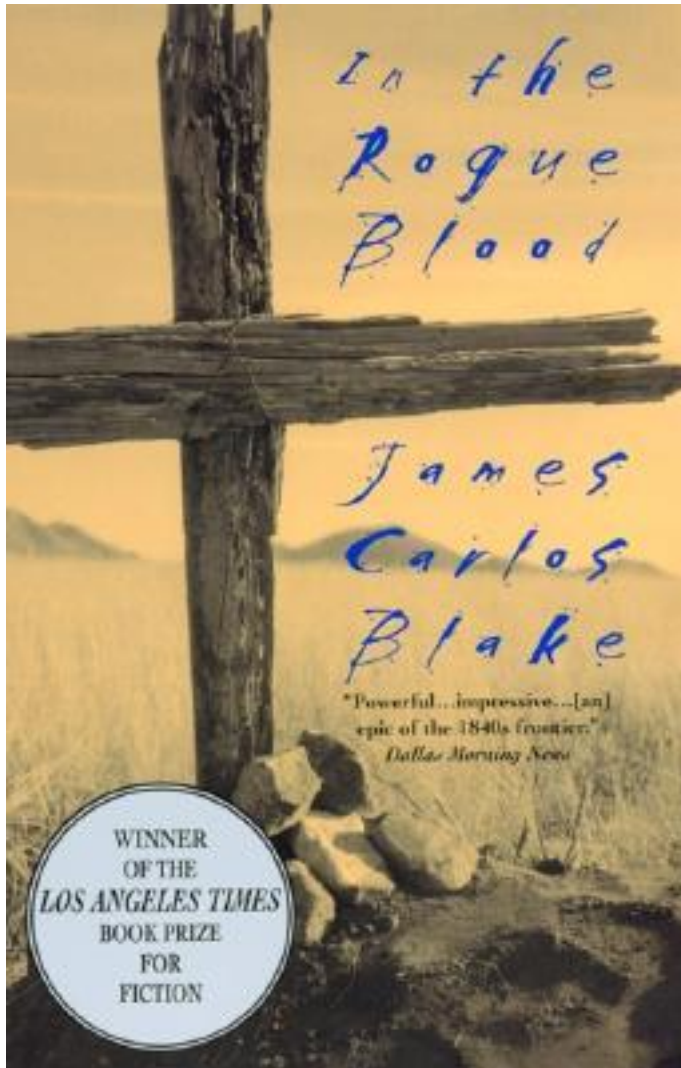

James Carlos Blake

In the Rogue Blood



Title: In the Rogue Blood

Author: James Carlos Blake

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Description

"In the Rogue Blood" is the story of two brothers, Edward and John Little -- the offspring of a whore mother and a cruel and homicidal father, a man never to be admired or trusted. At an age when restlessness determines a young man's path, the boys are driven from their home in the Florida swamplands by a scheming parent's treacheries and by a shameful, bloody act that will haunt their dreams for the rest of their days: patricide, the most heinous sin of all. Joining the swelling ranks of the rootless, they wander west across a southern landscape that reflects their world's brute nature. Separated by death and circumstance in the corrupt and sordid 'Dixie City' of New Orleans, the brothers Little must now follow different roads: one joins the army to escape the law, the other falls in with scalphunters bound for the Mexican badlands. What follows is a year of bizarre and violent episodes in their lives -- and nights relentlessly haunted by the taunting ghostly memory of their murdered father. But blood will always find blood, even as fate places Edward and John on opposing sides in a fierce and desperate territorial struggle between Mexico and the United States. And it is here that a family bond will be tempered - and tested - in fire, as each brother in his own way must come to an individual reckoning with his own rogue blood.

