



Dog Eat Dog: A Novel

By Edward Bunker



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Dog Eat Dog, Bunker's fourth novel, follows Troy Cameron, a reformatory graduate like Bunker. A terrifying and brutal narrative, the novel tracks his lawless spree in the company of two other reform school alumni, Diesel Carson and Mad Dog Cain. Dog Eat Dog is a novel of excruciating authenticity, with great moral and social resonance, and it could only have been written by Edward Bunker, who has been there.



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Dog Eat Dog: A Novel By Edward Bunker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Ex-convict Bunker proved he could write a strong, dark thriller with his first book, No Beast So Fierce. For his latest effort, he returns to the same kind of story -- smart but doomed ex-cons doing the only kind of thing they know how to do. Troy Cameron came from a wealthy Beverly Hills family before reform school and San Quentin knocked off some of the polish. Now he has linked up with a pair of psychopathic colleagues to prey on other criminals. In Bunker's hands, the material takes on a great deal of energy and even sympathy for the devils.

From Publishers Weekly

Based on the suspense he generates in his fourth novel, it's easy to see why Bunker, an ex-con, has acquired such diverse admirers as Quentin Tarantino (who cast him as Mr. Blue in Reservoir Dogs) and William Styron (who contributes an introduction to this novel). This time around, the narrator is Troy Cameron, an upper-class Beverly Hills boy turned hardened criminal, who emerges from stints at reform school and San Quentin to join up with his buddies, Gerald "Mad Dog" McCain and Diesel Carson, in a haphazard scheme to steal from pimps, hustlers and other fellow criminals. Their first crime, a robbery in which they shake down a major L.A. drug dealer, goes smoothly, but the heat increases on their second assignment, a revenge crime in which a Mexican prison lord offers them a fortune to kidnap the baby of a former companion who has shown him disrespect. The kidnapping is complicated by Troy's growing discomfort when he discovers that the erratic Mad Dog has murdered his former girlfriend and her child in cold blood. Bunker's plot bears some resemblance to those of his earlier novels (No Beast So Fierce; Animal Factory), but his storytelling is once again first-rate as the botched kidnapping leads to a series of violent confrontations that produce a dark but satisfying ending. What distinguishes Bunker from other crime writers is his ability to convey the compassion dormant within his violent criminals without resorting to excess luridness, sympathy or moralism. Bunker has a top-notch screenplay to his credit (Runaway Train); this powerful tale seems tailormade for Hollywood success as well.

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From Library Journal

Bunker's three previous novels, including the critically acclaimed No Beast So Fierce (1972), dealt with the harsh reality of crime and prison life. His early life in reformatory school and penitentiaries probably accounts for the gripping verisimilitude of his stories, which are powerful but depressing. Dog Eat Dog is another chilling depiction of characters and situations that are haunting in their hopelessness. Antihero Troy Cameron has a past similar to the author's, so he sees very few options when he is released from prison. He shortly teams up with two other ex-convicts and drives to Mexico to heist over \$300,000 from an illegal drug operation. The rough dialog and violence won't have mass appeal, but readers who like hard-edged drama will find much to like here. Recommended.?Will Hepfer, SUNY at Buffalo Libs. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Albert Guerra:

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