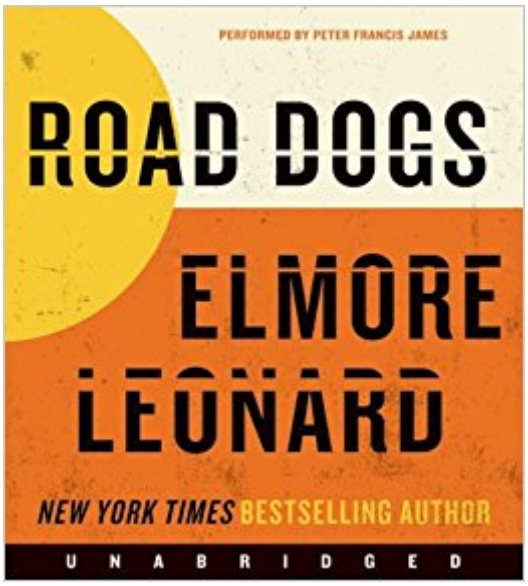
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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Road Dogs is terrific, and Elmore Leonard is in a class of one.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Dennis Lehane, author of Shutter Island and Mystic RiverÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“You know from the first sentence that youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re in the hands of the original Daddy Cool....This oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll kill you.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Stephen KingÃ Â Elmore Leonard is eternal. In Road Dogs, the PEN USA Lifetime Achievement Award winner and Ã¢â ¬Å“AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest crime masterÃ¢â ¬Â• (Newsweek) brings back three of his favorite charactersÃ¢â ¬â •Jack Foley from Out of Sight, Cundo Rey from La Brava, and Dawn Navarro from Riding the RapÃ¢â ¬â •for a twisting, explosive, always surprising masterwork of crime fiction the San Francisco Chronicle calls, Ã¢â ¬Å“a sly, violent, funny and superbly written story of friendship, greed, and betrayal.Ã¢â ¬Â• --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

www..com/gp/feature.html?docId=1000400211> Best of the Month, May 2009: Be Cool. If Elmore Leonard hadn't already used it for the sequel to Get Shorty, it would have been a natural title for this deliciously breezy follow-up to another Leonard-to-Hollywood hit, Out of Sight. You may best recall Jack Foley, as played by George Clooney, bantering with Jennifer Lopez in the trunk of a jailbreak getaway car, but when Out of Sight ended, Foley was headed back to the clink to finish a 30-year bid. Road Dogs opens with Foley on the van to prison with Cundo Rey, a pint-size Cuban who soon engineers their early release--legally, this time. Jack's happy to be out and enjoying the California hospitality of Cundo and his wife Dawn (both Leonard veterans too, from LaBrava and Riding the

Rap). But Dawn is lovely and wily (and maybe a psychic), Cundo is a murderously jealous husband who may well think Jack owes him big-time, and Jack? Well, when you've robbed a hundred-twenty or so banks, is it that easy to go straight? As so often with Leonard, the real fun is less in the action than the talk, especially from Foley, the pleasure-minded, level-headed hood: an ex-con whose biggest con may be that he is exactly who he says he is. --Tom Nissley Questions for Elmore Leonard Q:Where did the inspiration for the title Road Dogs come from? A: Road Dogs was on a list of prison expressions my researcher Gregg Sutter got for me: inmates who watch each otherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s back. I liked the sound of the words together. Q: What made you decide to bring back Jack Foley, Cundo Rey, and Dawn Navarro now? What is it about these three characters that stuck with you through the years? A: Foley was played by George Clooney in Out of Sight. I imagined George in the scenes I wrote and it worked. Dawn Navarro was the psychic in Riding the Rap, a supporting character ready for a leading role. Cundo Rey from LaBrava, another favorite of mine, also deserved a bigger role, so I brought him back.. Q: Any chance Foley and the woman he loves, Federal Marshal Karen Sisco, will be back in the near future? A: IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m not sure Foley is up to robbing another bank. But Karen Sisco, the federal marshal in Out of Sight, could show up again; maybe working for her dad, a private investigator. Q: One of the hallmarks of your writing is your gift for the telling detail. When Foley is offering Cundo ReyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s money man, Jimmy, some advice about his skimming, he tells him that Cundo wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t kill him, but he might Ã¢â ¬Å“break your legs with a JosÃƒÂ© Canseco bat.Ã¢â ¬Â• ThatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s one of those small yet wonderfully deft touches that adds color without slowing the pace. How do you do this so well? A: Realism is the key to my style of writing and dialogue is what keeps it moving, always in live scenes. Rather than use my voice, my language, to describe whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s going on, I let the characters tell who they are and what theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re up to by the way they talk. Scenes are written from a characterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s point of view, never mine. Q: Many of your characters are working class stiffs and tough, intelligent broads. What draws you to these kind of characters? What do you think accounts for their popularity? A: My women often upstage the guys; theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re natural, their own person, while my cops and criminals talk the way IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve observed them through research and being on the scene. Q: WhatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s next for Elmore Leonard? A: Next comes Djibouti, with Dara Barr, a documentary filmmaker with the Somali pirates off the coast of East Africa. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A smooth and stylish performance by Peter James goes a long way in resurrecting three of Leonard's most famous characters for this latest novel. Jack Foley, bank robber extraordinaire

partners up with Cundo Rey while serving time in a Miami prison. With some help from Cundo's lawyer, Foley is soon out of his cell and hanging out at Venice Beach with Cundo's girlfriend, Dawn Navarro. As with all of Leonard's books, each of these characters will do whatever to whomever to get whatever they're after. James slides easily between the book's eclectic roster of characters, giving each of them clear and distinctive voices. Whether it's Cundo's Cuban-accented gangsta riff, Dawn's cold sensuality or Jack's unflappable cool, he handles it with aplomb. Leonard continues to write the hippest crime fiction in town, and James's reading fits well with the author's cooler than cool prose. A Morrow hardcover (Reviews, Feb. 2). (May) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

