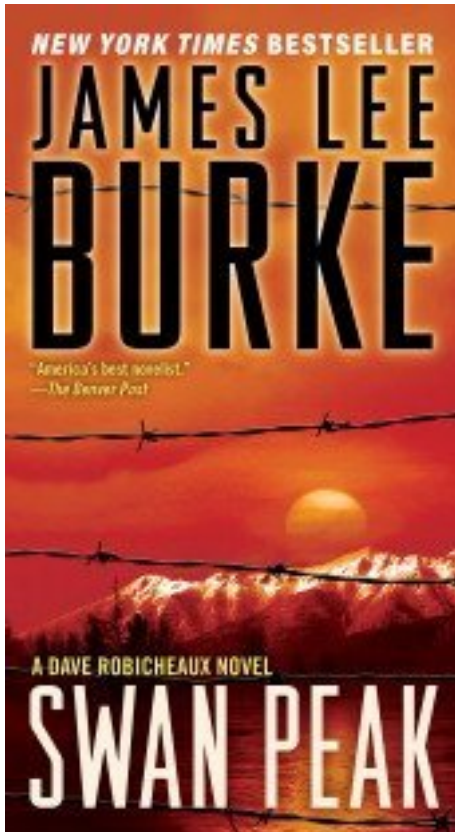

James Lee Burke

Swan Peak (Dave Robicheaux #17)



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Author: James Lee Burke

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Description

Trouble follows Dave Robicheaux. James Lee Burke's new novel, "Swan Peak," finds Detective Robicheaux far from his New Iberia roots, attempting to relax in the untouched wilderness of rural Montana. He, his wife, and his buddy Clete Purcell have retreated to stay at an old friend's ranch, hoping to spend their days fishing and enjoying their distance from the harsh, gritty landscape of Louisiana post-Katrina.

But the serenity is soon shattered when two college students are found brutally murdered in the hills behind where the Robicheauxs and Purcell are staying. They quickly find themselves involved in a twisted and dangerous mystery involving a wealthy, vicious oil tycoon, his deformed brother and beautiful wife, a sexually deviant minister, an escaped con and former country music star, and a vigilante Texas gunbull out for blood. At the center of the storm is Clete, who cannot shake the feeling that he is being haunted by the ghosts from his past -- namely Sally Dio, the mob boss he'd sabotaged and killed years before.

In this expertly drawn, gripping story, Burke deftly weaves intricate, engaging plotlines and original, compelling characters with his uniquely graceful prose. He transcends genre yet again in the latest thrilling addition to his "New York Times" bestselling series.

Insightful reviews

Ubik 2.0: **Le vacanze di M.eur Robicheaux**

Imprevedibile e piacevole sorpresa il 17° episodio della serie di Dave Robicheaux, uno fra i migliori prodotti usciti dalla penna di un James Lee Burke ormai ultrasettantenne dopo alcuni precedenti piuttosto altalenanti.

I motivi di questa impennata, dopo che una certa routine mi pareva aver preso le redini della carriera dell'autore texano, non sono facili da decifrare, ma ci provo.

a) l'ambientazione:

era uno dei punti di forza delle opere di Burke nella suggestiva descrizione degli spettacolari paesaggi del bayou della Louisiana (anche se cominciava a diventare un cliché...); lo rimane negli scenari altrettanto suggestivi, ma questa volta inediti, fra le montagne e le foreste del Montana, intorno allo "Swan Peak", che è anche il titolo originale dell'opera in luogo del banale titolo italiano... e sulle sponde dello stupendo lago omonimo (che sono andato a guardarmi su Google Map!). Per inciso, il motivo per cui Dave e Clete si trovano da quelle parti è una rilassante vacanza da pescatori che, è appena il caso di dirlo, si rivelerà tutt'altro che rilassante!

b) un'innovazione stilistica;

la funzione dell'io narrante Dave Robicheaux è qui arricchita da capitoli raccontati in terza persona: scene, dialoghi, azioni che R. non vede e conferiscono spessore sia ai personaggi, che vivono di vita propria e non solo come li vede il protagonista, sia alla trama che così si

articola in maniera più libera e originale.

