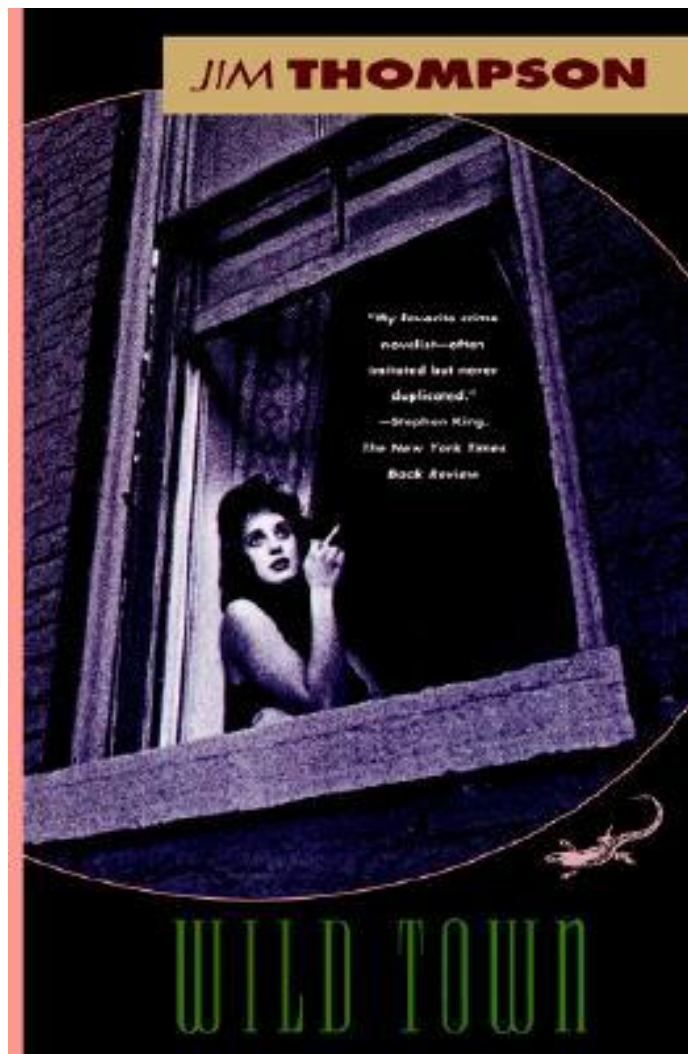


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**Jim Thompson**

**Wild Town**



Title: Wild Town

Author: Jim Thompson

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 176

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0679733124

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 5 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

The place is a frontier boom town where the graft gets collected more regularly than the trash. The hero is Bugs McKenna, slow-witted, hot-tempered man with manslaughter in his past and much worse in his immediate future. The much worse begins the moment McKenna gets promoted from ex-con to hotel detective without bothering to ask why. Because in **Wild Town** nobody does you any favors--and the price of advancement is always a little higher than what you can afford.

## Insightful reviews

Max Magbee: I have been familiar with writer Jim Thompson's name mainly through the films that have been made from his work - dark and gritty thrillers like Stephen Frears' **THE GRIFTERS**, Bertrand Tavernier's **COUP DE TORCHON** (based on the book "Pop. 1280", this film also cleverly changed the novel's setting from the racist American South to a racist French Colony in 1938 Africa), and the outstanding Stanley Kubrick picture **THE KILLING** (for which Thompson did the screenplay adaptation of Lionel White's book "Clean Break"), along with many others.

And judging by the tone of those pictures, and from what I had read about his work, I figured him to be a bit of a sadistic fatalist, maybe a notch or two above an utterly cheerless writer like Cormac McCarthy. Possibly much of his literary output is of that tone, but with this book, and as a first-time reader, I seem to have lucked out.

With the story being a tricky thriller, set in a dusty West-Texas Oil town and centered around a hapless lug of a Hotel Dick, a tough, corrupt Sheriff and his girlfriend (two characters held over from Thompson's earlier book "The Killer Inside Me"), and an aging and decrepit Oil Barron and his young trophy wife, with murder and blackmail thrown into the mix, I would think that, in typical pulp-thriller mode things would go from bad, to worse, to you're fucked. Not really. Sure there are plenty of double-dealings, quick bursts of violence, and dangerous femme fatales, but the overall tone of the book is rather light. Many of the situations are almost Shakespearean in their somewhat comic absurdity, and the characters are actually very likeable. You want to see these folks make it through the end of the day, intact.

Really what this story seems to be is the antithesis of a dark pulp thriller. The set-ups are there but rather than turning dark, Thompson livens them up, in an almost parodic fashion. Not so much humorous or tongue-in-cheek, but more like the writer sitting back and thoroughly enjoying himself as he spins a damned entertaining crime yarn.

Bro\_Pair ?????: eh

Titus G: The book faithfully portrays the slow witted protagonist and his interpretation of events until the complicated reality is revealed at the end in the manner of a Sherlock Holmes or Simenon mystery.

Andy: learn *The Getaway* or *Pop. 1280* rather than this messy book. The plot does not rather repay too well, and it is one other one in all his resort mysteries in an analogous vein to *A Swell* having a look Babe. there is additionally a three-babe buffet just like *The Grifters*. But hell, learn

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The Killer within Me or After darkish My candy instead.

John Wilson: Ex-cop/ex-con insects McKenna does not have it easy. undesirable stuff retains a-happening to him. it is all all the way down to occasional bouts of being a gormless bad-tempered lunkhead. After years of undesirable good fortune he manages to snag the activity of lodge detective in a dustbowl Texas city and starts off to settle down. He even manages to seem downright common in comparison to the remainder of the employees - the alcoholic overly paranoid evening manager; the auditor who is sound asleep with the owner's spouse and browsing the hotel's funds; the dual brother grifter/bellhops. Yes, issues are convinced commencing to glance reliable for our boy insects till an unintentional dying within the improper position on the mistaken time. after which the blackmail notes begin to arrive. This is noir the entire way, yet it is much less darker or surreal than Thompson's significant works. In fact, there are occasions while it is downright funny. whatever bizarre occurring here. one among Thompson's extra notorious characters, Lou Ford - the evil, grafting deputy pretending to be a dumb yokel deputy within the Killer inside of Me - has an important position during this book. yet Wild city is neither a sequel (for visible reasons) or a prequel. It simply occurs to be set in a parallel universe the place Ford grew as much as be a grafting, a bit of much less evil deputy in one other small town. i am not complaining, as Ford's interactions with insects are the simplest scenes within the book. It simply turns out kinda odd.

Mike: i guess this is often type of a prequel to "The Killer within Me." Sheriff Lou Ford seems to be the following at his manipulative top -- sooner than the cracks began appearing in his armour. He makes use of tuition instructor Amy as a pawn in his plans and also you simply worry for a way he will deal with her down the road. I loved this e-book and seeing a functioning sociopath at work.

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