



Villa Incognito

By Tom Robbins

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Villa Incognito By Tom Robbins

Imagine there are American MIAs who chose to remain missing after the Vietnam War. Imagine a family in which four generations of strong, alluring women share a mysterious connection to an outlandish figure from Japanese folklore. Imagine them part of a novel that only Tom Robbins could create—a magically crafted work as timeless as myth yet as topical as the latest international threat. But no matter how hard you try, you'll never imagine what you'll find inside the Villa Incognito: a tilt-a-whirl of identity, masquerade, and disguise that dares to pull off "the false mustache of the world" and reveal the even greater mystery underneath. For neither the mists of Laos nor the Bangkok smog, neither the overcast of Seattle nor the fog of San Francisco, neither the murk of the intelligence community nor the mummery of the circus can obscure the pure linguistic phosphor that illuminates every page of one of America's most consistently surprising and inventive writers.

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Villa Incognito By Tom Robbins Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #93354 in Books
- Brand: Robbins, Tom
- Published on: 2004-04-27
- Released on: 2004-04-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .50" w x 5.18" l, .84 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Donald Barthelme once said, "Those who never attempt the absurd never achieve the impossible." Robbins (*Still Life with Woodpecker*; *Jitterbug Perfume*; etc.) has made a career of attempting and achieving both, and in this, his eighth novel, he pulls it off again. Here we have weirdness personified, a quirky, outrageous concoction that is a joy to the imagination. The novel begins with the story of Tanuki, a badgerlike Asian creature with a reputation as a changeling and trickster and a fondness for sake. Also part of the cast is a beautiful young woman who may or may not have Tanuki's blood in her veins (but definitely does have a chrysanthemum seed embedded in the roof of her mouth), and three American MIAs who have chosen to remain in Laos long after the Vietnam War. Events are set in motion when one of the MIAs, dressed as a priest, is arrested with a cache of heroin taped to his body. In vintage Robbins style, the plot whirls every which way, as the author, writing with unrestrained glee, takes potshots at societal pillars: the military, big business and religions of all ilks. The language is eccentric, electrifying and true to the mark. A few examples: "The afternoon passed more slowly than a walnut-sized kidney stone"; "He crooned the way a can of cheap dog food might croon if a can of cheap dog food had a voice"; "Dickie's heart felt suddenly like an iron piano with barbwire strings and scorpions for keys." While the ending is a bit of a letdown, this is delectable farce, full of tantalizing secrets and bizarre disguises.

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From [Booklist](#)

Robbins opens with a folkloric tale, set in Japan, of a *tanuki*--a raccoonlike wild dog with enormous testicles and a thirst for sake--who marries a woman and sires a daughter before angry gods break up the union. Jumping to the present, the arrest of a drug-smuggling priest in Guam--actually an MIA American who disappeared on a bombing run over Vietnam--threatens to blow the cover of his flight crew, who chose to remain incognito in Laos after the war had ended. The two stories are linked by a circus performer who may be the descendant of the original interspecies romance. While the flyers are featured players, the supporting cast includes an earthy military intelligence officer, a cold-blooded CIA spook, and a woman with a sexual attraction to clowns. The largest theme centers on the nature of identity, but there's a lot swirling around the kitchen sink, including a fleeting incorporation of the events of 9/11. It's a fun read, although the things about Robbins that his fans love--clever wordplay, nudging asides, and political and philosophical digressions--are the same things that infuriate the nonbelievers, and for them, this short work may seem slow. He remains something of a poor man's Vonnegut, lacking the careful measure necessary to bake his notions into a cake that won't fall. *Keir Graff*

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Review

"Robbins...is to words what Uri Geller is to spoons: He bends sentences into playful escapades....Bottom line: Another bedside attraction."—*People*

"Brilliantly offbeat satire."—*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"A delectable farce, full of tantalizing secrets and bizarre disguises."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Ebullient, irreverent, hilarious... *Villa Incognito* is ribald fairy tale meets... *Apocalypse Now*." —*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

“Robbins remains a welcome breath of fresh air in American literature.”—*Globe and Mail*

“Perhaps [the] greatest book from Robbins...phantasmagorical, richly layered, utterly hilarious, and unexpectedly poignant.” —*Pages*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kristine Toomey:

This book untitled Villa Incognito to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book store or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to you to past this guide from your list.

Bertha Boone:

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Robert Knight:

Is it you actually who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Villa Incognito can be the answer, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

Christopher Gonzalez:

That book can make you to feel relax. This specific book Villa Incognito was colourful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Villa Incognito has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading which.

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