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**Alan Kaufman's Searing New Memoir
Speaks to the Genius of a Writer Nearly Lost**

“With an outsized heart to go with its outsized thirst, *Drunken Angel* tells the sort of truths that feel like myths and the sort of myths that feel like truth.”
—Daniel Handler

Son of a French Holocaust survivor, Alan Kaufman was an alcoholic so mauled by his indulgences it's a marvel he was alive enough to get into recovery. *DRUNKEN ANGEL*, publishing in November 2011 by Viva Editions, is the story of how he climbed up from the abyss of a life pickled in self-pity, self-loathing and guilt to become a celebrated writer, editor, organizer and father to the daughter he'd abandoned for 20 years.

Kaufman's descent takes the reader from the street gangs of the Bronx to the intellectual centers of Manhattan; from the battlefields of Gaza and the West Bank, where he served in the Israeli army, to the punk rock nights of the East Village, the poetry stages of Europe and San Francisco, as he was a force in the nascent spoken word poetry movement.

The brutal account of his ceaseless, losing battle against his addiction and the glimpses of beauty that emerge as he begins to find his way is mesmerizing. For the frontispiece of *Drunken Angel* Kaufman chose the Diane Arbus quote, “It's very thrilling to see darkness again.” Reading this book is like watching an accident to see if any of the victims crawl away barely alive. Kaufman did, and here delivers a lacerating cautionary tale.

With his estranged daughter as inspiration, Kaufman cleaned himself up at age 40, taking full responsibility for nearly destroying himself, his work and so many loved ones along the way.

—more—

Few titles have captured a more harrowing depiction of alcoholic ruin or recovery's spiritual triumph. DRUNKEN ANGEL probes the consciousness of an addict to expose the true horror of alcoholism.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan Kaufman is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Jew Boy*, the novel *Matches*, called "an extraordinary war novel," by David Mamet, and a book of poetry, *Who Are We?*. He is the award-winning editor of several anthologies, the most recent of which, *The Outlaw Bible of American Literature*, was reviewed on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review*. Other volumes in Kaufman's Outlaw anthology series are *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* and *The Outlaw Bible of American Essays*. His work has appeared in *Salon*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, *Partisan Review*, *Tikkun* and *Tel Aviv Review*, among other publications, as well as in many Web 'zines, including *Tattoo Jew*, of which he is the editor. A former editor of *Jewish Frontier*, he is the founder and editor of the controversial magazine *Davka: Jewish Cultural Revolution* and has performed extensively as a spoken-word poet in the United States and internationally. Kaufman has been widely anthologized, most recently in *Nothing Makes You Free: Writings From Descendants of Holocaust Survivors* (WW Norton). A member of PEN American Center, he is also profiled in the Europa Biographical Reference Series. He holds American, French and Israeli citizenship and lives in San Francisco. A lay ordained Zen practitioner, he is also one of the founders and Dean of the Free University of San Francisco, which *The New York Times* recently compared to the Freedom Schools of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Kaufman's papers and manuscripts are on deposit in the Special Collections Library of the University of Delaware. Well-established in his literary career, Kaufman is now gaining recognition as a painter of haunting portraits.

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DRUNKEN ANGEL

by Alan Kaufman

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