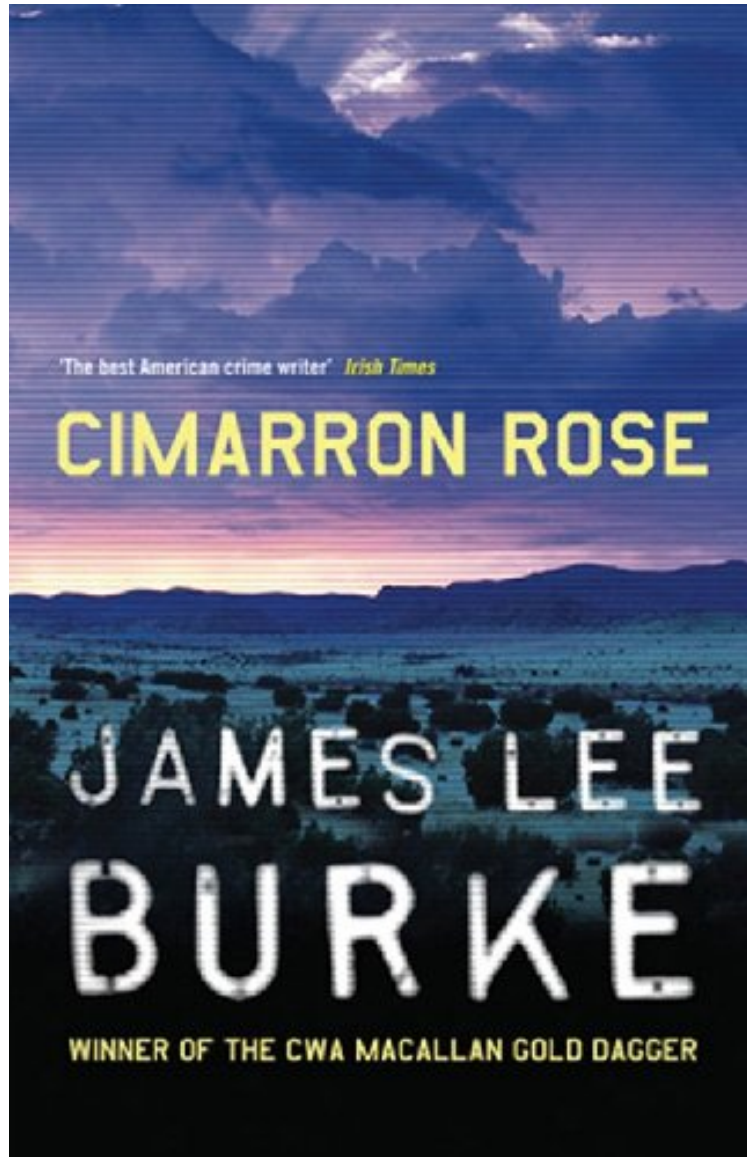


(Mobile library) Cimarron Rose (Billy Bob Holland) (English Edition)

Cimarron Rose (Billy Bob Holland) (English Edition)

Von James Lee Burke

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Von James Lee Burke : Cimarron Rose (Billy Bob Holland) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cimarron Rose (Billy Bob Holland) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Strong, deep writing. Ranks with other masterworksVon Peter A. KimballAll right, for some reason I haven't been familiar with Burke's writing up to now. Nobody e-mailed me about him. I was surfing the Mystery Writers' Association website and I noticed that Burke has this habit of winning Edgar awards over and over, so I thought I'd check him

