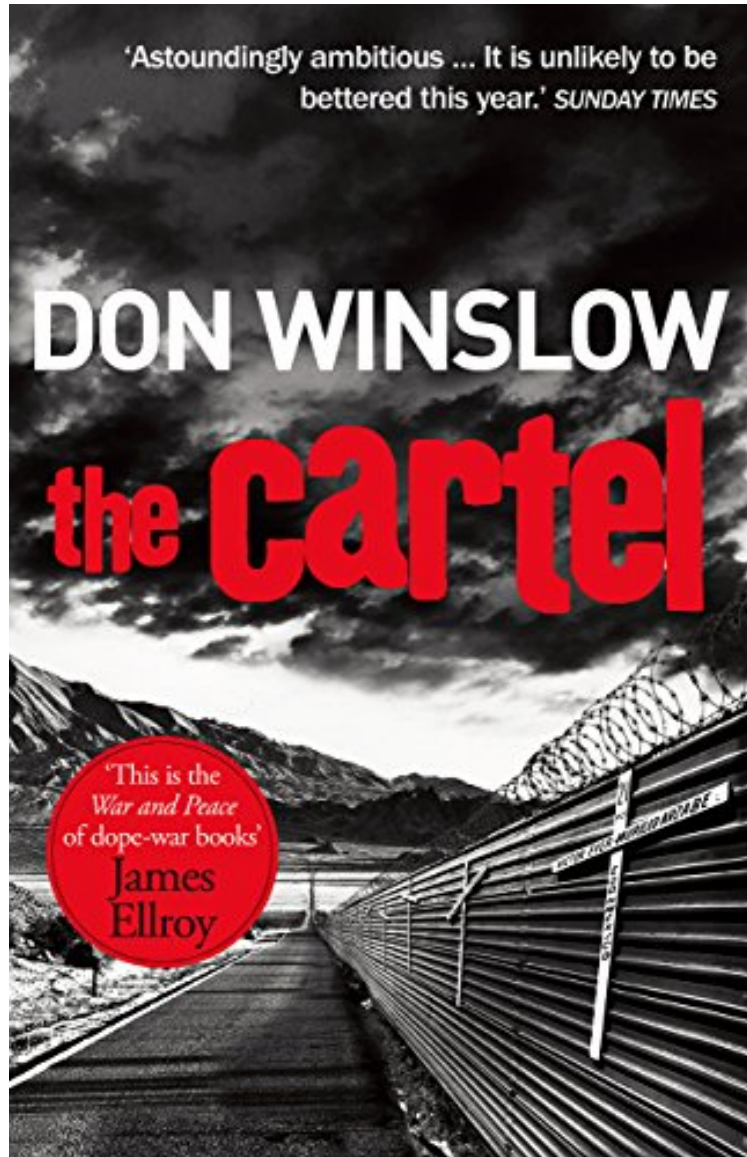


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The Cartel

Von Don Winslow

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Von Don Winslow : The Cartel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cartel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The longest Day of the DeadVon expressWinslow's epic novel "The Power of the Dog" (first published 2005), is regarded a modern crime classic unveiling the morally troubled U.S.-Mexican drug wars. At the time nobody thought about a