One of Leonard's best. If you liked Jack Foley in "Out of Sight", Dawn Navarro in "Riding the Rap" and Cundo Rey in " La Brava, then this one is for you. We take a wild ride from Gun Club Highway in Florida to the canals of Venice, California. "Good guy" Jack Foley (he's only robbed somewhere north of 200 banks across the south) uses Cundo's attorney to get him loose from prison after U. S. Marshall Karen Sisco is persuaded to aid in his defense. She's the one who helped put him away after a brief 'time out' in "Out of Sight."Cundo has come into a small fortune after a stint as the male dancer in a female night club. He sends Foley ahead to check on Dawn and set the stage for Cundo's comeback in crime. He'll be out of prison, too, in a couple of months and in this time Foley and Dawn have gotten to know each other. Condo's jealousy comes into play as the three of them become an explosive mixture.Full of the poignant pathos of a typical Leonard situation, "Road Dogs" is pure pleasure to the Leonard fan. Well deserving of a five-star rating.

Where would we be without friends?Jack Foley is the most prolific bank robber of all time. Cundo Rey has a much more varied criminal record, and is extremely rich. They become friends in the prison yard, so much so that Cundo hires his own attorney to get Foley's sentence reduced. Once that feat is accomplished, Cundo encourages Foley to live in one of his two houses in California. Wondering about the motivation behind the offer, Foley nevertheless accepts, and travels to Venice Beach, where he meets with Cundo's girlfriend, a leggy professional psychic named Dawn Navarro, who has supposedly remained faithful to Cundo while the moneyed con serves out his time.Fat chance of that, for this is an Elmore Leonard novel, and there are no deep psychological studies here, just a rollicking good yarn. Dawn is loyal to one thing, the concept that she is entitled to Cundo's fortune. And she doesn't care who she uses to obtain it, or how she uses them. That includes a supposedly reformed gang member named Tico, now working as what is termed a gang

interventionist. As Cundo has been otherwise occupied behind bars, his assets are held in title by his chief loyalist, Little Jimmy. Cundo is eventually released from stir, and returns to his lady and his lair, resuming his friendship with Foley, although the bank robber never fully understands why he is the chosen one. Foley himself is hounded by an FBI agent named Adams, anxious for him to return to his old ways so he can force Foley into handcuffs.As typical of Elmore Leonard novels, the words skitter rapid fire across the page, funny and knowing. Never serious, Leonard specialized in characters who revealed themselves as being immersed within the underside, criminals who were sometimes icy in their determination to get what they wanted, but who could sometimes easily pose as the good neighbor down the block. Now departed from this earthly life and perhaps writing tales for an audience up above, Leonard's first rule of writing was that if it looks like writing, rewrite it. There isn't much in Road Dogs that looks like writing, which makes it well worth reading on days you need large doses of ironic and worldly humor.

Elmore Leonard really hit his stride with this one. You don't need to like Elmore Leonard, and you don't need to like the genre. If you enjoy good writing, clever and realistic dialog, interesting and well-developed characters and a tight plot, you'll like this book.If you want to follow the references, you can read Out of Sight (for the backstory on Jack Foley) and La Brava; you can even read Maximum Bob, but it's not necessary, even though Leonard pulls in a number of references to characters in them. (He even works in a crack about Hollywood's failure to comprehend When the Women Come Out to Dance.)For a similar concept wrapped in a very different plot, you might want to read The Big Bounce: another tale featuring a smart, sociopathic girl vs. a smart and socially marginal, but not sociopathic, guy.

Road Dogs, one of Elmore Leonard's last novels is well worth the read. Written in 2009, it marks the return of 3 Leonard characters. Jack Foley, the good-hearted bank robber of Out of Sight, (played by George Clooney in the Movie), Dawn Navarro from Riding the Rap and Pronto, and the inimitable Cundo Rey, who has somehow survived his encounter with Joe LaBrava in the novel aptly named LaBrava. Foley, after being shot by Karen Cisco in Out of Sight is returned to prison for a 30 year sentence. There he befriends, and ultimately protects Cundo Rey, who has extricated himself from his situation in Florida,but is finally apprehended in California. However, while in LA he has made a great deal of money selling drugs and buying real estate. He also has a girlfriend, the aforementioned Dawn Navarro. (Probably anyone interested in Road Dogs might read LaBrava first. Getting to know Cundo Rey makes this novel all the more enjoyable). Foley and Rey become road

dogs, slang for buddies who have each others' backs while doing time. As a reward and a thank you, Cundo arranges an interview for jack with his own high powered attorney. This eventually results in Foley's release from prison,(Cundo's release will follow shortly,) but at the cost of $30,000. Cundo, of course provides the funds, in exchange for some favor at a later date. Jack must go to LA to watch over Dawn Navarro who is now a well paid psychic, and of course beautiful. That sets up the rest, which is approximately 250 pages of pure Leonard. This is a must read for all real Dutch fans. If it is ever done as a movie, I hope George Clooney returns as Jack. This is something that Leonard spoke about in an interview before his passing.

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