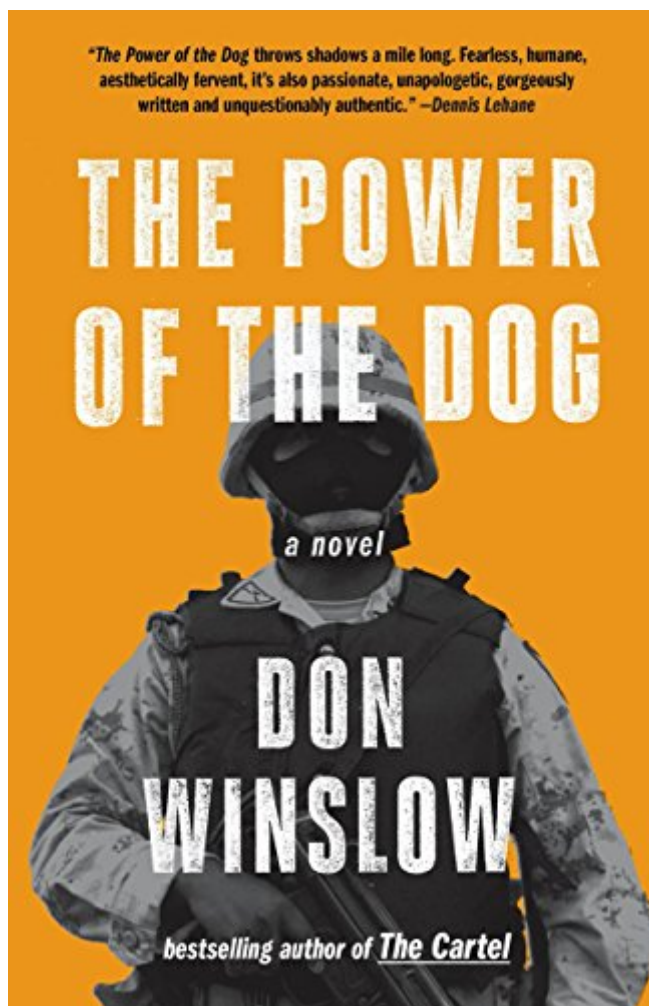


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The Power Of The Dog



Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Cartel* comes an explosive novel of the drug trade that takes you deep inside a world riddled with corruption, betrayal, and bloody revenge. *The Power of the Dog* is the prequel to *The Cartel*, and set about 10 years earlier, *The Power of the Dog* introduces a brilliant cast of characters. Art Keller is an obsessive DEA agent. The Barrera brothers are heirs to a drug empire. Nora Hayden is a jaded teenager who becomes a high-class hooker. Father Parada is a powerful and incorruptible Catholic priest. Callan is an Irish kid from Hell's kitchen who grows up to be a merciless hit man. And they are all trapped in the world of the Mexican drug war. From the streets of New York City to Mexico City and Tijuana to the jungles of Central America, this is the war on drugs like you've never seen it. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book because when *The Cartel* came out a few months back I thought it looked interesting, wanted (still want) to read it, read there was a first novel of sorts so I picked up *The*

Power of the Dog. It's a compelling page turner. It kind of reminded me of a George RR Martin novel with the cast of characters and the turns the story(ies) take. Martin would have split this into 3 books and added about fifteen hundred pages of detail, but Winslow opts to pen a tale that reads more like a TV show/movie at times. I'd compare it to one of the great Russian novels, it comes close, but at times there is a lack of introspection that marks those works in the service of moving the story along, which is fine. There are no true "good" guys in this tale, as there are none in the world. Let me say it better: the "good" ones, the innocent, don't last long when they come into contact with the seedier elements surrounding the rise of the powerful Mexican drug cartels. The nominal white-hat good guys, the DEA, CIA, and various other government operatives, are complicit in wrong- and downright evil doing. Winslow pulls no punches, and though this is a work of fiction, it could easily have been a work of historical fiction, encompassing everything from Operation Phoenix in Vietnam, the US government's battle against perceived communist elements in Latin America, the ascension to power of John Gotti (here called Johnny Boy) as head of the New York crime families, the role the US govt. and its agencies played in flooding the inner cities with crack cocaine, and how the NAFTA trade agreement facilitated the drug cartels. Phew! My only criticism were there were one (really two) scenes near the end that really read like suspense-building nail biters for the large or small screen and seemed out of place with the rest of the novel. They were what they were, but I'll admit they had me on the edge of my seat to see how Winslow would pull them off. I'm taking a break for awhile, read some other (lighter) stuff, then diving into The Cartel. Well done Mr. Winslow!