sequel, but Winslow was dragged into writing one by all the news that unfolded after 2005. Like "The Power of the Dog" the new book is a clever mix of fact and fiction, based on serious research, now totaling about ten years that make him probably the best informed novelist of the Mexican drug wars. "The Cartel" opens with a dedication that covers nearly two pages, listing the names of one hundred and thirty-one journalists who were murdered or "disappeared" in Mexico from 2004 - 2014, and that's only a digit compared to the more than 100,000 Mexican citizens that have been tortured and killed by narco-gangsters during this time - about twice the American fatalities in Vietnam. This is also the period covered in the novel and can serve as bookends for the administrations of presidents Felipe Calderon and his successor Enrique Peña Nieto who took office in 2012. Although it was President Nixon who started the War on Drugs in 1972, it was Calderon who started the Mexican Drug War in serious by cooperating with the U.S. and by putting the army on the streets, starting with the Mrida Initiative. However, it didn't work except stirring up the hornet's nest as the cartels soon realized they didn't have to fight with overwhelming firepower but to win the minds of people. The author exposes the cartels as a phantom government that controls some ten percent of the Mexican economy, this power is enough to censor news coverage, by intimidating, terrorizing, and killing journalists. Corruption is running so high to turn the War on Drugs into a cruel charade. In both novels, the author persistently but not without reason compares the war on drugs to the war in Vietnam - American "advisers," defoliants sprayed from helicopters, intelligence failures and futility. As a man of the left, Winslow has little sympathy for U.S. foreign policy in Central America during the Cold War, when arming anti-communists by the CIA or the notorious scheme known as the Iran-Contra affair became entangled with the drug trade. Winslow is one of a growing number of voices that favor drug legalization as the only way to financially hurt the cartels. "The Power of the Dog" was published quite some time before the cartels started slaughtering and warring each other on levels that can only be described as a delusionary nightmare, tumbling Mexico into near complete chaos. Winslow perhaps felt challenged to match his first book, especially as Los Zetas, considered by many as the largest and most cruel of the cartels, isn't even mentioned there. In the new book the syndicate, considered the most advanced and dangerous one with a strong presence in half the country gets a full history, from its inception as the enforcer of the Gulf Cartel. Created by 31 soldiers who deserted from Mexican special-forces, the death squad was charged to protect the young and ambitious leader Osiel Crdenas Guilln and soon developed to narcotraficantes, and expanded into kidnapping, extortion, and the illegal syphoning and sale of oil and natural gas. To witness torture, beheadings, rape and corrupt top government officials, one doesn't need to travel to Iraq, Syria or Afghanistan as all of that happens right in the front yard of the U.S. or as Porfirio Daz put it, "so far from God and so close to the United States." True to Mexican convictions, the most fatalistic narcos believe in the skeletal Santsima Muerte, and are bombastic about drinking human blood in her honor as she promises a chance at life to those bustling in a world of death. Art Keller, a former CIA field agent who now works for the DEA is fighting again Adn Barrera, the head of Mexico's most powerful drug cartel El Federacin, loosely based on Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, and after thirty years the hunt has turned into a highly personal affair. Keller was instrumental for the deaths of Barrera's brother and uncle and his capture in the U.S. Now he is extradited to Mexico and the obvious plot is coming full tilt. Barrera arranges his jail-break in Guadalajara, and begins to rebuild his old organization and promptly places a two million dollar bounty on Keller's head as each man hunts the other. But first we meet Keller at a monastery in New Mexico where the U.S. government is offering him a deal: If he is willing to go again into Mexico to complete his mission for the whole enchilada, Barrera will give up a fellow drug kingpin. Once out of prison, Barrera battles ruthlessly like a monster to regain his old seat and take his place as the first among equals in the cartels. He wants to be the richest man with the happiest family and the most beautiful chica, and most importantly more power over life and death than anyone else. His struggle within the world of the cartels, and Keller's keenness bordering on fanaticism to take him down, unfold with roughness as the antagonists are so hard-boiled you could roll'em up and down the Sierra Madre. Although the two main characters of "The Cartel" have become a little thin, they still deliver the reader into the ongoing disaster. In a way, one is reminded of "The Godfather" and the strategic thinking of the Corleones as the characters are forming alliances with their bitterest enemies and betraying their friends in order to avoid results that are even worse and justice and revenge are often impossible to tell apart. Although the book does its job as a stand-alone, any reader who is sufficiently interested in the subject and can stomach over 1000 pages describing one of the most brutal conflicts today, will greatly benefit from reading "The Power of the Dog" first as Winslow does quite a lot of referencing. In all the deftness Winslow delivers a certain graceful narrative flow. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This book is so full of violence and death - it really scared... Von Miki101. Micha ... the living daylight's out of my little self! And I am really not estranged to violence - sometimes even of an extreme kind - in thriller books! But - Hell hath no fury like the War between the Drug Lords of Mexico! For a more profound understanding of this second part of an almost 40-year-cronology of the legendary War on Drugs, the interested reader better reads the first part of this very, but very very personal war, which is called The Power Of The Dog. A threatening thriller by itself. But a very good basis for this one... This one is entirely about the "War on Drugs". Without a certain knowledge of the background and history of the main characters being Art Keller and Adan Barrera, the reader - only my opinion - can capture only a part of the love turned into hate, the struggle between those two men. Which will end in one way or another the almost familiar and almost intimate relation between them. And

