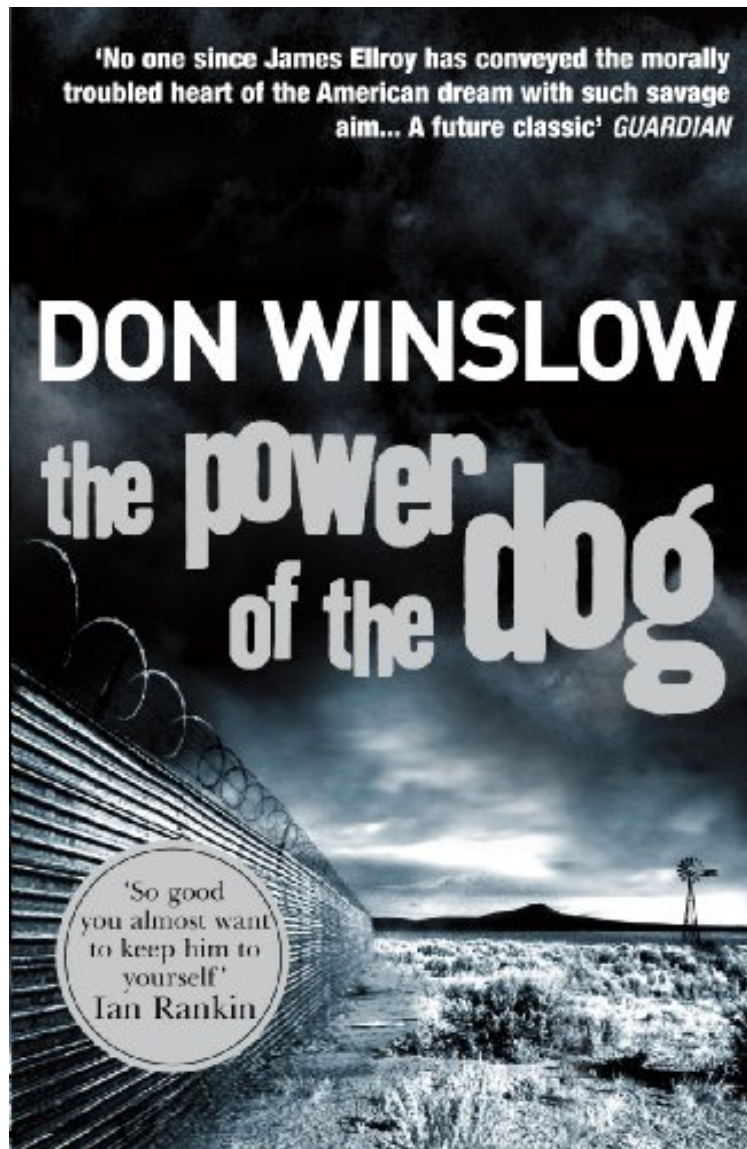


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The Power of the Dog

Von Don Winslow

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Von Don Winslow : The Power of the Dog before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Power of the Dog:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gute Action Von M. F. Mir hat der Stil sehr gut gefallen und die Story ebenfalls. Das Tempo ist sehr hoch und auf mich wirkte die Erzählung authentisch. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Only in hell do flowers bloom fire." (Art Keller) Von express The novel opens with an attack by joint Mexican forces and the American DEA

