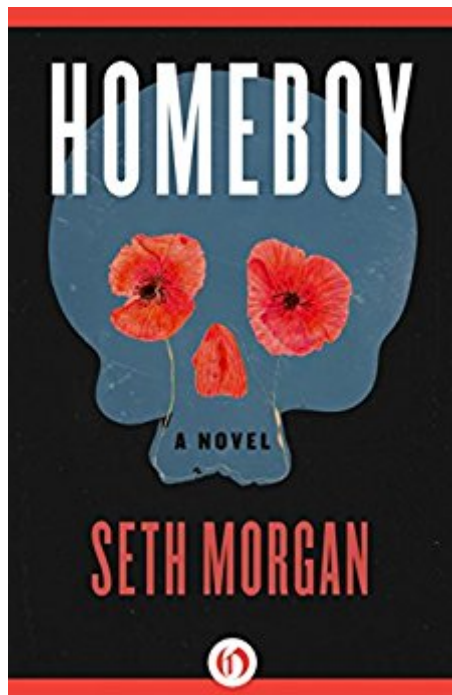


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# Homeboy: A Novel



## Synopsis

Seth Morgan's frenzied, addictive walk on the wild side of 1980s San Francisco. When strip-joint barker Joe Speaker unwittingly steals a sixty-nine-carat blue diamond, he becomes enmeshed in a blackmail-and-murder conspiracy that begins with the savage slaying of high-priced call girl Gloria Monday. Suddenly Joe's a wanted man. Hunted by a murderous pimp known as Baby Jewels Moses and a relentless homicide cop named Tarzon, Joe ends up taking the rap and getting sentenced to three years. But it's in prison that the real trouble begins. An adrenaline-pumped, hallucinogenic descent into the lower depths, *Homeboy* is a tough, eye-opening look at San Francisco during the AIDS epidemic. Part memoir and part richly conceived work of imagination, this gritty, rambunctious novel reads like pure poetry and celebrates an uncommon talent at the height of his storytelling powers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Homeboy* is a stand-alone, Seth Morgan didn't live to write another book. It's a treasure; his loss

was a deep one for future readers as well as his family. This is the fourth copy I've bought; I always end up giving them to someone and ordering another copy for myself. Homeboy is a trip to an alien world for me; like all good books it is a lens into understanding things I haven't known.

another good read. I had trouble stopping so I could eat or go to bed. facts and details were accurate and I was not able to guess the ending.

Seth Morgan's "Homeboy" Takes you on a odyssey in the underworld of pimps, junkies, prostitutes, strippers, crooked cops, prison, and heroin withdrawal. Gritty and expressive writing in this book that some speculate was a fictional speculation loosely based on Moragan's life as he himself spent time in prison and won the PEN writing award. It will have you turning pages fast.

I'm not normally a fiction reader but even though "Homeboy" was copywrited in 1990 I ordered and read it because I came across a recent reference to the novel that indicated it was about San Francisco. Oh yes-it was about The City and although I had lived there many years ago and could still recognize the street names and neighborhoods that was the extent of my recognition. Seth Morgan penetrates the belly of the beast to an extent that his San Francisco and later California, might just as well be on the dark side of the moon in terms of it's familiarity to what I knew of SF. I know little about fiction writing but I can say that Morgan organized Homeboy differently than the other fiction works I've read. He has divided Homeboy into short little mini-chapters like many contemporary TV shows-stories built around a particular theme but broken into disparate separate dramas that weave in and out of each other. You must be aware because these mini-chapters dissolve and reform in new settings and at different times and because the book is so dense be prepared for a demanding ride. This ride is bleak and uncompromising-you will be confronted by situations and activities that I, as a neophyte crime reader, had never been confronted with before. For instance, the section titled Fence Parole is as hard a piece of writing as you might find or the scene played out in Hotshot-tough stuff for a little suburban guy like me. If you like well written books that deal with hard subjects then Homeboy is for you-seek it out because it will be worth your time.

Author Seth Morgan's only book Homeboy was begun while Morgan was in prison for Theft in the late 1970's. Homeboy is a crime novel set in mid-seventies San Francisco - a bittersweetly hilarious and haunting portrait of where underground culture, a bleak underworld of sex and drugs, meets mainstream culture. Homeboys like central characters Joe Speaker and Lt. Tarzana, are the people

on both sides of the law that make up this brutal exchange.

Have read this book THREE times? The storyline of the French Quarter lifestyle was spot on to the barkers at the nightclubs in the Vieux Carre

A criminally overlooked noir classic that could only have been authored by one who's lived "the life". This is the most realistic portrayal of addiction and the evils it spawns; crime, corruption, prison , prostitution, and porn, I've ever read. Though "fiction", this is the horrific truth of the underbelly of America no one wants to look at. Thankfully Seth Morgan had the courage. The plot is as twisted as the best Raymond Chandler, situations and characters lower down and dirtier than Bukowsky, darker than Hubert Selby JR, with prose as poetic and gritty as Nelson Algren's. Should be required reading for aspiring addicts and anyone involved in making or enforcing our country's drug policy. Not for the feint of heart.

This novel is a literary tour through the drug alleys and strip clubs of San Francisco's North Beach and Tenderloin. With an amazing descriptive verbosity slightly reminiscent of Wolfe's Electric Kool-Aid and a sense of hellish despair that has been likened to William Burroughs, Morgan has peopled this novel with the most unforgettable and tragic characters like Rings And Things who acquired her nickname after a three day drug addled sojourn with a motorcycle gang, only to wake up with every inch of her tattooed and every orifice and protrusion pierced and adorned with jewelry. The story centers around a vicious killing and how one strip show barker by the name of Joe Speaker accidentally got involved. And about how he found himself swallowed into the prison system like Jonah being swallowed by the whale. It is an intimate portrait of drugs and prostitution and crime and those who fell into the life and never found their way out. It is also a chilling portrait of life inside California's notorious prisons and how Joe managed to survive doing his time day by day. There are almost no books to compare this one to because it is so unique. But it is powerfully good and really takes the reader into this strange world. Unfortunately, Morgan who was a character in his own right, will never produce another novel. The former fiancé of Janis Joplin, who worked as a strip show barker and did hard time in prison, killed himself and a woman he was with after drinking and driving in the Big Easy. This is a thick, dense book and is just an amazing work.

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