Great book. Kept me intrigued the whole time. I loved all the characters. It is one of those books that just pulls you in and you don't want to stop reading even though your clock says it's 3am!!! It was awesome to read. I bought the follow up to this book, called "The Cartel" by Don Winslow and it is just as good as this book. These books often remind me of the movie, "Sicario", at times. If you love action adventures, spies, little love story, revenge... You will want to read this book.

If you want to understand how United States politics has influenced the history of the Mexican Cartels over the past several years, and how that is now impacting us, this book is a must read. The Power of The Dog is the first of two Winslow has written that accurately follow the history of the Mexican Cartels. He uses fictional characters and events to help the reader understand how the Cartels developed their power and influence over governments on both sides of the border. His storytelling is raw and leaves little to the imagination. The reader finds themselves immersed in a reality where massive power becomes unstoppable. It is just plain scary. I found it difficult to do

anything other than read until I'd finished the book. Then I picked up the second book, *The Cartel*.

Wow, talk about one epic, sprawling novel! I can't remember the last time I read a book that was this broad based in scope, when dealing with the subject presented to the reader. *THE POWER OF THE DOG* is all about the war on drugs, primarily the Mexican cartel side of the war on drugs. Told from the perspectives of a DEA agent, a drug lord, a priest, a hooker and a Irish hitman, this story takes you through the entire web of drugs, from the meager beginnings of the DEA and its war waged by then president Richard Nixon in the 1970s, to the days of the late 1990s and billions of dollars of cash flowing through an intricate web of deceit, betrayal, murder, kidnapping, governmental manipulation, the Mob and so much more! Looking at all of this on paper, it would be easy to think that this story, spanning the globe throughout three decades, might be convoluted, but it's actually not at all. Author Don Winslow masterfully tells a very deep and thorough story that gripped me in its mammoth jaws right from the first chapter. The way he takes real life scenarios, like NAFTA for example, and makes it a believable part of his fictional story, is nothing short of genius. This is like *Breaking Bad*, but broader and with a variety of drugs. Despite being undoubtedly one of the very best books I have read this year, if I had to be critical, the only real downside I could give to the book is that the characters are not deep. Some are better fleshed out than others, but certain characters I would have liked to have seen expanded upon a little further. Winslow doesn't always take a lot of time to let us get into the characters intricacies and deeper passions, and usually this would be a bigger issue with me and a book, but with the amount of superb storytelling on all other fronts of this book, I can actually look past this here. There might have been a few small lulls in the proceedings and action of the story, but never was I not on the edge of my seat during the book's 542 pages. I'm really surprised that I had never heard of this book until last week. With how good this book is, I would expect it to be on the lips and tongues of many people who enjoy crime books. Perhaps I just wasn't looking in the right places? I actually stumbled upon it by accident while searching for the new book to read. While looking around at books recently at Barnes and Noble, I saw a cover that caught my eye to a book entitled *THE CARTEL*. After reading the synopsis, I really wanted to read it and only then did I hear about *THE POWER OF THE DOG*, as it is the predecessor to *THE CARTEL*, so I bought it and boy am I ever glad I did. I can't stop here, now I MUST read *THE CARTEL*! If you like exceptionally dense books that weave a fictional story through real, true life happenings in our world, a story so expertly written and

captivating that you'll wonder how the author could concoct such novel, then definitely check this out. I easily give this book my highest recommendation and a 5/5!

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