on a Sinaloa poppy field, the poppies burn and Art Keller, the DEA agent and protagonist, sitting on a ridge is looking down into the red burning valley. He reflects how Hieronymus Bosch would depict fighting the War on Drugs. He has flash backs of the Vietnam war, of the exfoliant called Agent Orange and the notorious Operation Phoenix designed by the CIA, and Keller was one of these Company Cowboys who were active in the program. Now he is part of Operation Condor (not to be confused with the historic Operation Condor, implemented by right wing South-American dictatorships in the 1970s) spraying the poppy fields with 24-D from helicopters. Power of the Dog follows five equally important characters through 35 years charting the evolution of the Mexican "trampoline" and the Sinaloa cartel to an internationally powerful organization. According to Winslow, it took him nearly six years of research to combine modern historic facts and fiction to describe the War on Drugs which is by far America's longest war since President Nixon's declaration in 1973. More than a trillion dollars and hundreds of thousand murders later, drugs are more plentiful than ever. The author realistically describes how the War on Drugs has created multinational corporations loaded with sociopaths, because in a world where violence rules the scum floats to the top. This novel, beefed up with hard-nosed journalism, delivers a horrifying dose of reality in the theater of violence as Art Keller follows the advances of the drug economy from the introductory Operation Condor in Sinaloa in 1975 to Guadalajara in 1984 and El Salvador in 1985, Mexico and the NAFTA agreement in 1992, and through the late nineties. Art Keller follows drug enforcement agencies from the poppy fields to South America and back to the Mexican border, all spiced with the politics of influence peddling and political delusion. The novel covers a bewildering sprawl of Irish mobsters, Italian mafiosi, cold warriors, Sandinistas, Contras, deluxe hookers, corrupt priests, Reagan, Bush, Giuliani, Colombian drug lords, Mexican cartels, campesinos, gomeros, torture, despair, murder, etc. But Winslow makes a whole lot of sense of it, well, if war makes sense at all. He also said that nothing in this novel is pure fiction, no cruelty is invented, no massacre, not the children thrown from a bridge, not the mutilated corpses and not the human head sent by mail - that ninety percent depicted in the novel really happened. Art Keller is pursuing Adn Barrera, a man who once deceived him and rose to top dog in the netherland of drugs. In the course he is discovering a far-reaching infrastructure along US-Mexican border where North American firepower meets South American cartels commanding more power and higher profits than some global corporations. Art Keller's personal journey, navigating this particular nightmare, illustrates how deeply intertwined cartels and politics are. When government leaders become gravediggers of society, the price of any attempt to control illegal drugs is getting too high and morally even questionable. Although ex CIA operative and now DEA agent, Art Keller introduces and closes this monumental tale, he is far from being the only protagonist in the novel, as this is a whirlpool of characters in all shades of black and grey. Winslow describes a three-pronged operational structure, the drugs (originating mostly in Columbia) flow through Mexico to the United States. Money flows from the U.S. back into Mexico. So far, this is all fairly straight forward and has a long real life history. The third component in these dealings are lawmakers in Washington who gladly accept that the Barrera Federacin is doing their dirty business of delivering weapons to covert Central American militias aligned with U.S. intelligence. Here, Winslow recalls the bizarre Iran-Contra affair in the 1980s, involving some sort of shadow government within the Reagan White House, but in the end, the organizational talent, colonel Oliver North had to bite the bullet - despite a lost weekend of red-hot running shredders in his offices. In the novel, the guns are supplied by the Irish mobsters, which makes them part of the payment for drugs. Like the Barreras, the mob obviously has its own assortment of ruthless and dangerous individuals, represented by its star killer, an Irishman named Sean Callan. All this testosterone has to be balanced by a woman and Winslow delivers: the incontestable beauty of a femme fatale, the deluxe hustler Nora Hayden. Rising from the bottom of society, for Hayden there's no question that her striking looks can win her whatever she wants from rich and powerful older men. And no, Nora Hayden isn't the clichd hooker with a heart of gold, she rather exists at the other end of the variety - a drop-dead gorgeous call girl with figurative balls-of-steel you could roll her up and down Paseo de la Reforma. She learns early on to distance herself from her work and to invest her money wisely, this is where her path crosses Dog's other plot threads. Hayden becomes intimate with both Sean Callan of the Irish mob and Adn Barrera of the Sinaloa cartel. More interesting is her platonic relationship with the father figure of Mexican Bishop Juan Parada, who devotes his work for the poor because it's just the kind of emotional bond that Keller hopes to exploit in undoing the Barrera dynasty. No one since James Elroy has unveiled the sclerotic and morally troubled heart of the American dream so savagely and at the same time cleverly adding a pointed political dimension to his saga as Don Winslow with The Power of the Dog. The troubling part is that most of what Winslow depicted in the novel really happened. Anyone who's spent time reading newspapers or is living in any of the U.S. states along the border with Mexico or within Mexico will recognize many of these events.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great read
Von yFor a long time now I find it very hard to get my hands on books that are of real high quality. The same ideas are being recycled over and over, often the language is flawed, the characters are clich, unbelievable or the entire story reeks of education of the reader and the agenda of the author. None of that will you find in "the power of the dog". It's really great to read, nice, original wording, great dialogs and of course the whole scope of the storry is just magnificent. The characters appear natural, believable, sophisticated, their actions reasonable and interesting because often unexpected. You learn something about a part of this world and its history ... it's just great, really. The book is about the Mexican (and to some extend rather Middle- and Southern-

