out a hurricane. Page-turning excitement as they tear at each other and mother nature tears at them. In terms of range and aspiration, *Murder in the Wind* is his attempt to go big. Maybe because book and film differ in certain critical ways. Read the book, see the movie, as the flacks used to say. A man, haunted by the death of his wife, decides to visit an old friend who seems to have everything. This book will hurt you. Few crime writers of his generation wrote so well about ordinary people and here we see JDM at the top of his game. Here JDM writes about such a collection of young men. It certainly has the same heft and genuine sense of tragedy. I can think of no equivalent in crime fiction. Grim and honest and honorable from start to finish. Though JDM is writing about the state of corporate America in , much of this novel set at a weekend business convention remains true today. JDM shows us a number of corporate men, some on the way up and some on the way down, who must survive the numerous tests the corporate bosses use as a process of elimination. Few other writers could take a set-up like this and make it so relentlessly readable, not to mention as pungent and fierce and wise. A powerhouse little book. Dated man-woman stuff same as the McGee novels. A widow named Kat Hubble lives next door to him; he loves her. After he tells her that the bay she and her friends wanted to keep unblemished will soon fall into the hands of the realtors, she fights back and so do the developers. The difference is that they will let nothing stop them. Even in the early JDMs you find traces of his environmentalism. This is where he takes on the theme directly. Those who would destroy nature are monsters, and in this long, rich novel he takes them apart before it was fashionable. The authorities see it as an accident. What makes it real what made so many of his books real is the description of the business world of both private investigation and the jobs of the suspects. This article first appeared in *Mystery Scene* Winter Issue

Chapter 6 : John D MacDonald: Books | eBay

*John Dann MacDonald (July 24, - December 28, ) was an American writer of novels and short stories, known for his thrillers. MacDonald was a prolific author of crime and suspense novels, many of them set in his adopted home of Florida More about John D. MacDonald.*

MacDonald This website is devoted to John D. MacDonald, author of 78 books, including the famous Travis McGee series. JDM is well-known in mystery fiction writing, especially for his books with Florida as a setting. Born In Sharon, Pa. By the time he died he had published 78 books, with more than 75 million copies in print. His son, Maynard, was born that year. He worked at several menial jobs after earning his MBA in MacDonald then served in the Army beginning in at the Rochester N. He was not a spy, however, but served in the Ordnance areas. He wrote nearly short stories, and published his first novel ,The Brass Cupcake, in He continues to earn praise from millions of readers and lasting respect from fellow authors. Numerous other awards and Honorary Doctorates were given to him as well. Please note that in addition to a bibliography of John D. Times Book Review for Feb. I loved it because he was the first modern writer to nail Florida dead-center, to capture all its languid sleaze, racy sense of promise, and breath-grabbing beauty If a cypress swamp got plowed to make way for another shopping mall, he took it personally: The customary targets are greedhead developers, crooked politicians, chamber-of-commerce flacks, and the cold-hearted scammers who flock like buzzards to the Sunshine State. MacDonald, these were not just useful fictional villains; they were villains of real life. When he passed away unexpectedly in , millions of fans worldwide wondered what would become of Travis McGee. I wondered what would become of Florida without him MacDonald would be a treasure on the order of the tomb of Tutankhamen.

**Chapter 7 : John D MacDonald Books In Publication & Chronological Order - Book Series**

*John D. MacDonald* "born on July 24th, "saw some things in his time. By the age of thirty, MacDonald had attended college, worked in New York City, earned an MBA from Harvard, seen action in the China Burma India Theater during WWII, joined the OSS (the CIA's predecessor), risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel, received his discharge from the military, moved to Florida, and launched.

MacDonald wrote many crime novels for which he is known and remembered for , some of which were part of a series about his character Travis McGee, and he wrote many other stand alone novels and short story collections. He has also written non-fiction books and some science fiction novels. He was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania on July 24, and died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 28, after an earlier heart operation did not go well. MacDonald was in the Army, he served in World War II, and when he was discharged, made it to rank of lieutenant colonel. He married Dorothy Prentiss in while attending Syracuse University, and graduated the next year. He had an MBA from Harvard, making use of his understanding of business and economics to use in his novels. Then he got heavily into writing once he got out spending fourteen hours a day everyday for four months, producing roughly , words in this time. After his writing career took off, he sold almost five hundred stories to detective, adventure, mystery, sports, science fiction, and Western magazines. Many times only MacDonald would have a story published in the magazine, but it was kept a secret with the use of pseudonyms. Once paperback novels started to become popular, he started writing them, focusing mainly on crime thrillers. His work between until are considered classics in the hardboiled genre. By the time he honed his voice, he became the most distinct voice in suspense fiction. He was praised and inspired by many authors for his work. After a recommendation by his publisher, he titled all the books in the Travis McGee series with a mnemonic device and a color to show readers the books in the series they had not yet read. He would title two other, stand alone novels with colors. The book introduces Travis, a veteran, and all of his character traits. The boat is named after the hand that started him on the hot streak that enabled him to buy the boat. He is a salvage consultant, or so his card reads. He charges half of the value of the lost item to help fund his retirement , but only if the item is recovered. His clients are those who have had something taken from them, and cannot get it back by themselves in a legal manner. This book also shows the change, on the part of the villain, from a simple thief to serial rapist to murderer. This book is the introduction to the series, as MacDonald would repeat a lot of the themes and structure found in the book. He will go through a lot to recover these objects. As the series goes on, the character does evolve, and the more books you read in the series, the more you learn about the character. Travis is an ex-professional football player at the tight end position, he has a custom Rolls Royce that was turned into a truck and was later painted an ugly color, and a Purple Heart and Silver Star. The police believe that it is a typical mugging, that they see all the time, but Nina knows that it is because he was digging around into things that some people wanted to keep quiet inside the real estate firm that he worked at. Fans also like the timeless quality that books have; they say that even though the books came out in the s, they are still relevant today. Many other adaptations of his stories have made their way into film. Another adaptation has been planned for awhile, passing from different directors and lead actors, without much headway being made on the movie. He set the standard for writing about Florida, that they even named an award after him; it is to recognize authors who excelled at writing about the state. Jack Reacher is back! Family secrets come back to haunt Reacher when he decides to visit the town his father was born in. Because when he visits there he finds out no-one with the last name of Reacher has ever lived there. It leaves him wondering - did his father ever live there? Recommendations Every 2 weeks we send out an e-mail with Book Recommendations. Insert your e-mail below to start getting these recommendations. If you see one missing just send me an e-mail below. Featured Author Our author of the month is Canadian author Opal Carew who writes erotic romance novels. Opal has written over novels with multiple book series such as the Dirty Talk series and the Abducted series. He graduated in the year of and then later spent numerous years trying to get himself established as a singer cum songwriter and pianist, but unfortunately was met with very minimal success.

