By painting a bleak picture of what people are capable of doing to one another in extreme circumstances, Quake is nihilistic and haunting, as well as uncomfortably foreboding. And more relevant than ever. Description "[Rudolph Wurlitzer] is a writer whose continuing existence is very meaningful to me."

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supposed to be amusing anecdotes, similar to shelf-talkers in bookstores that say "If you like X, you might enjoy Y," or "This Book is like Cormac McCarthy writing an episode of Saved by the Bell with a soundtrack by Philip Glass.

If you want to know what it felt like to be a reader in the late '60s and early '70s, when so many new experimental works were put out by mainstream publishers, these books are great places to start. Nog even had a blurb from Thomas Pynchon! Together they provide a tour of the dissolution of identity that was daily life in the late sixties. In his underground classic, Nog, the narrator drifts across an amorphous terrain on which his shifting identity molds itself like soft clay. Flats and Quake mine much the same territory, a post-cataclysmic landscape in which heroic storytelling has been blown to bits.

Flats & Quake by Rudolph Wurlitzer

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In his underground classic, Nog, the narrator drifts across an amorphous terrain on which his shifting identity molds itself like soft clay. Flats and Quake mine much the same territory, a post-cataclysmic landscape in which heroic storytelling has been blown to bits. Quake reads like a mash-up of On the Road and Waiting for Godot. For the first time in more than three decades, it's possible to investigate the interplay between Wurlitzer's novels and his screenplays, the way his radical experiments in one informed his canny deconstruction of the other.

The frontier—alluded to in Flats, deconstructed in Wurlitzer's screenplay for Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid, and played for laughs in last year's Drop Edge of Yonder—is again the subject [in Quake], posited this time as the place where humans turn back into whatever they turn back into when the marijuana and Social Security run out. To see what your friends thought of this book, please sign up. Lists with This Book. Community Reviews.

Showing Average rating 3. Rating details. More filters. Sort order. Dec 20, Nate D rated it really liked it Recommends it for: Exhaustion at the end of civilization. Shelves: read-in, 70s-delerium, dystopian, favorites. Rudolph Wurlitzer's first novel, Nog, earned acclaim from the likes of Thomas Pynchon, but he also screenwrote amazing movies like Monte Hellman's Two-Lane Blacktop, and co-directed lost favorite Candy Mountain in the late 80s with photographer Robert Frank of The Americans fame. The love of road-stories so well-embodied by those films also shows in both of the earlier novels his second and third collected here, though in totally weird ways.

Flats is a kind of post-everything exhaustion of a no Rudolph Wurlitzer's first novel, Nog, earned acclaim from the likes of Thomas Pynchon, but he also screenwrote amazing movies like Monte Hellman's Two-Lane Blacktop, and co-directed lost favorite Candy Mountain in the late 80s with photographer Robert Frank of The Americans fame. Flats is a kind of post-everything exhaustion of a novel: post-Beckett-despair, in a most-narrative minimalist post-apocalypse of uncertain terms.

Insulating himself in a series of third-person personas named for presumably now-lost cities, the protagonist examines the debris scattered about him intersects disjointedly with other survivors in decidedly post-societal confusion, and voyages with exceptional tunnel-vision for the immediate across his destitute surroundings. It's mind-numbing in the best way, maybe, rendering -- on terms that can be felt, practically -- an existence narrowed to the few feet one can touch, stripped of any hopes, long-term goals, or acknowledgement of any past or future whatsoever. Quake, on the other hand, is all action, though it shares the immediacy-of-vision seen in Flats.

Here, the narrator can only take in bits of what is going on about him at a time, it seems, because so much is going on as Los Angeles collapses
into anarchy in the immediate aftermath of a terrible earthquake. It's so harsh and dire and chilling that it takes a while to admit how hilarious it is. I don't have the book here, but the "I love Hamburger Hamlet" fight scene is so amazing and grim and perfect. Some highly surreal bits too, such as the half-collapsed building journey totally journeys again earlier on, which I already want to re-read just for its heightened architectural insanity. I so need some more Rudy Wurlitzer now. View all 4 comments. Jan 21, Tosh rated it liked it Shelves: books-bought. One Flats is more reflective than the other Quake, which almost reads like a zombie story. Of the two, I prefer "Flats," mostly due to its quietness and almost Samuel Beckett level of stillness in a vacant landscape.

Both are well-written, but I had a hard time connecting to the narratives. On a off-handed manner, the novels remind me of works by J. Ballard as well - and actually I prefer Ballard than "Flats" and "Quake" - two novels in one volume, and both are end of the world narratives. Ballard as well - and actually I prefer Ballard than Wurlitzer. There is for sure a very dry american taste that runs through the two novels. View all 3 comments. Mar 05, Dana Jermon rated it liked it. Really interesting dual-novel. A die-hard Beckett lover will not find this difficult to read.

Cerebral, bloody and tempered on the edges with a sexual violence of the soul. Kerouac is picaresque. Wurlitzer is existential. His road is a mirror of the mind. May 13, Mason Jones rated it liked it. This one is tough to review.

**Flats / Quake by Rudolph Wurlitzer – Two Dollar Radio**

And more relevant than ever. Description "[Rudolph Wurlitzer] is a writer whose continuing existence is very meaningful to me. Product Details Price. Earn money by sharing your favorite books through our Affiliate program. Sign in for more lists. Jul 10, PDT. Approximately EUR 7. May not ship to Finland - Read item description or contact seller for shipping options. See details.

Synopsis About this title Two novels back-to-back in one edition. Review: "[Wurlitzer] is a writer whose continuing existence is very meaningful to me. Quake reads like a mash-up of On the Road and Waiting for Godot. The frontier - alluded to in Flats, deconstructed in Wurlitzer's screenplay for Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid, and played for laughs in last year's Drop Edge of Yonder --is again the subject [ in Quake ], posited this time as the place where humans turn back into whatever they turn back into when the marijuana and Social Security run out. Buy New Learn more about this copy.

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