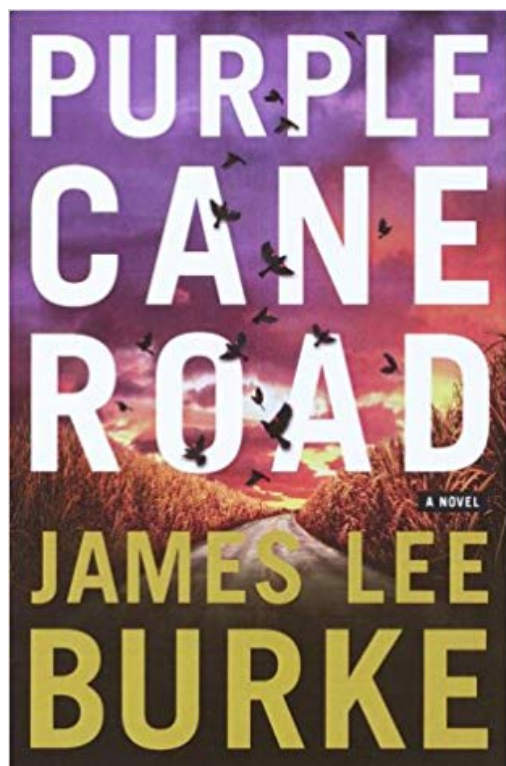


Purple Cane Road: A Novel (Dave Robicheaux Mysteries) *by* James Lee Burke



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Dave Robicheaux has spent his life confronting the age-old adage that the sins of the father pass onto the son. But what has his mother's legacy left him? Dead to him since youth, Mae Guillory has been shuttered away in the deep recesses of Dave's mind. He's lived with the fact that he would never really know what happened to the woman who left him to the devices of his whiskey-driven father. But deep down, he still feels the loss of his mother and knows the infinite series of disappointments in her life could not have come to a good end. While helping out an old friend, Dave is stunned when a pimp looks at him sideways and asks him if he is Mae Guillory's boy, the whore a bunch of cops murdered 30 years ago. The pimp goes on to insinuate that the cops who dumped her body in the bayou were on the take and continue to thrive in the New Orleans area. Dave's search for his mother's killers leads him to the darker places in his past and solving this case teaches him what it means to be his mother's son. PURPLE CANE ROAD has the dimensions of a classic—passion, murder, and nearly heartbreaking poignancy—wrapped in a wonderfully executed plot that surprises from start to finish.



Reviews of the **Purple Cane Road: A Novel (Dave Robicheaux Mysteries)** by James Lee Burke

Zainian

This is another workmanlike novel from Mr. Burke, and as such merits reading. That said, I admit that I'm feeling overexposed to Dave Robicheaux, just like the overexposure I eventually came to feel about Lew Archer, Travis McGee, Philip Marlowe and more recently Jack Reacher. "Purple Cane Road" is a good read. If you haven't read the earlier Burke books in the series, or cannot get enough of them, you'll enjoy this book which deepens one's understanding and affection for Robicheaux. Even if you're tiring of Robicheaux, you'll still enjoy it. If you're burned out, I doubt the book will bring you back into the fold.

Ffrlel

I read a lot of books in a lot of different genres and James Lee Burke is one of the top 3 masters of using the English language I've ever encountered. His prose is poetic. The novel itself is wonderfully plotted. The setting is more vivid than most movies because of Burke's gift for elegant prose. Burke is intimately familiar with his protagonist, Robicheaux and Robicheaux's troubled best friend Clete. Robicheaux is one of the titans of the mystery genre having been the protagonist in well over a dozen Burke novels.

I recommend this novel to any fans of the mystery genre. If you don't like or have never read mysteries, you will still enjoy the book due to the quality of the prose.

The only warning I'll give is if graphic violence offends you, Burke is not an author you'd enjoy.

Bradeya

James Lee Burke books are ones I enjoy and I don't want them to end. I want the story to be completed, but I want to keep on reading about the characters. Parts of his books read like poetry, I can see in my mind the places he describes and almost feel as though I am there walking/riding/sitting beside him. I have read many of his books and always look forward to his next. Even when I select one of his books and discover I have already read it, I keep reading it because I enjoy the poetry, the character development and the story.

Wal

IMHO this book was a 5 star read. The author really struck a chord for my preferences in reading. Its exactly the type of book I want to read with no really feely type of emotional BS in love relationships yet there was a love interest woven into the story line. The author did a very nice job of putting this mystery into something captivating for the reader. I usually will not spend the time to write a review regarding books that are less than stellar. Words come to mind like "brutally honest" and weather that reflects the genre of the story. A gritty story line located in the parishes around New Orleans held my interest thru out the entire book. Good character development with its dark undertones. I could easily see this story being made into a motion picture with Matthew McConaughey playing the part as the sheriff. If you happen to have caught that TV series a few years back, True Detective, with Harrelson and McConaughey, you'll know exactly what I'm attempting to describe here. For anyone who enjoys a dark tough assed mystery read, this is it. My compliments to you on this one Mr Burke. Nice job. (I know that my thoughts may be somewhat fragmented here. I'm not real good at writing these reviews, but I know what I like and I liked this story.)

Kann

This book introduced me to James Lee Burke years ago and I have since read every one of his works. I can only hope for more. I can see the purple cane road, smell the fish spawning in the swamps and crave ham and onion sandwiches. Dave and Clete are like family.

Coiron

Of all the James Lee Burke, Dave Robicheaux novels, I found Purple Cane Road to plumb new depths of sadness, disillusionment, and remorse. The ending left the two main characters, Dave and Clete dealing with a kind of grief and mourning that changes lives and shakes the foundations of the soul.

Burke uses his genius to explore the greatest fears and disappointments of children who became adults while holding onto the terrors of childhood. He does it so well that the reader is left feeling as sad as Dave and Clete for their own crosses to bear.

When an author; gifted and skilled sufficiently to portray any emotionally charged storyline that he might choose, with sufficient power to explode the myths of how a child feels about his mother, he takes upon himself a sacred trust.

When a writer willfully destroys the best efforts of a knight errant and his unselfish attempts to thwart the onslaught of the windmills of abuse and cruelty in their many forms, he plays God with his characters and plot.

I'll not retell the storyline, but I've read most of the Robicheaux series, and I will say that this is the deepest, nightmarishly dark of them all. I do not mean that the crimes are any worse, or more insane than the others. I mean that what Clete and Dave face within their own human experience is hard to take even for a reader who knows that it's fiction.

If you have the stomach and strength of character to autopsy the mind, body and soul of an illiterate, adulterous, and abused woman who also abandons her own child and alcoholic husband ultimately to her own demise; read this book.

As an author myself, I took away things from this book I have found nowhere else.

Nice job, James -I think.

Ckelond

Burke doesn't disappoint with his Dave Robicheaux character, and Purple Cane Road is no different. I wasn't sure I would enjoy Robicheaux's quest to find his mother's killers after so many years, but as usual, Burke kept me coming back until the very end.

Since this story is number 11 I have missed a lot, but it stands up well as the story of the region and a complex group of bums and cops and heroic women trying to make it.

The past comes forward to dominate the present. One can feel the rain and smell the mud as weather, sweat and word pictures draw us into the life.

My comments are not new to regular readers, but my recommendation is the fact that I'm now going to find number 1 and run the table.

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