American) drug "business" and the involvement of the US efforts against it - how it all came to the current situation. The historical sweep reaches as far back as to the end of the Vietnam war in the early seventies. It includes various agencies, countries, US administrations ... the whole enchilada. On the other hand this is not (just) a fact book. This is also a very entertaining criminal story. You follow the "hero" from the start of the DEA and his first days in Mexico through the destruction of the old cartel, the establishment of the new federation of cartels and so on ... it's a very personal story - his life, his actions, mistakes, victories, ... family life, everything. The author has really succeeded in presenting the big picture by telling the story of a single man. Of course there's one problem: I can't tell how accurate the whole thing is. The impression I got is that everything was very well researched and presented in detail. However you can achieve that impression and tell a story that is in collision with historical facts. Would be nice to know if this book represents the truth or is just another fraud like the story where the US Navy gets the Enigma machine out of a German submarine where in reality that was done by the British. So one should be cautious to believe everything without checking.

Kurzbeschreibung Drug lord Miguel Angel Barrera is head of the Mexican drug federation, responsible for millions of dollars worth of cocaine traffic into the US and the torture of those who stand in its way. His nephew, Adan Barrera, is his worthy successor. Art Keller is a US government operative, so determined to obtain revenge for a murdered colleague that his pursuit of the cartel veers dangerously towards an obsession outside the law. This is a world characterised by its brutality, yet all Winslow's incredibly varied cast - including a high class prostitute, an Irish hitman and a charismatic Catholic priest - are all in their own ways searching for salvation. Don Winslow's masterpiece is not only a page-turning thriller but also a rich and compelling novel in the league of an Ellroy or DeLillo. From Publishers Weekly The war on drugs is powerfully dramatized in Winslow's ambitious, dense and gritty latest (after 1999's *California Fire and Life*). Art Keller is a brilliant DEA agent who sometimes breaks the rules to serve justice. Adan Barrera is an urbane drug dealer whose charm masks his brutality. Nora Hayden is a high-class call girl whose heart is in the right place. And Sean Callan is a taciturn mob hit man, a stone-cold killer who just wants out of the life. Winslow follows these four characters and assorted extras as they cross paths over three decades in the international drug trade, from Keller's first encounter with Barrera in 1970s Mexico, through the drug cartels' corruption of government officials in the U.S. and Mexico governments, to a final showdown on the U.S. border in 1999. Winslow's depth of research and unflagging attention to detail give the story both heft and immediacy, and his staccato, present-tense prose shifts easily among wildly disparate settings and multiple points of view. A complex plot, well-drawn characters and plenty of double-crossing make this a thinking person's narco-thriller. Agent, Jimmy Vines. Author tour. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Winslow (*California Fire and Life*, 1999) once again offers a crime novel with breakneck pacing, a sardonic worldview, and a teeming cast of superheated characters. He also displays bold ambition as he takes on the war on drugs, moving his extremely violent story between the DEA, the Latin American drug cartels, and the Mob. At the center of the novel is DEA agent Art Keller, who makes a fatal mistake as an idealistic rookie. On his first posting, to Culiacan, Mexico, capital of the drug trade, Art befriends the Barrera brothers. Their friendship will eventually turn into a personal vendetta of epic proportions when it is revealed that their uncle, Miguel, a member of the state police, is a drug kingpin. The cast also features an Irish hit man, a call girl, and a priest, as Winslow feverishly indicts the U.S. war on drugs, tracing flawed policies that have cost DEA agents their lives yet failed to stop the flow of drugs across the border. Intricate plotting and manic energy power this page-turner. Joanne Wilkinson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved