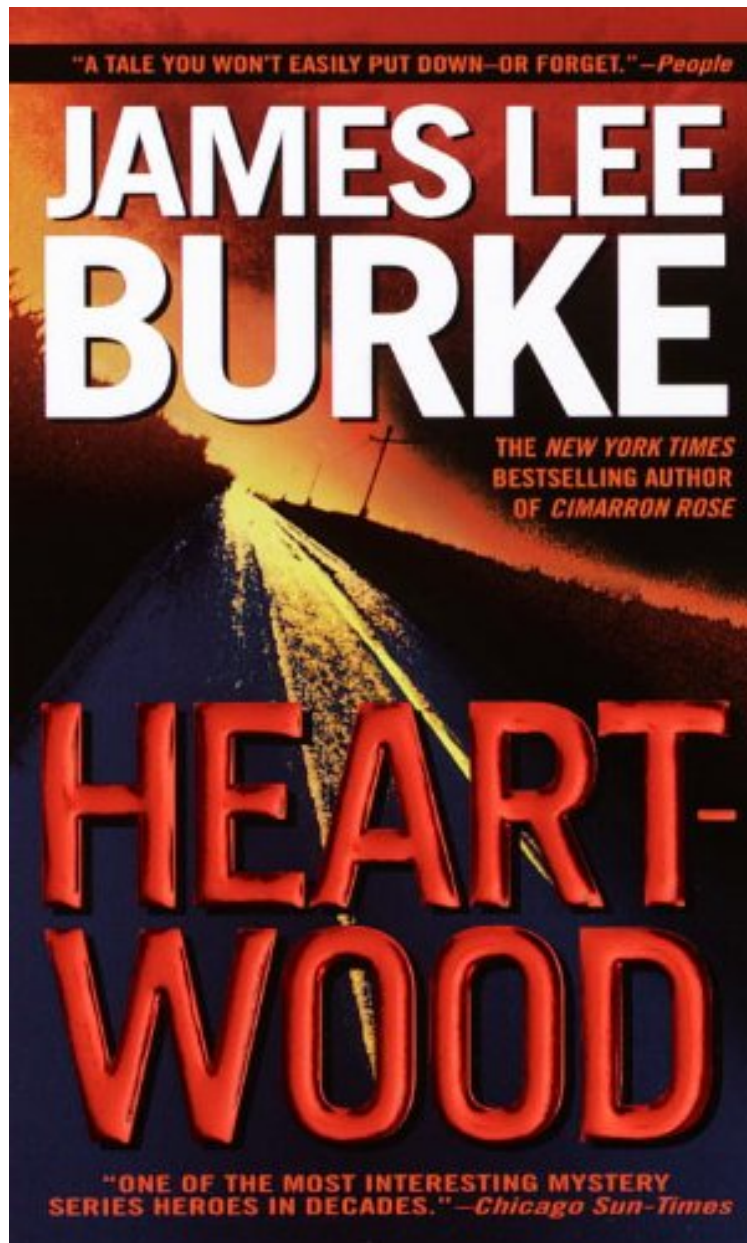


[E-BOOK] Heartwood (Billy Bob Holland)

Heartwood (Billy Bob Holland)

