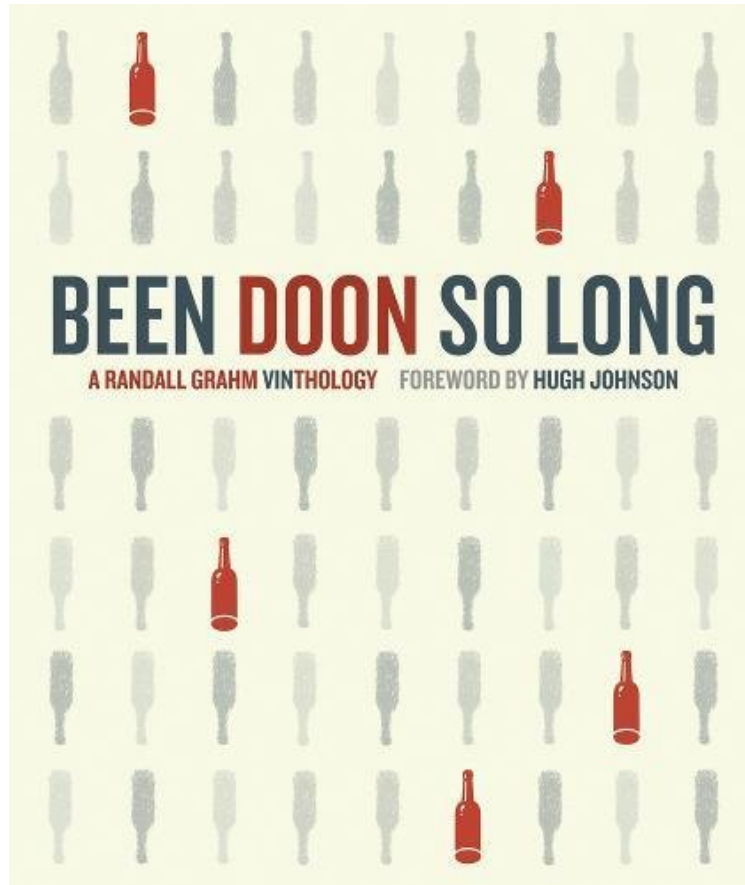


Been Doon So Long: A Randall Graham Vinthology

Randall Graham

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Randall Graham : Been Doon So Long: A Randall Graham Vinthology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Been Doon So Long: A Randall Graham Vinthology:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. The one and only...By ChambolleIf you have been a subscriber to the Bonny Doon newsletter, you're familiar with Randall Graham's over the top punnery for wine geeks. Only Mr. Graham would pen a satire titled "Reductio ad Sulfatum, or A Penny for Your Thoughts," riffing on reductive winemaking and replete with footnotes like this: "The use of copper sulfate (the active ingredient in Tidy Bowl) is the most common treatment for persistent reductive aromas in wines. In biodynamic practice, this highly effective treatment is, alas, strictly forbidden."There is an entire chapter of verse entitled "Posey Galore," which includes such masterworks as "Howlbarino," by "Alain Gainesberger" and the lyrics to "Monster Grenache," to be sung to the tune of "The Monster Mash." I mean, where else would you find a line like "The guests included Henri Bone-eau, Michel Cryptoutier, Marcel Gui-goul and his fils"?Like I said, you've got to be a particularly peculiar sort of wine geek to get off on Graham's shtick -- but if a parody entitled "'B' by Thomas Puncheon" sounds intriguing, this is your book.Incidentally, "Been Doon So Long" recently received a James Beard Award. Sounds like the book was right up their alley.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great representation of Randall's personalityBy Dan S.

HigginsI will start by saying Bonny Doon wine, and brand, was one of the reasons I became so interested in wine. Randall is a hell of a marketing man and his wines at one time were quite good. Old Telegraham was one of my favorites. Those days seem to be over with Randall selling most of the brand and buying property in San Juan Bautista to grow Rhone varietals. Anyway the first third of this book is Randall explaining how he and his cohorts came up with the ideas for their labels with the lower third of a lot of the pages containing digressions in smaller print. That's annoying. The second third of the book is simply the reprinting of newsletters he would send to people on his mailing list. These for me were written in a style and vernacular that I simply couldn't comprehend. Also annoying. I did not make it to the last third of the book. If you are looking for the history of the Bonny Doon Winery this is not it. If it weren't for the fantastic artwork throughout I would have rated this two stars. As I write this review I realize Been Doon So Long fits perfectly into Randall's grand scheme (I mean that in the best way) of marketing.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy JamieMouseAll wine lovers should have this book...front and center on one's coffee table.

This eclectic collection at last brings to a wide audience the irreverent, zany voice of Randall Grahm, visionary California winemaker and founder of Bonny Doon Vineyard. An iconoclastic send-up of the wine industry and a celebration of unsung grape varieties, the book features, among other things, Grahm's hilarious literary parodies--Joyce, Kafka, Pynchon, Salinger, and others--together with song lyrics, other snarky satires, poems, lectures, and more. Subtle undertones of gravitas with faint suggestions of earnestness lie beneath the humor, however, as Grahm passionately addresses the state of wine today: Where in wine does "greatness" truly repose? How might true originality in New World wines be found? Do New World winemakers have the integrity and courage to unreservedly embrace terroir? This trove includes a very personal take on Dante's Inferno (Grahm's own vision of Wine Hell) and a collection of tunes from the rock opera "Born to Rhocirc;ne." Other pieces offer a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Rhocirc;ne Ranger wine movement and of Bonny Doon itself, told through the story of its adventurous wine labels. Been Doon So Long is a highly entertaining journey to find the "truth of all things that may be found in the unlikely medium of a wineglass."

ldquo;There's witness to one of California's most magnetizing winemakers coming to terms with his more mature self."