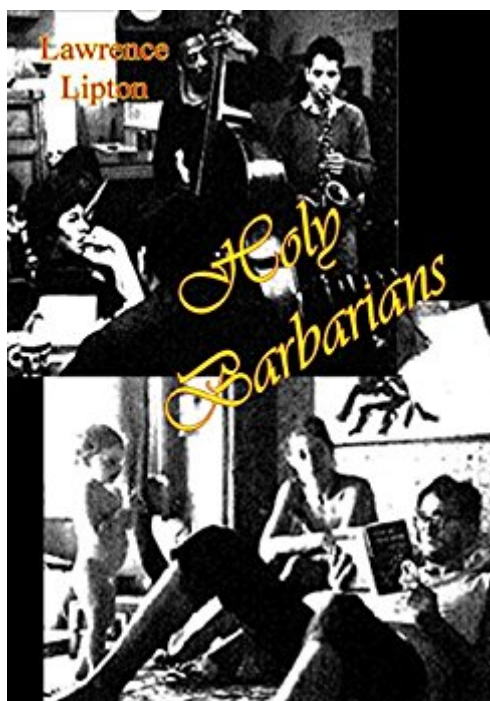


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# Holy Barbarians



## Synopsis

Mr. Lipton's book is the first complete and unbiased survey of the beat generation and its role in our society. Here are the intimate facts about these people and their attitudes toward sex, dope, jazz, art, religion, parents, landlords, employers, politicians, draft boards, the law and, most important, toward the "square". The author presents a picture of their way of life, their individual backgrounds, the language they have appropriated, in terms made clear for the first time to those of us who have been confused and puzzled about them. He also provides a balanced discussion of their literature, art and music, of what they produce and fail to produce in the arts they practice. "Print Ed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"When the barbarians appear on the frontiers of a civilization it is a sign of crisis in that civilization. If the barbarians come, not with weapons of war but with the songs and icons of peace, it is a sign that the crisis is one of a spiritual nature". Gilmore Girls fans will recall that Rory was reading this book midway through the third season, telling Jess excitedly that it was a book by a Venice Beach beatnik about Venice Beach beatniks. She's right of course, but her description alone would be a

little misleading. (Rory also mentions that Lipton's son James does those Actors Studio interviews. Quite funny to keep in mind while reading)....The book is divided into four sections, but the last three could practically be collated into one. The first of the sections is mainly a collection of little scenes out of the lives of (actual) Venice Beach beatniks in the 1950's, as well as some of their biographies. These are amazing glimpses into the lives and culture of the beatniks that you couldn't really get anywhere else. Lipton is the perfect guide. He lived through similar (but, he contends, essentially very different) movements in the twenties, thirties, and forties, has written essential pieces in the canon of beatnik literature, and is an accepted member and even a sort of patriarch of these beatniks of Venice West. The first section is probably the best part of the book - Lipton is great at observing and describing these people, although at times you wish he would back away from the picture and let us decide what every little thing means. We finally get the chance to forget Lipton for awhile at the very end, where he has included some recordings he made of conversations among the group.

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