Nei romanzi ambientati a New Iberia invece il racconto appariva un po' appesantito dai ripetitivi incontri di R., di solito presso il suo capanno da pesca, unico modo per far progredire la storia...

c) i personaggi

anche per la scelta stilistica di cui sopra, i personaggi del romanzo danno l'impressione di rappresentare caratteri più veri e più credibili, molti di essi sufficientemente ambigui e non i soliti buoni troppo buoni e cattivi troppo cattivi. Lo stesso Clete Purcel esce dallo stereotipo del compagno di R., utile nell'economia della narrazione soltanto a dar vita con Dave a dialoghi in stile Hap&Leo dalla penna di un altro scrittore texano.

O forse tutto quanto sopra è privo di significato e siamo in presenza semplicemente di un momento di felice ispirazione da parte di JLB, e allora speriamo di incontrare altre sorprese simili e ricavarne uguale soddisfazione, sempre che qualcuno si decida a tradurre i tre romanzi della serie che Burke ha pubblicato dopo questo: *The Glass Rainbow*(2010), *Creole Belle* (2012) e *Light Of The World* (2013)

Alan Mills: Wow. A fantastic entry into the Dave/Clete series, this entry set on Montana, where several books (and apparently a decade in real time) Clete was working for, and may have helped kill) a mobster. On what is supposed to be a nice fly fishing vacation, dead bodies abound, and Clete gets hassled by mob connected hired help for fishing in the wrong stream. The usual mayhem ensues, and the good guys (if there are any) win. But it isn't about the end point...it's all about the ride. And as always, James Lee Burke delivers!

One caveat. I am getting increasingly annoyed that every time these guys are anywhere, a psychopathic serial killer follows. There just aren't that many of them in the real world, and books like this feed the mythology that we are all on the verge of being murdered, but for the brave intervention of cops, who may have to bend the rules occasionally to protect us. Makes for great stories, but please don't buy the myth. That is NOT who commits murders.

Michael Sump: James Lee Burke is old school, and his main characters—Dave Robicheaux and Cletus Purcel are old school detectives. They are hard men and not without their own flaws. Dave is literally wrecked with old school Catholic guilt, memories of Vietnam, and the guilt that comes from alcoholism and his constant desire for a drink. And Dave is a model citizen compared to the walking trainwreck that is the life of Clete Purcel, his unusually inappropriate friend, his former NOPD partner, and now a private investigator in the gritty reality that is post-Katrina New Orleans. And these are Burke's hero's. His villains are evil and usually more than a little twisted. Even the innocent bystanders have to deal with their phobias and demons, and the reader is left wondering who among the cast can avoid death or degradation.

Most of this series is set in New Orleans, Louisiana or in nearby New Iberia Parrish where Dave is employed as a deputy sheriff and where he lives in a house on a bayou with a grill and a baitshop in his backyard. But this story is in a new place. It is set in the range and forests of the foothills of Montana, just north of Missoula. Burke is a master as painting a scene and he does not falter with this change of scenery. [Montana is Burke's 2nd home and so he's found a way to

transplant his southern Louisiana cast to the north country.]

I liked this story very much. It is full of the no nonsense philosophy of hard men, honed over years of difficult challenges. Burke is a poet and a philosopher and his smooth language takes you to and away from some pretty frightening places. Yet, by Burke's standards, this story has a happy ending.

Colleen: i've been a JLB fan considering that Black Cherry Blues within the 80s. i have not been maintaining within the previous few years, yet picked this up. It used to be like working into an outdated good friend after various years. Burke has elderly like fantastic wine, and this love poem to the west is an ideal instance of why humans cannot get adequate of Burke's writing. Style: poetic, smooth, like driving a horse with a candy rocking-chair gait via nation either recognized and new. Content: a rip-snorting story, entire with good enough pink herrings and broken people, that builds slowly to a such a lot enjoyable climax. JLB is much more cynical than in prior years, and neither he nor his most sensible friend, Clete Purcell, undergo fools (or predators) gladly. but if all is expounded and done, he's nonetheless has religion within the redemptive energy of love; simply loving an individual or anything warts, demons, and all might be transformational for all involved.