out. This is one of the Edgar winners, and it supports my previously-expressed hypothesis that they don't give out the award by drawing names out of a hat. This is a very strong novel with a West Texas small-city/rural voice, with currents of Ross MacDonal and Dashiell Hammett, a touch of Larry McMurtry, and highlights of raspberry, chocolate, and tobacco. I'm sorry about the 'highlights', I realized I sounded as if I was describing wine and couldn't resist. I mean the other stuff, though, and it's all complimentary. By referring to MacDonal, I mean that Burke displays the same sense of complexity: of setting, of interaction. I mean, everyone has a history, everyone has secrets, and not just every major and minor character, but every place, every barn and lot and stream. And all of these secrets are liable to bubble up and confuse everyone at any moment and knock the plot into a new and surprising direction. Nobody is carrying out any one plan. Everyone has a lot of things on his/her mind. It's the exact opposite of the sense that you get with one of these serial-killer novels where the villain is omnipotent and single-minded and supremely organized and does nothing all day except perfect his serial killing plan. Here most of the people are at least somewhat friendly and at least somewhat dangerous, and the tensions seldom get resolved. However, Burke's style is not MacDonal's brooding tapestry of similes; it's much more like Hammett, spare, brisk, and violent; for example: "... [I] rode my Morgan up on the porch and through the doorway, ducking down on his withers to get under the jamb. ..." "I hope you bring your own dustpan and whisk broom," the bartender said. "I rode the Morgan between a cluster of tables and chairs and across a small dance floor toward the pool table. The man eating from a paper plate looked at me, smiling, a spoonful of chili half-way to his mouth ... I whipped the loop three times over my head and flung it at the man with the blond beard ... He tried to rise from the chair and free himself, but I wound the rope tightly around the pommel, brought my left spur into the Morgan's side, and catapulted the blond man off his feet and dragged him caroming through tables and bar stools and splintering chairs, into an oak post and the legs of a pinball machine and the side of the jukebox, tearing a huge plastic divot out of the casing." Note how he uses the rhythm of the clauses to pace the action, short and simple as the action impends, then exploding along with the action into a sprawling run-on sentence. The action leaps along; the average 'scene' is a page or a page and a half long, and since something happens in every 'scene', by the time you are on page 10, things are moving fast and furious. This is also very much like Hammett: think about "Red Harvest", for example. Later, the county D.A. complains: "I work in a county that's so corrupt I have to confide in a defense lawyer who rides his horse into barrooms. I grant you, it's a pitiful situation." That last line is the sort of thing that makes me think of McMurtry - I mean the best McMurtry, "Lonesome Dove" in particular. Isn't that a gem? Can't you imagine Woodrow Call saying that? Or maybe it isn't McMurtry at all, maybe they just really talk like that all the time in West Texas, and Burke and McMurtry are just reporting it. Whichever, it's an attractive feature. The narrator, Billy Bob Holland, is a former Texas Ranger who has retreated into criminal defense work in self-imposed penance for accidentally shooting his partner and best friend, L. Q. Navarro, in a chaotic battle with drug smugglers down in Coahuila. He sees Navarro everywhere and talks with him, but these dialogues don't hurt the plot much. He is also re-reading his great-grandfather's journals, which are the stuff of a novel in themselves, in an attempt (I guess) to explore the question of whether and how you can get out of the rut of living in a violent and self-destructive culture. You can either treat this as an interesting interlude, or skip over it, or try to tie it in convincingly with the main action. I never really managed this last, but it doesn't bother me much. The plot starts off with Holland being summoned to defend a young man on charges of rape and murder, and the trial winds up near the end of the book, but to say that the book is 'about' the trial is to ignore the 15 other subplots that turn the narrative structure into a 'bush' rather than a 'ladder'. I guess the book is mainly about trying to do what's right even if you live in a really corrupt county and have a great burden of shame of your own. Unless you argue that the style itself is the content, as if it were a work of instrumental music. Whichever. Anyway, I recommend this book very highly. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. SOMETHING NEW OR IS IT? Von Ein Kunde Like many of James Lee Burke's legion of devoted fans, I have read all of the Dave Robicheaux novels (in the order in which they were written). Before I added my review for Cimarron Rose I read many of the ones written by fellow fans. It was interesting to see that while JLB still has a loyal following, there are those who were (and are) disappointed by some of his recent efforts. The other thing that truly amazed me has been the quality of the writing in the reviews submitted by other readers. It made me wonder if many of them worked as literary critics or college English professors. Needless to say, there is a surprising lack of consensus on the quality of Cimarron Rose. When the book first came out, I was initially disappointed that Dave, Clete, Batist, Alafair and Bootsie would not appear between the two covers. The move to small-town Texas also did not appeal to me at first but, as I got into the book, I realized here was something new --- James Lee Burke was venturing further afield than New Iberia parish or even his other erstwhile home, Montana. I am a Northerner who has lived in the South and find Burke's writing evocative but also very unsettling. He knows from whence he writes but for me, he reminds me of everything I saw in Georgia and came to hate. Cimarron Rose, while set in Texas, stresses that there are truly vile, ignorant, bigoted people populating these newly popular Sun Belt States who deserve nothing more than our enmity and vilification. The Billy Bob Hollands and the Dave Robicheauxs of the world notwithstanding, the novels of JLB, while beautifully written, paint a sordid picture of the South (and Southwest) that confirm the rightness of my decision to return to the Northeast. All of the books JLB has written have stressed a darker side of life. While he has heroes, there is nothing heroic about these books. They are

