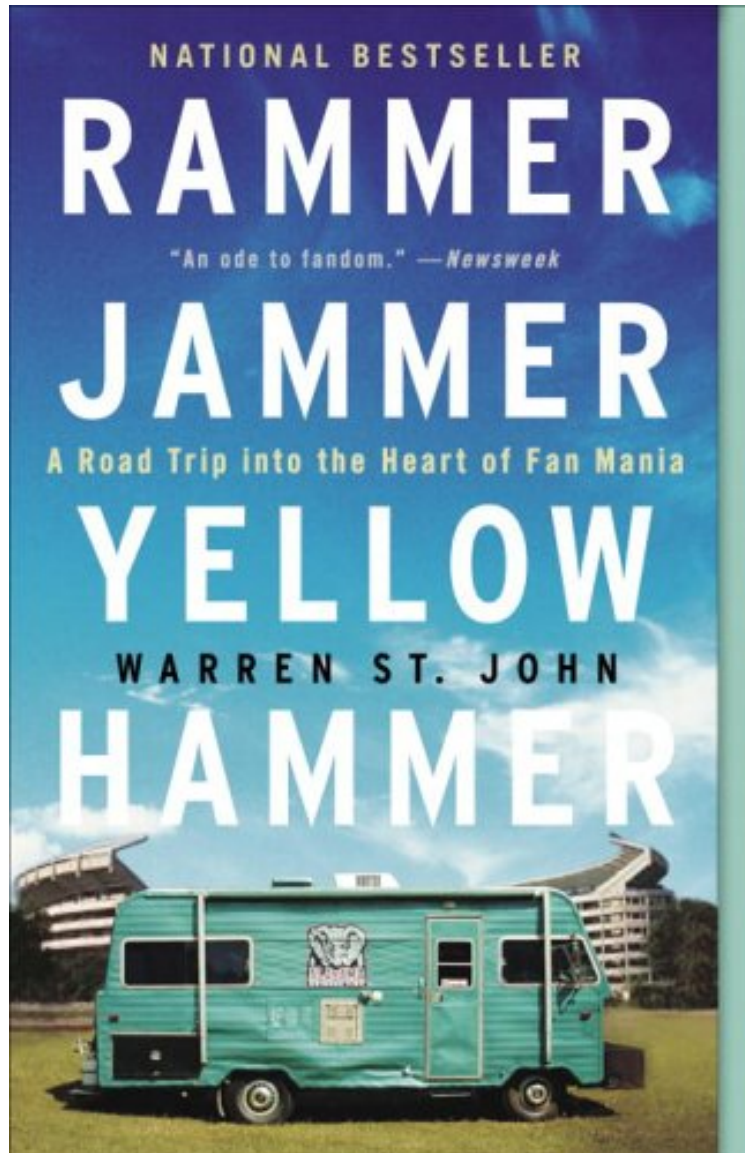


(Free pdf) Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Journey into the Heart of Fan Mania

# Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Journey into the Heart of Fan Mania

Von Warren St. John

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Von Warren St. John : Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Journey into the Heart of Fan Mania before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Journey into the Heart of Fan Mania:

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TIDE!!! Von Donald Mitchell Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer is a close-up look at the most extreme versions of Alabama Crimson Tide football fandom and anti-fandom. As such, the book will be an obvious winner for Crimson Tide football fans who want to walk down nostalgia lane. Surprisingly, Mr. St. John also pays quite a bit of attention to southeast opponents in 1999 like the Florida Gators, Auburn, Tennessee Vols, Vanderbilt, Louisiana Tech, Ole Miss, Southern Mississippi and LSU. Fans of those schools' teams will also enjoy this book (especially if their team beat 'Bama that year or this season). If you need to have the title explained to you, this book may not be right for you. It's part of a taunting victory chant favored by 'Bama fans. The book alternates between describing the author's own path into extreme fandom as he deals with withdrawal symptoms in New York City and the extraordinarily devoted fans who turn their lives into a paean to the Crimson Tide. The book has a third, but smaller, focus which is to provide insights into the psychological, emotional and physical roots behind fanatic behavior by fans. That part of the book was the least successful. You will meet people who build their lives around a short football season . . . and suffer painfully whenever the Tide loses. Interestingly, some of these people are wealthy and the expense of their devotion will probably astonish you. In other cases, people put 'Bama ahead of all else . . . including a heart transplant or attending their daughter's wedding. Intriguingly, many of the most extreme fans never attended the university. If you are a fanatical fan (you can take a quiz at the author's site for the book to find out), you will probably enjoy reading about other extreme forms of devotion. You will feel reassured that you haven't yet lost control. For example, do you plan to be buried in a casket with the university's seal on it? If you own an RV, this is a fascinating book about the problems of traveling with and living in an RV. I've never been in one, so this element of the book was the most novel to me. As you might imagine, the book is laced with vulgar language, drunken engagements and embarrassing behavior. But that's all part of fandom. Right? If you want a book about sports fans, this book is very light weight in one area . . . gambling. Although the book references gambling, it doesn't have many individual stories about it. Writing about college football fans without emphasizing the gambling is like writing about sex without mentioning intercourse. I have never gotten into college football although I remember having a few intense experiences at games (including the 1960s Rose Bowl when Wisconsin almost came back to beat USC before bowing 42-37). I am much more familiar with the pro football extreme fans . . . especially those who go to the Super Bowl every year. As a result, I found the book didn't connect well for me. So if you're not an extreme college football fan, I suggest you skip this book. The book's main limitation is that by focusing on the extreme RV fans you don't get very much about other types of fans. I found the amount of focus on the RV experience to be a little more than I wanted to know about that subject. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Humorous road trip along football America Von Bianca S. Liked the way he tried to get into the RV fan scene. It shows a different side of the sport.

