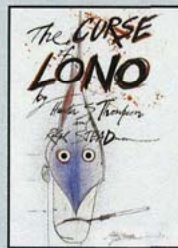


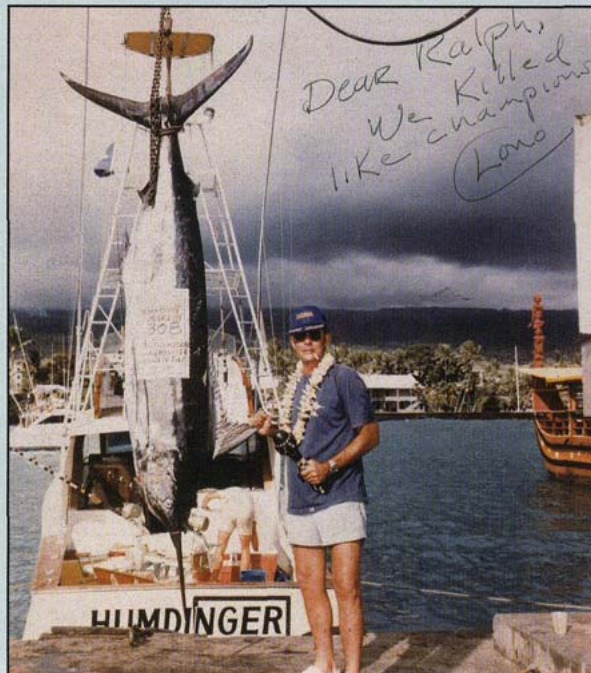
**HUNTER S THOMPSON/
RALPH STEADMAN**

TASCHEN; £29.99; ISBN 3822848972

Many people have owned at least one copy of *Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas* in their lifetime, but the same can't be said of *The Curse Of Lono*. While the former has never gone out of print (and isn't ever likely to), the latter has only been reprinted occasionally since it first appeared in *Running* magazine in April 1981. It was thought too expensive to produce and not popular enough to justify a large print run, and was actually long out of print before



Hunter – tab on the go, as ever – shows off his humdinger of a marlin



this Taschen edition arrived. (Originally as a limited 1,000-copy edition, numbered and hand-signed by both Steadman and Thompson, a month before Thompson's death in February.)

While those signed copies are changing hands for upwards of £1,000 on the internet, people on a more modest budget can also finally enjoy the less famous baby brother of *Fear And Loathing*.

The journey begins when Hunter is commissioned to cover the Hawaii marathon for *Running* magazine. After convincing Ralph to come along for the ride and bring his family – Hunter sends him a letter telling him they are both entered in the race and that if they "run like whorehounds" for the first three miles he thinks they have a genuine chance of winning – they stay for over a month, with the weather and the locals becoming less hospitable by the day. The plan to bag and ship hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of drugs out the country, Hell's own fishing trip, Hunter's general indifference to other people's more conventional approach to life, and a limited but colourful supporting cast are presented in inimitable Hunter style.

If you were worried this was a post-suicide cash-in by a publisher who knows anything with Thompson's name on the cover will sell, then you can relax. Not only is it vintage Hunter, but the fact that this edition is as large and difficult to carry about as a three-year-old child means that you get full-colour, full-size versions of Ralph Steadman's work. A mix of fact, fiction, letters and historical background to Hawaii and the myth of Lono, weaved together by the drugs, alcohol, violence, and insanity that have become his trademark, this is an absolute must-have for fans. *James Doorne*