almost always well crafted and yet, they remind me of things I'd thought I'd left behind in the Coastal Empire of SE Georgia. His writing also makes me wonder if his southern readers like him or hate him for showing the rest of the world the darker side of the region they call home. The Robicheaux novels are set in Louisiana and if as it appears, Billy Bob Holland continues as an alternate character in another series, will he make us cringe while he writes about the bigoted half-wits in Deaf Smith, Texas? I often wonder, is James Lee Burke trying to tell us all how much he despises us? I ask this question because he makes a lot of money from his readership. His single most popular character, Dave Robicheaux is the one that got him noticed as a writer and yet, JLB had at least 6 other novels out years before that barely brought him attention. Almost all of them have been or will be re-released and all because of the popularity of the troubled cop from New Iberia. Is Billy Bob different from Dave? Not really. Does that change the fact that I really enjoyed the book? Nope. But, some of my fellow reader critics seem to have hit the nail squarely on the head. JLB may just well be starting to turn out novels on a formulaic basis. I say this because I came to that conclusion about John Grisham. I also have wondered if Hyperion has hooked JLB into a multi-book contract and the only way he can fulfill his end of the bargain is to churn out Robicheaux "look-alike, sound-alikes." After all, Grisham, while changing his characters from book to book, is already well past his prime. He should try to enjoy those royalties; he doesn't really need to work anymore. In any case, I say all of this from a distance but not with malice. After all, James Lee Burke is making a very nice living indeed from doing something I wish I could do and that's write popular fiction that's well received. For that I am grateful, because he keeps me entertained and wanting more. I just hope that he and Dave (and Billy Bob over there in Deaf Smith, Texas) find their voices again. All three of them still have a lot to say.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Billy Bob isn't even in the same league as Dave Robicheaux" Von Patti St Clair Having been born and bred in Texas but having traveled extensively throughout Louisiana, I was eager to delve into Cimarron Rose, having read all of the Dave Robicheaux novels. My first impression upon finishing the book was that I had read a novel written by a Cajun ABOUT a Texas, while in all of Burke's Robicheaux novels I felt I was reading a book written by a Cajun about events that may have occurred in his own back yard. With Robicheaux, Burke created a protagonist that is REAL - with a wife murdered, a child adopted, run-ins with mob characters, and most importantly being fired from two different law enforcement agencies. That's real life, and as a reader and also a former police officer, I found myself actually "smelling" the swamps and feeling the dampness of the New Orleans "dives". Dave is real life, while Billy Bob feels much more fictional. The Texan lingo and locale was real enough, but the character himself lacked depth, which is at the core of the Robicheaux tales. Without background for the reader to feed off of, it was hard to get into the book, although Burke has the phenomenal ability to make his readers feel the events rather than just read the words. I feel he should either let Billy Bob go, provide a great deal of depth and/or background to him (wife, children, childhood, etc.) or come back to the New Iberia Parish and the bait house and give the readers what they love the most - their Cajun Cop.