**Chapter 8 : John D. MacDonald - Book Series In Order**

*John D MacDonald was born in Sharon, Pa, and educated at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Syracuse and Harvard, where he took an MBA in*

In John D. MacDonald was sent to Europe for several weeks, this adventurous journey sparked an interest in travel and photography. After completing high school, he joined Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania but unfortunately quit during his sophomore year. He worked at laborious jobs in New York for a short period before later joining Syracuse University where he met his wife, Dorothy Prentiss and got married to her in He later made use of his education in economics and business by incorporating detailed business swindles into the plotlines of his novels. In while still serving in the military, he wrote a short story and sent it to his wife. His wife submitted it to Esquire Magazine and got rejected. After his discharge from the military, MacDonald spent up to four months writing short stories. He then sold almost short stories to western, sports, mystery, detective, adventure and sci-fi magazines. MacDonald died at the age of 70 years in after developing complications that arose due to earlier heart bypass operation. The author wrote several series, anthologies, and short stories. The series publication ended in when *The Lonely Silver Rain* was published. The novel titled *Linda* was filmed two times, first during with Stella Stevens playing the title role and in with Virginia Madsen playing the lead role. *A Flash of Green* was adapted into a movie featuring Ed Harris. The eighteenth book in Travis McGee series. He is only thinking of only revenge and the only clue that he has pointed to a fortified California encampment. Infiltrating himself into the group, which possess some militaristic bent, McGee now fully embraces his darkest side. *The Green Reaper* is a fascinating read; it features a different tone and theme as well, unlike earlier novels which focused on small-scale evil. *The Lonely Silver Rain: The 21st* book in Travis McGee series. While contemplating his mortality, he discovers the surprise behind the cat-shaped pipe cleaners that someone left at his door. Soon he must fight for his life and unravel the mysteries surrounding him. If you love thriller novels, John D. MacDonald books will be an excellent addition to your book library. Their newest book is *In a Small Motel* and was released on May, 28th

**Chapter 9 : TOP 25 QUOTES BY JOHN D. MACDONALD | A-Z Quotes**

*John D. MacDonald wrote many crime novels (for which he is known and remembered for), some of which were part of a series about his character Travis McGee, and he wrote many other stand alone novels and short story collections.*

He looks at the photographs the blackmailer has sent him: A quick red fox. McGee dives overboard and is able to rescue the woman-despite the fact that her feet are wired to a cement block. MacDonald presents his hero, Travis McGee, in perhaps his most frightening, suspenseful episodes yet. Longtime friend Glory Doyle has come to McGee for help again. He was just there. But one thing they never could have figured. Is this what they call Southern hospitality? That is, until long-ago acquaintance Harry Broil comes aboard, gun in hand, threatening McGee within an inch of his life, accusing Travis of making off with his wife, Mary. Mary was an old friend, one whom Travis prizes dearly. Now he has to find her. Except they were not ordinary stamps. They were rare stamps. Four hundred thousand dollars worth. A syndicate killer had put a contract out on McGee. First time McGee saw her she was in pig-tails and glassy-eyed in love for him. Now she was a grown woman and married to an ex-football jock name Howie. Howie was trying to kill her, she cried. McGee began to check on them both. But McGee needed proof, a trap. And what better bait than himself? She is looking older and used and very scared. She has, with her. She wants Travis to keep it safe. So Travis keeps the money. But Carrie never came back. The papers said it was an accident. Thus, Travis becomes fully involved, more out of friendship than anything else. He cannot believe his friend is guilty. This is a book of vengeance and revenge. At first it appears to be a lethal illness, then horrifyingly, a random sophisticated killing. The police reported death by person or person unknown. For suddenly, out in the waters of the Florida Keys, the boat was destroyed by an explosion.