Insightful reviews

Electric: Gewalttätiges Panorama einer Epoche kriegerischer Landnahme die hierzulande gerne als der "Wilde Westen" bezeichnet wird. Blake de-konstruiert die Bilder von ehrenvollen Cowboys, edlen Wilden, launigen Halunken und koketten Huren bis nur mehr ein blutiger Brei bleibt. Es wird gemordet, vergewaltigt, skaliert, desertiert und gefoltert. Das kennt man so ähnlich auch von Cormac McCarthy, der aus meiner Sicht aber besser den Gegensatz von weitem, erbarmungslosem Land und unzulänglichen, ungebildet, glücklosen Existenzen herausarbeitet. Ein Buch das nicht mit grausamen Details spart, die oft sehr expliziten Gewaltdarstellungen tragen aus meiner Sicht aber ab der 40 Wiederholung nicht unbedingt zur Qualität bei. Sehr interessant: die historischen Bezüge auf den Krieg mit Mexiko. Leider hat mir die Übersetzung (insbesondere der Dialoge) den Spaß an dem Buch gründlich verdorben. Merke: Western immer auf englisch lesen, sonst klingt das wie Terence Hill und der hätte in Blakes Version keine 5 Minuten überlebt ohne die Kopfhaut zu verlieren und dabei vergewaltigt zu werden.

Andrew: Wow, I'm still trying to sort my feelings out a full 24hrs after finishing this book. Brutually violent & to be honest I didn't really need to be reminded of one scene in particular where a person of african-american heritage is publicly hung & brutalized & everyone in town including men, women, & children all watch the grisly affair as casually as families in the past gathered in front of their televisions to watch the latest episode of "I Love Lucy". But of course the author found it necessary to refer to the same event later in the book, as if once wasn't enough!

Badly Drawn Girl:

This isn't a book I would normally read. I tend to stick to non-fiction and certainly don't read much in the way of historical fiction. But I had heard good things about this book so I picked it

up. I'm glad I did!

I felt like I was watching a blockbuster Hollywood movie rather than reading a book. This was a rollicking adventure that had me on the edge of my seat. The action never stops. Yes, it's bloody, violent, disturbing, and not for the weak of heart. But it's also realistic. I felt like I was really there on horseback, with bullets whizzing over my head.

The story follows the adventures of two brothers who accidentally get separated from each other after the murder of their father. The chapters then switch back and forth between the brothers as they join up with various regiments participating in the battle for Texas.

I really enjoyed this book and hope to read some more by James Carlos Blake in the future.

Arthur Barhorst: Man, man, man, wat een western. Love it. accountable pleasure. Geschiedenisles.

Erica: solid story, attention-grabbing historical past (1840s), good written, yet very picture in its violence and gore.

Matt: James Carlos Blake's *within the Rogue Blood* is determined in a dystopian, ultraviolent model of the yankee southwest. It starts off within the 1840s, in Florida, and later strikes to the borderlands of Mexico and Texas. There are untold murders, a gang of scalp hunters, and a writing-style that regularly harks again to the ornate grammatical buildings of the nineteenth century. If this sounds similar to Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*, well, you aren't the 1st individual to note the similarities. And that's a section unfortunate. the yankee southwest, specially the period of time encompassing the oft-ignored Mexican-American War, is gigantic adequate to deal with novels. Moreover, apart from a few seen overlap – "blood" within the title, a dim view of mid-19th century frontier humanity, and the trafficking of human hair – the 2 books are as varied as evening and day. that's a long-winded manner of claiming i really beloved Blake's novel, while I don't deal with McCarthy's. Now, earlier than you string me up, scalp me, and promote my fast-thinning to hair to a really low-rent wigmaker, allow me be transparent that I don't totally hate *Blood Meridian*. Indeed, I recognize its position in American letters. It is, in its way, a classic. That said, it's additionally tremendously dense – in either prose and ideas – and reeks of a vainness marked through an absence of citation marks, its grandiloquent paragraphs that mimic the Bible and Faulkner, and its self-conscious mythmaking. (This is solely a subjective, own thing. I enjoyed *No nation For outdated Men*, that is every little thing that *Blood Meridian* is not: lean, stripped down prose; stylized dialogue; and on-the-nose subject matters and meanings. What am i able to say? I'm a literalist). in the beginning blush, within the *Rogue Blood* stocks loads of *Blood Meridian*'s pretensions. Its first sentence – "In the summer season of 1845 Edward Little was once 16 years outdated and stressed within the blood" – goals squarely on the essential, mythologized American character, the westward-looking, frontier-pushing younger man, defined through D.H. Lawrence as "hard, isolate, stoic, and a killer." It additionally stocks with McCarthy a gorgeous eye for landscapes. one of many precise pleasures of Blake is just going the place he is taking you. it's a travelogue sopping wet in blood. The pinewoods fell in the back of and the sky widened and the rustic unfolded and assumed a steady roll. He rode via bunch grass and alongside bottoms coated with hardwoods,