Kurzbeschreibung'Evil, bigotry and doing the right thing. All are done as expertly as ever by a master writer' DAILY TELEGRAPH Lucas Smothers, nineteen and from the wrong end of town, has been arrested for the rape and murder of a local girl. His lawyer Billy Bob Holland is convinced of Lucas's innocence but proving it means unearthing the truth from a seething mass of deceit and corruption. A corruption endemic in the way it can be only in a gossipy small town where everybody knows everybody else's business. Billy Bob's relationship with Lucas's family is not an easy one - years back he was a close friend of Mrs Smothers, too close according to her husband Vernon. And when Lucas overhears gruesome tales of serial murder from a neighbouring cell in the local lock-up, the waters are muddied even further and Lucas himself looks like a candidate for an untimely death. Praise for one of the great American crime writers, James Lee Burke: 'James Lee Burke is the heavyweight champ, a great American novelist whose work, taken individually or as a whole, is unsurpassed.' Michael Connelly 'A gorgeous prose stylist.' Stephen King 'Richly deserves to be described now as one of the finest crime writers America has ever produced.' Daily Mail Fans of Dennis Lehane, Michael Connelly and Don Winslow will love James Lee Burke: Billy Bob Holland Series 1. Cimarron Rose 2. Heartwood 3. Bitterroot 4. In The Moon of Red Ponies Dave Robicheaux Series 1. The Neon Rain 2. Heaven's Prisoners 3. Black Cherry Blues 4. A Morning for Flamingos 5. A Stained White Radiance 6. In the Electric Mist with Confederate Dead 7. Dixie City Jam 8. Burning Angel 9. Cadillac Jukebox 10. Sunset Limited 11. Purple Cane Road 12. Jolie Blon's Bounce 13. Last Car to Elysian Fields 14. Crusader's Cross 15. Pegasus Descending 16. The Tin Roof Blowdown 17. Swan Peak 18. The Glass Rainbow 19. Creole Belle 20. Light of the World 21. Robicheaux Hackberry Holland Series 1. Lay Down My Sword and Shield 2. Rain Gods 3. Feast Day of Fools 4. House of the Rising Sun* Each James Lee Burke novel can be read as a standalone or in series order *.de Billy Bob Holland, the protagonist of Cimarron Rose, is an attorney in the dusty Texas town of Deaf Smith. An ex-Texas Ranger (cop, not ball-player) who mistakenly killed his partner during a drug bust, Holland is jolted from his brooding when his estranged illegitimate son is accused of the rape and murder of a party girl. He takes the case, of course, and things get complicated mighty quick. On a hunch only a father could believe, Holland is sure his son is being railroaded. Doggedly pursuing the truth,

he runs afoul of sadistic cops, a powerful family, and the euphoniously-named Garland T. Moon, a feral thug with something to hide. Luckily, the folks on his team are just as tough. Burke's book isn't gritty realism--Holland's dead partner visits him often--but the characters ring true in a weird way. They are quirky and appealing, and even the criminals make good company while the whodunit unfolds. Pressestimmen James Lee Burke is the heavyweight champ, a great American novelist whose work, taken individually or as a whole, is unsurpassed. (Michael Connelly) A gorgeous prose stylist. (Stephen King) Richly deserves to be described now as one of the finest crime writers America has ever produced. (Daily Mail) There are not many crime writers about whom one might invoke the name of Zola for comparison, but Burke is very much in that territory. His stamping ground is the Gulf coast, and one of the great strengths of his work has always been the atmospheric background of New Orleans and the bayous. His big, baggy novels are always about much more than the mechanics of the detective plot; his real subject, like the French master, is the human condition, seen in every situation of society. (Independent) The king of Southern noir. (Daily Mirror) His lyrical prose, his deep understanding of what makes people behave as they do, and his control of plot and pace are masterly. (Sunday Telegraph) One of the finest American writers. (Guardian) When it comes to literate, pungently characterised American crime writing, James Lee Burke has few peers. (Daily Express)