Beyond Rain of Gold by Victor Villasenor

Beyond Rain of Gold is the incredible story of acclaimed author Victor Villasenor’s initiation into the spiritual realm. Decades ago, after penning the nonfiction epic Rain of Gold, the writer embarked on a life-changing journey. In the process of ensuring that his family’s saga would be published as the authentic, true account it was, Villasenor forged a sacred bond with his father and his indigenous ancestors, who were guiding him from the Other Side. The book eventually became a national bestseller and an enduring favorite of millions of readers. Yet the story doesn’t end there. Villasenor’s connection with the Spirit World continued to deepen, awakening him to the ongoing miracles inherent in everyday living. He discovered that his life had suddenly taken on a magical quality, with events occurring that transcended the boundaries of what is normally considered “reality.” A series of mystical encounters with Spirit convinced Villasenor that not only is there no firm line between life and death—but that the time has come in our collective “human-story” to usher in a new era of abundance, peace, and harmony on our beloved Mother Earth and among all of humanity! Similar to Carlos Castaneda’s body of work, this exciting, raw, and honest book courageously delves into altered states of consciousness that exist alongside ordinary reality . . . ultimately revealing the Spiritual Wisdom that is available to each and every one of us. Beyond Rain of Gold will truly transform the way you see the world—on both a personal and planetary level!

Features:
* ISBN13: 9781401931223
* Condition: New
As someone who has raised or taught young children might tell you, there are some kids who can just talk and talk about nothing at all. They can spin a simple story endlessly with a dizzying variety of detail. That's the only way I can describe Victor Villasenor's writing in Beyond Rain of Gold: childish.

I chose to honor this book with an extra star beyond the bare minimum because, despite its many flaws (which I discuss briefly in the next couple paragraphs), it is one of the funniest books I have ever read. It had me laughing out loud so many times I'm not 100% sure that it isn't a parody of the memoir genre.

Some of the book's more memorable episodes: the author goes for a late-night sprint through New York City (the city that never sleeps) and injures himself at that magical hour when nobody is around to help; he tells off innumerable publishers and lawyers, often threatening them with physical violence; he drinks lots of tequila; he tells a young Barack Obama that one day he will be President of the United States (of course the starry-eyed, naive Obama doesn't believe him, and so probably won't remember the encounter even if you ask him); he defecates and vomits several times; he changes the course of history with a single lecture in Nashville, Tennessee; he discovers the epoch-defining significance of the year 2012; he smashes a plate full of turkey, mashed potatoes, and cranberries over his own head to make a point to his children; he learns that he is in fact Jesus Christ; he drinks a lot more tequila; he discovers that nouns (yes, nouns) are the source of many problems in our world today; he inspires a young Tony Hawk; he makes tamales for friends; he plays host to King Juan Carlos of Spain (who of course was disguised as a drunk commoner at the time, and so probably wouldn't admit to the encounter even if you asked him). And there's so much more.

Now for the flaws; I'll cut it down to just two points for the sake of space.

First, much of the book is just gross self-advertisement. Villasenor talks constantly about his own books and how great they are, and even insinuates that his NYT bestselling book, Rain of Gold, is as good as Grapes of Wrath, Roots, Homer's poetry, and the Bible. Worse than promotion of his own books, though, is Villasenor's simply delusional aggrandizement of himself. Everything he touches turns to gold; everything he says changes the world for the better. He spits venom at everyone who is against him: gringos, publishers, lawyers, educators, and did I mention gringos? When he isn't explicitly threatening people with violence he's telling us in retrospect how much he wanted to hurt someone and how easily he could have done it. Villasenor comes off as a mean, volatile boy...
in a man’s body; do you really want to hear such a person praise himself for hundreds of pages?

Second, and this is huge, the style is outrageously vulgar. Villasenor uses PHRASES IN CAPITAL LETTERS to emphasize his points. He does this OFTEN! Almost THREE TIMES PER PAGE! OH WOW! It’s not a novel or a book of poetry, so I wasn’t expecting all that much stylistically, but the cliches, expletives, and interjections (OH WOW!) are so thick that it’s impossible to give this book your careful, undivided attention with any hope of retaining your sanity.

So if you’re up for a good laugh and a lot of frustration, by all means give Beyond Rain of Gold a read. But if you want a stirring spiritual memoir or a decent book about the plight of Mexicans and/or Native Americans, look elsewhere.

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