Von James Lee Burke

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

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Any

Burke is good; Heartwood is not a memorable one. Von M. Mick McAllister: The Billy Bob Holland books are odd. It's as if Burke needs to pitch left-handed for a while to keep his right hand's curveball coming. Billy Bob is pretty clearly differentiated from Dave Robicheaux, Burke's other continuing protagonist, but the stories could just as easily be Robicheaux novels if you moved the setting five hundred miles east and adjusted a few other elements accordingly. Set in Deaf Smith, Texas, the two Billy Bob Holland novels (the other is **Cimarron Rose**) are up to Burke's standard, as far as the quality of the writing, the characters, and sense of place. Holland, an unsuccessful lawyer with some rough history, moves among the wealthy families of Houston, kids he grew up with because his family was on the fringes of that wealth. Predictably, they have ugly secrets. I'm confident I could write a two-hundred-word outline that could be used to describe either Billy Bob novel, unfortunately. The base plot of **Heartwood** is so similar to that of **Cimarron Rose** that it's as if Burke forgot he'd already used it. Not a complaint if you haven't read the other novel, and Burke is good enough that **Heartwood** is still a good read, certainly worth buying in paperback. Hardcover is for collectors only. Billy Bob is not what all the fuss is all about, by the way. If you are new to Burke, you want a Dave Robicheaux novel to see why we call him the best in the genre. **Burning Angel** is one of the best, and **Dixie City Jam**, though both are later in the chronology of the series and they have some spoilers for earlier novels. The best early Robicheaux book, for my taste, is **Black Cherry Blues**, and the first is **Neon Rain**. You can't go wrong with any of them.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. James Lee Burke and Billy Bob Holland Are Back In Top Form. Von P. Connors: I have to say that I was somewhat suspicious of James Lee Burke after having read *CIMARRON ROSE*. His new main character, Billy Bob Holland, seemed to be just a Texas version of Dave Robicheaux and Deaf Smith, Texas was a poor substitute for New Iberia, LA. But I stuck with the book and overcame my initial reservations. While the similarities are there and very palpable, if one has never read the Robicheaux series, then the Billy Bob character is as new and alive as any character readers are likely to meet in popular fiction today. The second installment in this parallel series is called *HEARTWOOD* and in it, James Lee Burke continues to delve into the psyche of Billy Bob Holland and the lives of various miscreants he comes across in the small Texas town he calls home. *HEARTWOOD* does not differ from previous JLB offerings. The prose is alternatively lush and spare. The descriptions of places and people are without peer. Whether it is New Iberia, LA or Deaf Smith, TX, James Lee Burke's descriptions are so well constructed that I can imagine myself in either location and viewing the action of the story as it takes place around me. That is a technique that Burke is a master of and he retains that stylistic approach in *HEARTWOOD*. It would be easy to say that *HEARTWOOD* is a continuation of *CIMARRON ROSE* and that Burke is just expanding on that novel's previously offered theme. Some readers might find it so. But what Burke does so well is explore classic American literary themes. In these two books, it happens to be the struggles between the haves and the have-nots; the rich and the poor. Deaf Smith, Texas is a study in contrasts. There are those who have money, creature comforts, status, prestige and power and then, there are those who have none of the above. To contrast the two ends of the spectrum, Burke even geographically juxtaposes the groups by placing them at opposite sides of the town. Burke is and always will be a master at creating characters antagonistic to the order of the rest of society. In *HEARTWOOD*, that person is Earl Deitrich, a man who has made his life's work (and fortune) by stomping people who get in his way. His wealth has bought him power and he is a man totally unafraid to use that power to whatever advantage he thinks he is entitled to. As in the Robicheaux novels, the main character, Billy Bob Holland has a past that he is trying to live down. Once a Texas Ranger and Assistant U.S. Attorney, Billy Bob has taken to defending the lesser elements of society; they are the people who violate the law as easily as the rest of us turn on a light. Many are people who are criminals through the accident of not having enough common sense to realize that what they are doing violates all normal standards. Billy Bob and Burke show a world weary sympathy for the folks in this category and it is another feature continued from previous books. Burke always provides a paradox in his novels, however. While Billy Bob may defend the sociopathic members of society, Burke points out that the well-to-do are not without their own monsters, too. Scions of powerful fathers tend not to be nice people in the books of James Lee Burke and Earl Deitrich's son Jeff is no different. Burke always supplies his readers with a large cast of characters to keep track of. But what he does so well and continues here is that he delivers well-realized people. The good folks are the ones you root for. The vile ones are the folks you hope he kills off. Of course, that doesn't always happen either, so there are few (if any) plot gimmicks that would make these stories all too tidy. Readers of the Robicheaux series root for Dave, Bootsie, Alafair, Batist and Helen. In *HEARTWOOD*, readers will root for Billy Bob, Lucas Smothers, Pete and Temple Carroll. It was nice being able to transfer sympathetic feelings for another set of characters in this new location. Burke also retains one of the features from *CIMARRON ROSE* that I found annoying and that was the use of conversations between Billy Bob and his dead partner L.Q. Novarro. While not as noticeable as in *CIMARRON ROSE*, they are still there and somehow this time, I found them less intrusive and annoying. I think that Burke retained them and uses them to remind his readers that we all have little foibles that haunt us from time to time and sometimes these hang-ups are mysterious to others. They are however, what make each of us individuals. Billy Bob is a flawed human being just like the rest of us. He is looking for respite and redemption but the crazies in Deaf Smith just won't give him a chance. I still think that James Lee Burke is showing us the less attractive side of America. *HEARTWOOD* is no different than his previous works in that regard. What it does do exceedingly well is explore a man's limits and

