

A Morning for Flamingos *by* Will Patton,James Lee Burke



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ISBN: 0671044087

ISBN13: 978-0671044084

Author: Will Patton,James Lee Burke

Book title: A Morning for Flamingos

Publisher: Audioworks (January 1, 1999)

Language: English

Category: Mystery

Size PDF version: 1300 kb

Size ePUB version: 1558 kb

Size FB2 version: 1744 kb

Other formats: rtf lrf lit azw

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Reviews of the *A Morning for Flamingos* *by* Will Patton,James Lee Burke

Qusserel

Nobody can grab my imagination from the first line, then carry me gently through his wonderful assortment of characters, poetic, vivid imagery of the deep South, carefully crafted plots, well told stories, make me laugh, shudder with disbelief, relieve my daily tensions, then proceed gently to just the right ending like James Lee Burke. I first read Black Cherry Blues 30 years ago, struggled to find more books over the years, even found some in Ecuador, S.A., still read them over again after a year or so and now have most of his novels in my private collection. After reading, re-readin and collecting all John D. McDonald detective novels for 40 years, then wondering what next, along came James Lee Burke and Michael Connelly, but growing up in the deep South, Burke is still my number one favorite yet I can hardly wait for Connley to come out with the next book!

Voodoogore

Burke takes his time unraveling a tale of life in Louisiana, with words as beautiful as the women Robicheaux beds, setting each scene with lush visuals and exotic scents. Ribicheaux is a good man, solid and steadfast in a world of people on the edges, unstable in their pursuit of money. Mostly, things happen to Robicheaux and work themselves out with karma. The journey is a delight as you travel through a strange and fascinating culture.

Conjuhala

When you think of Southern writers, the names William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, Robert Penn Warren, Tennessee Williams, Margaret Mitchell, James Dickey, and Harper Lee may come to mind. I've read many books by these and other illustrious authors from the American South, but none has called to mind a more evocative picture of the region than the superb detective novels in James Lee Burke's Dave Robicheaux series. However, chances are slim that you'll find Burke on any list of eminent Southern writers, since genre fiction apparently doesn't qualify as Literature. Too bad, because the man writes like an angel.

The Cajun detective, Dave Robicheaux, a twice-wounded Vietnam vet and former New Orleans cop, has returned to law enforcement in this fourth of the twenty novels that comprise the series to date. He's back with the sheriff's department in southern Louisiana's New Iberia parish to earn enough money to get himself out of hock.

While transporting two convicted killers from the local jail to the state pen, where they're destined for the electric chair, Robicheaux's fellow deputy sheriff does something stupid. The killers escape, grievously wounding Robicheaux and killing his partner. Months later, even as he teams up with the DEA to go undercover with the New Orleans Mob, he is fixated on hunting down the man who nearly killed him, a psychopath named Jimmie Lee Boggs. The tale that unfolds is deliciously complex and compulsively suspenseful, and it celebrates the rich tapestry of sights, sounds, and smells that is southern Louisiana. This is not a tourist's-eye view of the South but a deeply textured portrait by a native.

Twice winner of the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar award for best novel of the year and named a Grand Master of the field, James Lee Burke is 78 years old as of this writing. His daughter, Alafair Burke, is a crime writer in her own right, author of eleven novels and a long list of articles in law journals. (She is a Professor of Law at Hofstra Law School.)

Ginaun

This was my 4th Burke novel. *A Morning for Flamingos* was as good as the other Burke novels I've read. His characters, plots, and descriptions are as good as they come. If you haven't read this author, you're missing out on writing that will awe you.

Malalrajas

Another great book by James Lee Burke in the Dave Robicheaux series. I had all 20 of the books and gave them one by one to friends.....so now am buying them all again. I love "being in Louisiana" by reading these books. Mr. Burke is a literary genius. My favorite author.

Forcestalker

As the author of thirteen novels, I always look for books that will give me something to personally

take away. I look with a trained eye for style, wordsmithing, concepts, developmental methods, even jargon and the tools of a specific trade as developed by someone else. *Morning for Flamingos* covered a wide variety of areas of interest and police techniques as well as the criminal lifestyle.

The characters in the book are priceless and very well developed as to be credible while flamboyant or stereotypical of a class of criminals, plain vanilla street people, hoods, addicts, law enforcement, and prostitutes.

James Lee Burke has mastered the art of wordsmithing and creating colorful and credible characters that he places into a perfectly developed and appropriate backdrop of sights, smells, tastes, adventures, history, and cultural mores.

Burke uses Dave Robicheaux to glue together the plot, storyline, twists and turns of life and its complications as lived out by a troubled city police officer turned deputy sheriff.

Unless an author has become one with Southern Louisiana and all that makes it up, he cannot sing the melody, move to the rhythm, or blend the action to the harmony of the place and people, the flora and fauna, the pain and sorrows, joys and highs. O, how well Burke does it all.

There is something magical about *Morning for Flamingos*. As the reader begins the experience, he or she is drawn slowly but surely into the pages of this action adventure. Soon, the literary seeker finds himself walking the streets of New Iberia or New Orleans, slapping mosquitoes in the swamps, eating crawfish, budin, or catfish, and drinking beer or boilermakers. Gliding through a canal in a pirogue, racing a storm back to port, or feeding a three legged raccoon all become an extension of the read.

I personally think that people who are hindered from actually visiting exotic places for whatever reason, can go to Sothern Louisiana via James Lee Burke and be satisfied in their desire to travel from the comfort of their living room or bed. I'm on number seven of his works.

We can't leave this book or series without crawling inside the mind of a post traumatic stress disorder sufferer, Vietnam vet that still smells napalm and hears helicopters and sees hooches blown to smithereens and innocent people running aimlessly while on fire. Can you handle the madness and mess? Can you live with the out of control emotions? Can you exist with the reality of sympathizing or empathizing with Dave Robicheaux? Don't read this book if you cannot.

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