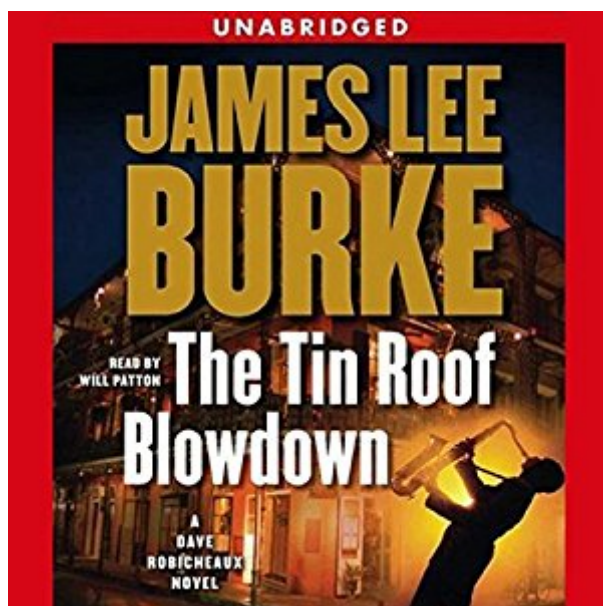


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The Tin Roof Blowdown: A Dave Robicheaux Novel



Synopsis

In the waning days of summer, 2005, a storm with greater impact than the bomb that struck Hiroshima peels the face off southern Louisiana. This is the gruesome reality Iberia Parish Sheriff's Detective Dave Robicheaux discovers when he is deployed to New Orleans. As James Lee Burke's new novel, *The Tin Roof Blowdown*, begins, Hurricane Katrina has left the commercial district and residential neighborhoods awash with looters and predators of every stripe. The power grid of the city has been destroyed and New Orleans reduced to the level of a medieval society. There is no law, no order, no sanctuary for the infirm, the helpless, and the innocent. Bodies float in the streets and lie impaled on the branches of flooded trees. In the midst of an apocalyptic nightmare, Robicheaux must find two serial rapists, a morphine-addicted priest, and a vigilante who may be more dangerous than the criminals looting the city. In a singular style that defines the genre, James Lee Burke has created a hauntingly bleak picture of life in New Orleans after Katrina. Filled with complex characters and depictions of people at both their best and worst, *The Tin Roof Blowdown* is not only an action-packed crime thriller but a poignant story of courage and sacrifice that critics are already calling Burke's best work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Tin Roof Blowdown is one of James Lee Burke's finest novels. Set in New Orleans at the time of Hurricane Katrina, there are several exciting incidents and characters who only Burke seems to be able to create. As always with Burke, the battle between good and evil is paramount. This is a must read for all Burke fans. If you are not yet a fan, read this and you soon will be!

Southern Louisiana cannot be depicted in a book by someone who visited there once. James Lee Burke provides one of the most satisfying glimpses into a unique culture, dark practices, strange and unpronounceable foods, stirring music, a world dripping with booze, twisted by crime, and inhabited by impoverished people who live in the clutches of a culture that has produced mardigras, boudin, etouffee, and zydeco. Voodoo, drugs, sex, gambling, and names for common fish that no one has ever heard before; those things make up Southern Louisiana. But it's more than a culture that comprises races of such wonderful mix that music, food, jazz funerals, and the like are mere products of the creative minds of a myriad carefree souls. I applaud Burke for realizing that the story of Louisians is not a linear telling of history and present practices, or a before and after Katrina comparison, or painting a bleak picture of a subordinated people. No say me, it is a song sung by sea birds, to the rhythm of falling rain and storm winds, to the beat of large fish jumping for bugs and falling back into the water, and listened to by the ears of the soul amid the aroma of fried fish, boiling crabs, crawfish, and blood sausage. If you want to hear the song and experience one of the most descriptive and colorful literary journeys of your life, read not only this one, but all of Burke's novels. There are many people to hate, those that turn your stomach, those that you'd like to twist their heads off, and those that you can't hate no matter how hard you try. One more thing. Not many authors can crawl inside the heads of sychopaths, an alcoholic, a Viet Nam Vet that has seen too much, a killer, rapist, a torturer, an ex-cop, and an impulsive partner that seems out of control. Burke lets it all hang out with these personas; and he does it like a pro or lay psychiatrist. You must read this book, let the language become an integral part of the backdrop and get past it, be prepared to stay up late, and have great fun in the process.

The written words made the newscasts seem pale as to what really went on during Katrina. We happened to talk to a young National person who had just return from serving in New Orleans and he told us that watching the NOPD openly stealing and looting was accurately portrayed. He felt he had lost all faith in the human race at that time. The rest of the book was well written as usual and was a quick read.

This installment of the Dave Robicheaux series starts in the Katrina/Rita damage. It feels like the author witnessed the area firsthand and you can feel his sense of tragedy and the level of destruction (he likely was there at the time). I have enjoyed all of James Lee Burke's books. This one is not one of the best (Black Cherry Blues, for me), but is still just really good reading for me.

The "bad guys" are not as creepy as other books, but really the villain in this one was the weather and the destruction wrought by the hurricanes. The people were almost supporting cast. It was recommended to me to read these in time sequence, which I have mostly been doing. I will finish the whole series. I do not completely agree with some critics who say that Burke's books become formulaic and predictable. They are an extension of him. His command of the English language is remarkable and I will eventually read every book he has written!

A slice of well-written, almost first hand narrative, of thoroughly believable occurrences in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in the lower 9th Ward and silk stocking neighborhoods along St. Charles Avenue, principally the Garden District, in New Orleans in 2005. A multi-leveled set of detailed stories that move beyond description to important levels of character introspection. The reader experiences the tensions resident in the class structure and economic disparities of this bedeviled City that Care ... and our national leaders and government truly forgot.

James Lee Burke and his Cajun detective Dave Robicheaux are American treasures. Burke takes the potentially pulp fiction genre of the detective novel and consistently elevates it to high art.

No one writes better than James Lee Burke. He has become my favorite of all time. I appreciate, especially, his ability to discuss racism and poverty within a context-- social, historic and economic-- that allows me to continue to read without sobbing and throwing up my hands in despair. His portraits of the landscape are so rich and multifaceted that I always feel I am there; sharing all the sights, smells and sounds with him. His characters are amazing --so flawed, even broken, yet beautifully crafted. If I could have one wish, it would be that there were ten more books by James Lee Burke that I haven't read yet, that I could look forward to immersing myself in. Mr. Burke is probably the only writer I would think about writing a fan letter to. He's so incredible. I thank him for opening my eyes, my mind, and my heart and for giving me countless hours of reading pleasure.

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