Vernon: a dismal novel peopled with characters of torment, every one wearing a few type of awful prior occasion or time as a defining aspect to their persona. a singular of oldsters that drink too much, philosophize grandly, are often violent, and—not surprisingly—at instances appear to consider sorry for themselves. Or cease simply in need of feeling sorry for themselves, with the very fallible strong men coping with to beat either nice exterior and inner odds to effectively take care of the very very fallible undesirable guys, who whereas having the benefit of with the ability to pretty well make their very own rules, eventually fall prey to the truth that they are, after all, the undesirable guys, and of the ilk that often reveals the way to lose within the end. Nothing concerning the above paragraph describes a secret that's really strange in its premise, and the radical wouldn't unfairly be referred to as a "page turner," however the factor approximately Swan height is that James Lee Burke is a great writer, and will deliver it off. Anyone, for example, that may write strains like these...Tomorrow stands out as the day that made up our minds the remainder of his life, he thought. He may possibly say in all honesty he didn't worry death. as soon as born, you have been already inside of eternity, no longer getting ready for it. life used to be a deep pasture that had no fence throughout it. Jimmy Dale's grandfather, who were a shaman, had acknowledged that embarking upon the Ghost path used to be now not a passage up to a sprucing of his vision. Unfortunately, being unafraid of dying used to be no longer similar to being brave....can not just use words, yet think. Or this short second of descriptive brilliance, easily dealing with to explain either current and earlier on the related time: I wrote down the plate number, then drove domestic in an electrical hurricane that lit the Bitterroot River and the cottonwoods like pistol flares floating down from a forgotten war. Swan top is, of course, a singular in a style that's predictable. From the start you recognize the great men will win, yet as in any efficient secret (or during this case, greater than competent), the traces are blurred as to who's on which aspect of the fence, and infrequently the delineation of fine and bad, the why of it all, is a section uncertain. it isn't like—say—Crime and Punishment, or The Trial, the place the result cannot be taken for granted, and the interpreting is approached with varied expectations. From begin to end during this one, the

writer pulls us through; the interpreting is effortless, there's stress and development, characters to care about...and via all of it a rare use of words—not unavoidably the brilliance of the classics named above, yet anything missing—I imagine it may be referred to as "depth"—in such a lot of mysteries. It's reasonable to assert so much of his girlfriends have been nude dancers, grifters, drunks, or kin of mobsters. Such a lot of them wore tattoos, and a few had tracks on their fingers or thighs. However, the similarity in Cleve's enthusiasts didn't lie in their occupations or addictions. Just about all of them have been incurable neurotics who went via romantic relationships like Kleenex. The extra outrageous their behavior, the extra Cleve believed he had chanced on kindred spirits. Ironically, it wasn't the hookers and strippers and addicts who did him the main damage. It was once frequently a girl with a level of normalcy and schooling in her heritage who wrapped him in knots. I think a psychologist may say Cleve didn't think he used to be priceless of being loved. As a consequence, he might enable himself for use and wounded by means of humans whose personal loss of self-wisdom didn't let them see the intensity of damage they inflicted upon him. Regardless, it was once the quasi-normal ones who hung him out to dry. There is a scene close to the end, the place a prisoner is making an attempt at conversation along with his captor, and during this scene Burke takes us via an episode depicting the entire disconnect from fact of a brain bordering on madness in a fashion that made my dermis crawl. I've by no means learned its equal, and am not likely to cite any of the lines—it should be learned in context—but the episode takes us into the penultimate scene, then he's performed with it, and we're left to mirror at the truisms of either the inner and exterior landscapes shaping our lives. From start to end, a "page-turner" with depth. This is often the 3rd Burke novel I've read, and it's only reasonable to claim there's a similarity among them, but if they're this reliable (the others also are good, yet *Swan Top* is the simplest so far) I'm on no account one to object. I couldn't support yet wonder whether her feel of betrayal had much less to do with anyone than her discovery that popularity and big name are affordable foreign money and rarely buy loyalty in others. I wished to invite why she hadn't caught by way of Jimmy Dale whilst he went to legal and why she had married right into a choice of scum just like the *Wellstones*. I wished to invite if she ever felt regret simply because she'd helped mislead the audiences who had acquired in to Reverend Sonny Click's charlatanry. I wished to invite if she had ever thought of the pain Seymour Bell and Cindy Kershaw had undergone earlier than they died. Yet I already knew the solutions I'd get. Andy Warhol was once lifeless flawed whilst he stated each American is permitted fifteen mins of fame. Repute involves very few, and while it does, it takes at the houses of a narcotic and places into abeyance our fears approximately our personal mortality. Someone who acquires a drug that effective doesn't provide it up easily. A excellent mystery, good written...highest recommendation.

Allan: simply entire this whereas in Seattle for the holidays. Strong learn with lots of terrible occasions and characters, a few who reap the benefits of harsh times, a few who've to do the "dirty boogie" and visit the wall. Any Robicheaux novel that has Cleve Purcell in it has top written in all places it and Montana comes lovely with reference to Louisiana whilst Burke is telling the tale. This can be a solid one...but you knew that.

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