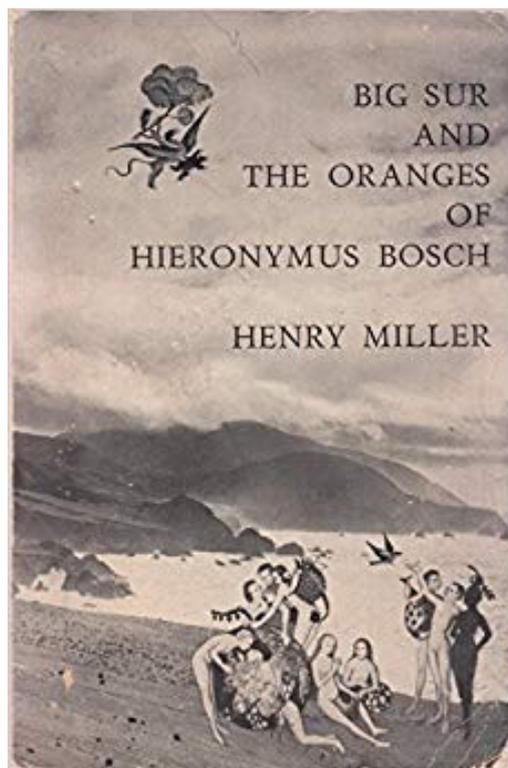


# Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch *by* Henry Miller



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## Reviews of the **Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch** *by* Henry Miller

### **Bumand**

I first read Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch in my early twenties, soon after moving to California from the East Coast. During that first reading, I came to know a Henry Miller I'd never known from his fiction; I was impressed, and inspired. I also met a lot of people that I'd never heard of previously (can you imagine, never having heard of Robinson Jeffers? An east coast woman of 21 years had not!). It was a great read at that time. Many years later (I'm not going to say how many), I've decided to reread it. Once again, I am enjoying this book, and I'm discovering new things (or

perhaps rediscovering things I'd forgotten) this time around.

It's a ramble, however. There is no plot, there is no consistent train of thought, and there is nothing essentially sensational about it. If you're looking for the Henry Miller of the "Tropics," or any of his other fictional writings, don't look here. This book is broadly philosophical, filled with anecdotes and personal revelations.

Quotes that I feel summarize the theme of Big Sur and perhaps Henry Miller's motivation for living there are the following:

"Surely every one realizes, at some point along the way, that he is capable of living a far better life than the one he has chosen."

"We create our fate everyday."

If you're a Henry Miller fan, this is the book to read to come to understand the man and the writer. He also draws a vivid picture of Big Sur era before it became heavily trafficked and overpopulated to the north of it. Definitely worth the time it'll take to read it.

### **Kelerana**

First off there can be a perceivable gap between 'good' and 'great' writing and although Miller's writing may not be 'great' when actually aligned with the greats of literature, it certainly is very good. He is a perfect writer for describing the 'colony' of Big Sur in its early stages. Primarily enjoyable because of the context Miller gives the experience. Bravo!

### **Αδουβις**

Everything Henry Miller ever wrote -- and he wrote a lot -- is well worth reading. Here one gets a feel for how Miller allowed his fascination with friends to gull him into being taken advantage of time after time. One comes away from this memoir wishing to have been one of those friends just for the opportunity to share space with a fascinating man.

### **the monster**

I have read this book about 5 times, having it always on my Kindle is a real treat. This book, I feel is one of Henry Miller's best. The time he spent in Big Sur in the 40's and 50's when it was really and artist's colony. Some of the character studies are so well written that you feel you know the person as a friend by the time you are through reading it. For anyone interested in Big Sur and its history, this is a great book to read, or if you just want something relaxing to venture into...

### **Maucage**

Absolutely wonderful memoir of Miller's days in Big Sur, California, way back when before it became a tourist stop on the map. Beautiful descriptions, funny stories, poignant reflections on a world that no longer exists. Personally, I enjoy Henry Miller's non-fiction works more than his novels. He is one of the greatest American writers, and this is one of his best books. It's been a long time since I passed through Big Sur; reading Miller's memoir made me nostalgic for all those golden days spent in California.

### **Mr\_KiLLaURa**

If you love Henry Miller, you have to read this book. Even if you've never heard of Henry Miller, pick up this book and enjoy it. He paints a picture of paradise in a little place called Big Sur and if you are anything like me, you'll be planning a trip there just to see what he's talking about. You have to read this book!

### **Yayrel**

Having always heard the usual praise for Miller, along with references to his sexualized novels, it was a pleasant surprise to discover this wonderful, evocative description of the early days of Big Sur. The writing is magnificent and the observations on life very wise. Love this book very much!

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