for sure in some violent way...If someone - like me - has read the Pinker book *The Better Angels of Our Nature: The Decline of Violence In History And Its Causes* and has begun to believe in some of those theories, he or she have made themselves a certain opinion about conflicts or wars, that's for sure. Give them THIS book to read and they may change their opinions on the base of what men and women and children are ready, willing and able to do to other men, women and children. And the worst of all - there is NO LAW! Only one thing counts - MONEY. Men like Art Keller - an agent now rejected by so many ABCD..etc... Agencies in the USA - have to do the lurid and violent work to protect the reputation of most of those ABCD... etc... Agencies. He is uncorruptible, driven by personal motivation that go sky-high. So Keller sells his soul - it has no worth for himself any more. And he returns to Mexico - with contracts for millions of US Dollars on his head - simply to do what he has to do. At his conditions, because the head belongs to him. Many heads will roll - in the real sense, because that's the way punishment is delivered. And with the war between the Gangs and Cartels the reader is a witness to the cruelty - often so invane - that is inflicted onto the innocents. But also to women who try to make a difference. And all that in the Third Millenium!!! But at a certain point also the most impartial reader will find it - maybe - very difficult to distinguish "the simple small bad one " from "THE REAL BAD ONE " Or a "for-the-good killer" from a "WHAT A BAD KILLER" ...And at the very end the devil that lurks in us all comes out - and bites his own tail... This is a very important book, one of those I normally want to read as soon as they come out. But I circled around it for a while, insecure to be able to read a reality book about other awful crimes, many of them against children, like those I read in *The Power Of The Dog*. And here the author surely has topped the first book. But the world has to know. And if this was the only way to make those cruelties stop - which are supported by governments sworn to protect their citizens - top or bottom of the Rio Grande - writers will do it. And will risk their lives like those I myself incline my head to - all those victims in the first pages, entirely dedicated to writers who were killed or simply disappeared because of investigating or publishing their FREE OPINION! OK - that was Mexico in those days...and the US of A., too... But I personally know writers like those in OTHER very dangerous regions of the world... Who simply try to inform, even at a very high cost! 0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nichts fr schwache Nerven Von Fridoline Als ich das Buch anfang zu lesen, glaubte ich an einen normalen Fiction-Thriller. Nach einiger Zeit bemerkte ich, dass sich das Buch eher zu einem Bericht wandelte, daraufhin recherchierte ich ein bisschen im Internet. Meine Vermutung war richtig, nmlich, dass die Geschehnisse als solche auf Tatsachen beruhen, die in Deutschland weitgehend unbekannt sind, hchstens mal eine Randnotiz in unseren Nachrichten darstellen (wie gerade krzlich erst wieder). Bis zur letzten Seite wartete ich immer darauf, dass der Wahnsinn doch mal ein Ende finden msse. Dagegen ist der Pate ein Kinderbuch. Es ist nicht ganz einfach, bei den verschiedenen, sich stndig ndernden Allianzen, der Vielzahl der Personen und Orte den berblick zu behalten (aber haben die realen Menschen vor Ort den gehabt?). Vielleicht sollte man sich eine Liste dazu anlegen. Auerdem wre es zumindest in der englischen Fassung des Buches von Vorteil, wenn man etwas Spanisch kann.

Produktbeschreibung From the bestselling author of the acclaimed *The Power of the Dog* comes *The Cartel*, a gripping true-to-life epic, ripped from the headlines, spanning the past decade of the Mexican American drug wars. Its 2004. DEA agent Art Keller has been fighting the war on drugs for thirty years in a blood feud against Adan Barrera, the head of El Federacin, the worlds most powerful cartel, and the man who brutally murdered Kellers partner. Putting Barrera away costs Keller dearly the woman he loves, the beliefs he cherishes, the life he wants to lead. Then Barrera gets out, determined to rebuild the empire that Keller shattered. Unwilling to live in a world with Barrera in it, Keller goes on a ten-year odyssey to take him down. *The Cartel* is a true-to-life story of power, corruption, revenge, honour and sacrifice, as one man tries to face down the devil without losing his soul.