undergone pecan groves and stands of oak. In time he came across the 1st rocky outcroppings and cedar brakes on the fringe of the hill state and observed farther to the west a low line of whiterock palisades formed like vast steps resulting in the excessive plains. There seemed now one of the hardwoods scatterings of mesquite and low clumps of prickly pear. The west wind carried the odor of cedar and the sunsets appeared a deeper and brighter red, as though painted in more energizing blood. The clouds have been speedier to form themselves and to alter direction, to dissolve to faded wisps. a difficult hailstorm drove him to hide in an oak grove and anxious the Janey mare. Really, though, within the Rogue Blood isn't really aiming for a similar position within the firmament as Blood Meridian. it really is blood-soaked pulp donning a literary three-piece suit. the tale springs from that oldest of literary genres: a guy is going on a journey. during this case, there are men, Edward and John Little, who depart their domestic in Florida (fleeing an ex-prostitute, probably psychotic mother, a violent, probably psychotic father, and a sister who doesn't whinge much) and set out for the broader world. within the early going, those brothers keep on with a pattern: they fight/kill a person and take that person's stuff; later they get robbed in turn; and they're pressured to fight/kill another person to get extra stuff. this can be interspersed with loads of sex: with prostitutes, with farmer's daughters, ultimately with the sister. If this doesn't sound fullyyt friendly – well, it's not. The protagonist of a singular doesn't need to be likeable. However, I'm of the opinion that you just nonetheless has to be capable of like an unlikeable character. That is, you want to be capable to empathize with that individual on a few level. the difficulty with John and Edward, a minimum of in the direction of the beginning, is they either come off as sociopaths. and also you can't empathize with anyone who isn't in a position to conjure general human emotions. Partway via within the Rogue Blood, though, Edward and John take separate paths. From that second on, the unconventional fairly hits its stride. the 2 brothers are nonetheless really repellant human beings, but they convey flashes of decency and a intensity of kinship that propels the tale in the direction of its conclusion. via a sequence of twists and turns, Edward and John prove on opposing facets of the Mexican-American War. Here, you will find the sharpest divergence among Blake and McCarthy. The borderlands of Blood Meridian are surreal and otherworldly; it feels created. Blake's American Southwest is simply as violent and unhinged, however it can be tethered strongly to the historic record. His recounting of the routine of basic Zachary Taylor and basic Winfield Scott are exact in addition to blazingly cinematic. Blake's conflict descriptions, in particular the conflict of Chapultepec (the penultimate act of Scott's mythical crusade from Vera Cruz to Mexico City) are revelatory. they appear to belong in an immense fats novel by way of Tolstoy, now not a slender quantity that starts off via following the psychopades of 2 murderous brothers. yet Blake shifts simply alongside the literary spectrum. One second he's describing a stunning sunset; the subsequent second one among his characters is slipping it to his sister; a bit later there's an epic conflict with millions of squaddies whirling within the airborne dirt and dust and warmth and blood. One of the best issues historic fiction can do is to light up the footnotes. In within the Rogue Blood, Blake takes superb benefit of the San Patricio Battalion, a unit of the Mexican military that used to be populated through eu immigrants – together with many Irish – who had abandoned from the yankee Army, lured via delivers of higher pay and loose land. Blake's melding of old fact to his fictional story is seamless. a person writing ancient fiction nowadays (cough Ken Follett cough) should still take note. this is often how it's done. in lots of ways, within the Rogue Blood isn't really for the faint of heart. There's the aforementioned incest, besides rape and murder, thievery and skullduggery, cursing and normal undesirable manners, and in addition scalp hunting. yet it's

additionally an relaxing read. A loopy journey choked with stunning descriptions, laconic dialogue, and the simple, undying subject matters of blood-ties and violent destiny.

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