

# The Monkey Wrench Gang

*Edward Abbey*

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**Edward Abbey : The Monkey Wrench Gang** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Monkey Wrench Gang:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous fun!By Carl M. MueckeI read this book 35 years ago when it came out and only remembered that I enjoyed it. Well, I enjoyed it even more the second time around! We get introduced to the four characters in the gang in the beginning who all share in varying degrees a love of the Sonoran desert and a hatred of the forces who are destroying it. They share their views sitting around a fire at night in a raft expedition down the Colorado river and agree to meet later to begin their futile crusade against the overwhelming forces of development, energy and ranching. Follow this merry band of "eco-terrorists" through a number of twists and turns to the surprising end.The forces that they fought are even more in control these days, with even more weapons to discourage anyone getting in their way. I think Abbey was hoping this book would encourage more "eco-terrorisim" but except for an occasional strike against the dark forces, the battle has been lost. I live now in Scottsdale where Phoenix, once a medium size town of orange and grapefruit groves, farms and dirt roads when we moved here in 1948, has become another gigantic LA plopped down in the middle of the desert.I recommend this to any and all who love the Sonoran desert. His descriptions of the merry band's travels through it are lyrical and show a great knowledge of the desert features and flora and fauna of the gorgeous and desolate canyon lands of Utah, and Arizona.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Protecting the Environment, one fallen billboard at the time.By Allen BerryHave you ever looked around at the way the planet is being treated, the way the landscape is being littered and said to

yourself: Somebody ought to do something about that! Well, Edward Abbey did! At least his characters did. A group of diverse malcontents drawn together by their common outrage over what's being done to the landscape of their beloved Southwestern U.S., the Monkey Wrench gang is called to action by any fed-up environmentalist! If you're tired, angry, ticked off, or just mildly annoyed at what's happening to the environment, but you're not quite ready to join E.L.F., this novel just might keep you out of hock with the law. It's a great, entertaining read for anyone who ever recycled a bottle or can, bristled at the heaps of trash along the side of the highway, or shed a tear with Iron Eyes Cody. Although, usually at some point in all of Abbey's novels, I want to throw the darn thing against the wall. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still Great after 30 years !! By richard burr Edward Abbey has the writing ability to make you feel like you are there. I feel like this book still applies today. As a people we have very little regard for our natural gifts. We have a need to build everywhere or to mark our territory with spray paint. It's a shame we haven't learned from our mistakes !!

Edward Abbey called *The Monkey Wrench Gang* a "comic extravaganza," which it is, although one with a clear, serious message: to protect the American wilderness from the forces of commercial enterprise. The story centers on George Hayduke, an ex-Green Beret and Vietnam vet, who returns to the Southwestern desert after the war to find his beloved canyons and rivers threatened by industrial development. On a whitewater rafting trip down the Colorado River, Hayduke joins forces with three others who share his indignation and want to do something about it: feminist saboteur and Bronx exile Bonnie Abzug, wilderness guide and outcast Mormon Seldom Seen Smith, and libertarian billboard torcher Doc Sarvis, M.D. Together they venture off to become eco-raiders, waging war on the strip miners, clear-cutters, and the highway, dam, and bridge builders who are turning their natural habitat into a wasteland. The misadventures of this motley group make for an uproarious blend of chaos, conflict, and comedy.

.com Ed Abbey called *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, his 1975 novel, a "comic extravaganza." Some readers have remarked that the book is more a comic book than a real novel, and it's true that reading this incendiary call to protect the American wilderness requires more than a little of the old willing suspension of disbelief. The story centers on Vietnam veteran George Washington Hayduke III, who returns to the desert to find his beloved canyons and rivers threatened by industrial development. On a rafting trip down the Colorado River, Hayduke joins forces with feminist saboteur Bonnie Abzug, wilderness guide Seldom Seen Smith, and billboard torcher Doc Sarvis, M.D., and together they wander off to wage war on the big yellow machines, on dam builders and road builders and strip miners. As they do, his characters voice Abbey's concerns about wilderness preservation ("Hell of a place to lose a cow," Smith thinks to himself while roaming through the canyonlands of southern Utah. "Hell of a place to lose your heart. Hell of a place... to lose. Period"). Moving from one improbable situation to the next, packing more adventure into the space of a few weeks than most real people do in a lifetime, the motley gang puts fear into the hearts of their enemies, laughing all the while. It's comic, yes, and required reading for anyone who has come to love the desert. --Gregory McNamee "Excellent high adventure." -- -- Playboy "Mixes comedy and chaos with enough chase sequences to leave you hungry for more." -- -- San Francisco Chronicle "Ribald, outrageous and, in fact, scandalous." -- -- Smithsonian From the Publisher 11 1.5-hour cassettes