his sense of personal honor and integrity. Just like Dave Robicheaux, Billy Bob Holland is a man of action but no longer one of barely restrained violence. While I once thought they were two sides of the same coin, I now realize that I must modify my opinion. Dave and Billy Bob are more cousins than they are brothers. The brotherly part only comes to the fore when the reader realizes that both men stand for doing the right thing. The Billy Bob Holland novels ARE NOT the Dave Robicheaux stories despite the similarities and the imitative plot devices. I recommend that readers of HEARTWOOD forget Dave Robicheaux and read this book as if they had never read any others by JLB. When you do, you'll realize that James Lee Burke really is at the top of his form and is the undisputed master of this genre. Read HEARTWOOD as a stand alone and judge it on that basis. If you do that, without comparing this series to the one containing Dave Robicheaux, then I think you'll find this to be a most enjoyable read. Paul Connors 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant Von Pamela Stone Heartwood James Lee Burke Doubleday 1999 ISBN 0385488432 H.C. Mystery This is the 2nd book centered around Billy Bob Holland. The 1st was Cimarron Rose in 1997. When Holland takes on the defense of Wilbur Pickett, who has had a lot of bad luck in his past, now finds himself accused of stealing bearer bonds from the rich Dietrichs family. Holland is going up against Dietrichs whom he does not care for because Dietrich has made a fortune running over people and tainting anyone who stands in his way. Plus Holland can not forget the passion he feels for Dietrichs wife Peggy Jean. James Burke makes you see the town and characters in your mind so clearly as he describes them. The only issue I had with this book is James Burke talks of rain on 25 pages of this book, but I find that hard to believe because this book takes place in Texas Hill country, and Texans know that it hardly ever rains in the Texas Hill country. Other than that this book is a winner. Burke is a master at setting mood, laying in atmosphere, full with quirky raunchy language that befits Texas. I am looking forward to the next installment of Billy Bob Holland. A brilliant novel of crime from the two-time Edgar Award winner, Gold Dagger award winner and New York Times Bestseller author of several books.

Kurzbeschreibung A brilliantly layered novel of crime, character, and place from the two-time Edgar Award winner, Gold Dagger Award winner, and New York Times bestselling author of *Sunset Limited*. Few writers in America today combine James Lee Burke's lush prose, crackling story lines, and tremendous sense of history and landscape. In *Cimarron Rose*, longtime fans of the Dave Robicheaux series found that the struggles of Texas defense attorney Billy Bob Holland show Burke at his best in exploring classic American themes--the sometimes subtle, often violent strains between the haves and the have-nots; the collision of past and present; the inequities in the criminal justice system. *Heartwood* is a kind of tree that grows in layers. And as Billy Bob's grandfather once told him, you do well in life by keeping the roots in a clear stream and not letting anyone taint the water for you. But in Holland's dusty little hometown of Deaf Smith, in the hill country north of Austin, local kingpin Earl Dietrich has made a fortune running roughshod and tainting anyone who stands in his way. Billy Bob has problems with Dietrich and his shamelessly callous demeanor, but can't shake the legacy of his passion for Dietrich's "heartbreak-beautiful" wife, Peggy Jean. When Holland takes on the defense of Wilbur Pickett--a man accused of stealing an heirloom and three hundred thousand dollars in bonds from Dietrich's office--he finds himself up against not only Earl's power and influence, but also a past Billy Bob can't will away. A wonderfully realized novel, rich in Texas atmosphere and lore, and a dazzling portrait of the deadly consequences of self-delusion, *Heartwood* could only have been written by James Lee Burke, a writer in expert command of his craft. Whether he's writing about the Louisiana Bayou Country (in his Dave Robicheaux books) or the Texas hill towns around Austin (in his series about former Texas ranger Billy Bob Holland), James Lee Burke has deep roots in the American soil that link him to some of the great adventure writers of the past such as Jack London and Mark Twain. Like them, Burke writes novels illustrating how failure shapes a man much more than success does. Central to Burke's second Billy Bob novel (*Cimarron Rose* was his first) is Wilbur Pickett. Wilbur had a brief moment of glory as a rodeo cowboy before sliding into a downward cycle of luckless enterprises. He ends up laboring for a wealthy family, the Dietrichs, in the Texas town of Deaf Smith. The Dietrichs accuse Wilbur of stealing some bearer bonds, and Billy Bob--now a defense attorney--reluctantly take his case. He is hesitant (because he idolizes Peggy Jean Dietrich), and for good reason: Billy Bob discovers that her husband Earl may be involved in shady, even violent, business practices. Other ghosts from the past also haunt Billy Bob: he accidentally killed his former partner on a drug raid in Mexico and still hears his voice. And then there's Holland's illegitimate son Lucas, who is growing up with problems of his own. The weight of all this back-story might overwhelm a lesser writer, but Burke manages to make it seem as natural as the soft wind that stirs the tumbleweed in the town of Deaf Smith. --Dick Adler.co.uk Whether he's writing about the Louisiana Bayou Country (in his Dave Robicheaux books) or the Texas hill towns around Austin (in his series about former Texas ranger Billy Bob Holland), James Lee Burke has deep roots in the American soil that link him to some of the great adventure writers of the past such as Jack London and Mark Twain. Like them, Burke writes novels illustrating how failure shapes man much more than success does. Central to Burke's second Billy Bob novel (*Cimarron Rose* was his first) is Wilbur Pickett. Wilbur had a brief moment of glory as a rodeo cowboy before sliding into a downward cycle of luckless enterprises. He ends

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