



Captains of the Sands (Penguin Classics)

By Jorge Amado

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Captains of the Sands (Penguin Classics) By Jorge Amado

A Brazilian *Lord of the Flies*, about a group of boys who live by their wits and daring in the slums of Bahia

They call themselves “Captains of the Sands,” a gang of orphans and runaways who live by their wits and daring in the torrid slums and sleazy back alleys of Bahia. Led by fifteen-year-old “Bullet,” the band—including a crafty liar named “Legless,” the intellectual “Professor,” and the sexually precocious “Cat”—pulls off heists and escapades against the right and privileged of Brazil. But when a public outcry demands the capture of the “little criminals,” the fate of these children becomes a poignant, intensely moving drama of love and freedom in a shackled land.

Captains of the Sands captures the rich culture, vivid emotions, and wild landscape of Bahia with penetrating authenticity and brilliantly displays the genius of Brazil’s most acclaimed author.

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Captains of the Sands (Penguin Classics) By Jorge Amado Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #179130 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2013-06-25
- Released on: 2013-06-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.80" h x .80" w x 5.10" l, .51 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This first English-language edition of a 50-year-old novel by the popular Brazilian author of *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands* et al. is the last of a series of six he wrote about his native Bahia, which is a Brazilian state. The "captains" of the title are a gang of abandoned children who live in a waterfront warehouse and survive by robbing the rich. The novel is clearly an early effort for Amado, with self-conscious effects (such as an imagined dialogue between a gang member and an icon he wants to steal) and a tendency to romanticize the young thieves and to telegraph their destinies. But Amado's vivid descriptions of Bahia, his strong social conscience ("The problem of abandoned and delinquent children that worried almost no one in the whole city was Father Jose Pedro's greatest worry") and his moving characterizations carry the reader along to the inevitable denouement which, despite its predictability, is both stirring and poignant. This edition also includes a self-righteous "postface" penned in 1937, in which Amado claims that "no one until today has dared look face to face with so much love at Bahian humanity and its problems."

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Review

"Amado was writing to save his country's soul. . . . The scenes where the captains of the sands manage to fool the rich of the city and get away with it would have made Henry Fielding or Charles Dickens proud."

—Colm Tóibín, from the Introduction

"Amado is Brazil's most illustrious and venerable novelist."—*The New York Times*

"Brazil's leading man of letters . . . Amado is adored around the world!"—*Newsweek*

Language Notes

Text: English, Portuguese (translation)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Jarrard:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book called *Captains of the Sands* (Penguin Classics)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have some other opinion?

George Tucker:

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