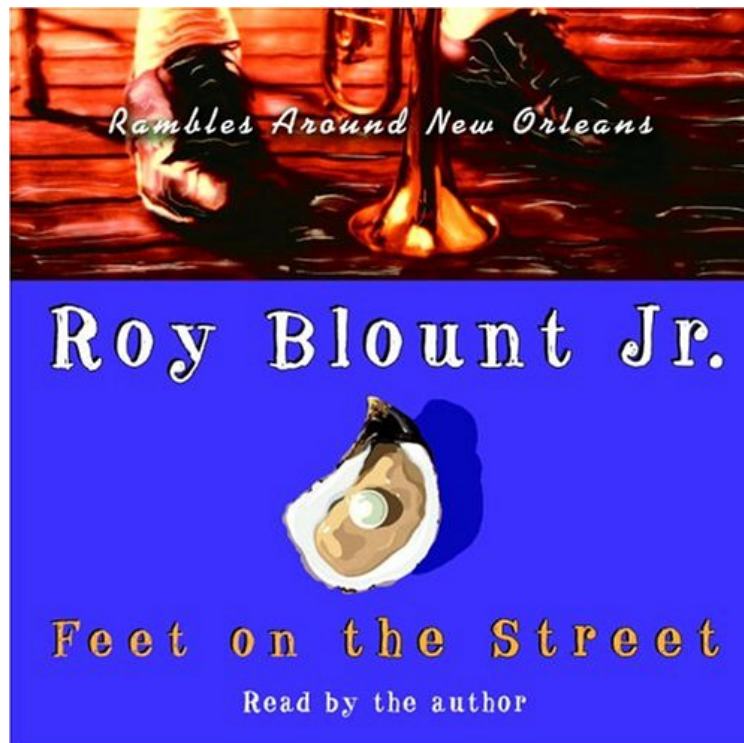


Feet on the Street:: Rambles Around New Orleans

Roy Blount Jr.

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Roy Blount Jr. : Feet on the Street:: Rambles Around New Orleans before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Feet on the Street:: Rambles Around New Orleans:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Feet on the Street". It's more important than you might first think! By Pete Andrews Don't visit the Crescent City without first reading this offering from the great Roy Blount, Jr.! He guides you clear of the tourist "traps" and steers you straight toward what makes this old city so magical . . . the people! Oh, the section on "I can tell you where you got your shoes"? That saved me money and trouble not :45 minutes into my first walkabout! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Voice of New Orleans By Kelly Malone I ran into Roy Blount Jr. in a small used bookstore on Dauphine Street in the French Quarter. Immediately afterwards I downloaded this book. Each page was narrated by his drawly voice providing insight in the place and people of The Crescent City. The book was as genuine and interesting as the author. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. New Orleans Revisited By Nancy Lepage Having traveled to New Orleans twice (in different company), it was great to revisit familiar places through the mind's eye, and to benefit from Roy Blount, Jr.'s perspective of his "adopted" favorite town. A more personalized version of the Crown Journeys books than most, but very enjoyable.

Betcha I can tell ya / Where ya / Got them shoooes. / Betchadollar, / Betchadollar, / Where ya / Got them shoooes. / Got your shoes on your feet, / Got your feet on the street, / And the streets in Noo / Awlins, Loo- / Eez-ee-anna. Where

I, for my part, first ate a live oyster and first saw a naked woman with the lights on. . . . Every time I go to New Orleans I am startled by something. So writes Roy Blount Jr. in this exuberant, character-filled saunter through a place he has loved almost his entire life: a city like no other place in America, and yet (or therefore) the cradle of American culture. Here we experience it all through his eyes, ears, and taste buds: the architecture, music, romance (yes, sex too), historical characters, and all that glorious food. The book is divided into eight Rambles through different parts of the city. Each closes with *lagniappe* little bit extra, a special treat for the reader: here a brief riff on Jennifer Flowers, there a meditation on naked dancing. Roy Blount knows New Orleans like the inside of an oyster shell and is only too glad to take us to both the famous and the infamous sights. He captures all the wonderful and rich history, culinary, literary, and political of a city that figured prominently in the lives of Jefferson Davis (who died there), Truman Capote (who was conceived there), Zora Neale Hurston (who studied voodoo there), and countless others, including Andrew Jackson, Lee Harvey Oswald, William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, Jelly Roll Morton, Napoleon, Walt Whitman, O. Henry, Thomas Wolfe, Earl Long, Randy Newman, Edgar Degas, Lillian Hellman, the Boswell Sisters, and the Dixie Cups. Above all, though, *Feet on the Street* is a celebration of friendship and *joie de vivre* in one of America's greatest and most colorful cities, written by one of America's most beloved humorists.

From Publishers Weekly In this brief walking tour of New Orleans, Blount (Robert E. Lee; *Be Sweet*) spins an atmospheric, pleasantly meandering tale about a city he clearly knows and loves. Rather than offer up the standard guidebook-style list of things for tourists to do, Blount divides the book into eight "rambles," because "New Orleans is my favorite place in the world to ramble. Even on those deep-summer days that make a person feel swathed in slowly melting hamfat." Blount's yarns will make readers want to visit the city, soak up the mood and create their own memories. Even something as simple as a rain shower reads like a possible adventure: "It can rain so hard in New Orleans that you expect to see alligators bouncing off the pavement ... Also dramatic in their way are the soft showers of the early evening, sometimes arriving spookily in full sunshine from no clouds at all." Of course, even the most unconventional guide to the Big Easy would be incomplete without a mention of the city's food, and Blount devotes an entire ramble to raw oysters, which he says "give you a coolish inner lining collateral to the sheen that New Orleans humidity gives your skin." Blount's New Orleans isn't sugar-coated; it's at times wistful, melancholy and even dangerous. But all this combines to give the reader the impression that anything can happen in New Orleans, which is precisely the author's point. Those looking for a nontraditional portrait of this unconventional city will be delighted by Blount's colorful, almost tender account. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Blount, a well-known humorist, commentator, and biographer (Robert E. Lee 2003), contributes to the Crown Journeys series of travelogues an example of the best kind of travel-reading experience: when good writers perambulate through and around places they know and understand, and, in Blount's case, that place is the city of New Orleans. His observations and descriptions of interesting places within the city and his reflections on general and specific attitudes to be found there are both celebratory ("the best town for eating in America") and honest ("the city is hardly a model of racial harmony"). He makes several stops in his guided tour, taking time to ponder such topics as the frightening fact that New Orleans lies below sea level, the constant feel of wetness from the persistent rain and humidity, eating raw oysters as a "rite of passage," and, of course, the superabundance of characters--eccentric individuals who seem drawn to the Crescent City like moths to the flame. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Roy Blount, Jr. has written many books, including the memoir *Be Sweet* and the novel *First Hubby*. He appears regularly on NPR's *Wait, Wait . . . Don't Tell Me* and is a contributor to many national publications. He lives in Manhattan and western Massachusetts.