Kurzbeschreibung "Fresh and funny St. John has crafted a winner. Tony Horwitz, author of *Confederates in the Attic* In the life of every sports fan, there comes a moment of reckoning. It may happen when your team wins on a last-second field goal and you suddenly find yourself clenched in a loving embrace with a large hairy man you've never met. . . . Or in the long, hormonally depleted days after a loss, when you're felled by a sensation similar to the one you first experienced following the death of a pet. At such moments the fan is forced to confront the question others' spouses, friends, children, and colleagues have asked for years: Why do I care? What is it about sports that turns otherwise sane, rational people into raving lunatics? Why does winning compel people to tear down goalposts, and losing, to drown themselves in bad keg beer? In short, why do fans care? In search of the answers to these questions, Warren St. John seeks out the roving community of RVers who follow the Alabama Crimson Tide from game to game across the South. A movable feast of Weber grills, Igloo coolers, and die-hard superstition, these are characters who arrive on Wednesday for Saturday's game: Freeman and Betty Reese, who skipped their own daughter's wedding because it coincided with a Bama game; Ray Pradat, the Episcopalian minister who watches the games on a television set beside his altar while performing weddings; John Ed (pronounced as three syllables, John Ay-ud), the wheeling and dealing ticket scalper whose access to good seats gives him power on par with the governor; and Paul Finebaum, the Anti-Fan, a wisecracking sports columnist and talk-radio host who makes his living mocking Alabama fans and who has to live in a gated community for all the threats he receives in response. In no time at all, St. John himself is drawn into the world of full-immersion fandom: he buys an RV (a \$5,500 beater called *The Hawg*) and joins the caravan for a football season, chronicling the world of the extreme fan and learning that in the shadow of the stadium, it can all begin to seem strangely normal. Along the way, St. John takes readers on illuminating forays into the deep roots of humanity's sports mania (did you know that tailgaters could be found in eighth-century Greece?), the psychology of crowds, and the surprising neuroscience behind the thrill of victory. Reminiscent of *Confederates in the Attic* and the works of Bill Bryson, *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer* is not only a travel story, but a cultural anthropology of fans that goes a long way toward demystifying the universal urge to take sides and to win. From Publishers Weekly St. John's account of following the University of Alabama's football team as a part of the team's fanatical legion of tailgaters is just as much fun as the book's title (words to a school chant). As St. John, an Alabama native who writes for the New York

Times, tries to join Bama RV nation, he spends five months obsessing about every tiny detail associated with Alabama football and, in the process, comes into contact with a slew of good ol' boys, well-to-do entrepreneurs and the most hated man in Alabama. Despite his own passion for Bama football, St. John is an outsider and must go to the extreme, like buying his own dilapidated RV (astutely nicknamed "The Hawg"), to be completely accepted by the hardcore RV-owning regulars. Driving the country roads from Gainesville to Nashville, St. John uncovers the ugly, quirky and splendid qualities of both football fans and the states below the Mason-Dixon line. But this book is more than a beer and barbecue-fueled travelogue. St. John also explores the sociological and physical effects of being a rabid sports fan. These journalistic asides contrast nicely with St. John's superstitious, obsessed sports-fan persona, which rules much of this amusing and insightful book. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist\*Starred \* Wearing a very thin veneer of journalistic detachment, veteran reporter St. John decided to follow his beloved Alabama Crimson Tide football team during the 1999 season, intrigued by one couple who chose an Alabama game over their daughter's wedding (they made the reception). The team slogan, "Roll Tide," is coin of the realm here, and the author uses it liberally to insinuate himself into a large, highly individuated group of RVers who follow their team each week from stadium lot to stadium lot throughout the Deep South. With perfect balance and deadpan humor--think Ball Four--St. John brings a journalist's clarified sense of detail and narration to his story, both the unfolding of the Alabama season and his slow-developing but enduring friendships within the RV community. The portraits of his fellow Bama fans are sharp, sneaky-funny, but not unlovingly drawn. But he just can't help himself: he is forever a fan, subject to every quicksilver high and low, every triumph and indignity and cosmic mystery that befall the rest of us. He never professes to completely understand the nature of being a fan, though he reveals here and there, as if by accident, some simple truths. "I chose Alabama the way a baby bird chooses its mother," he offers at one point. "It was the first thing I saw." Alan Moores Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved