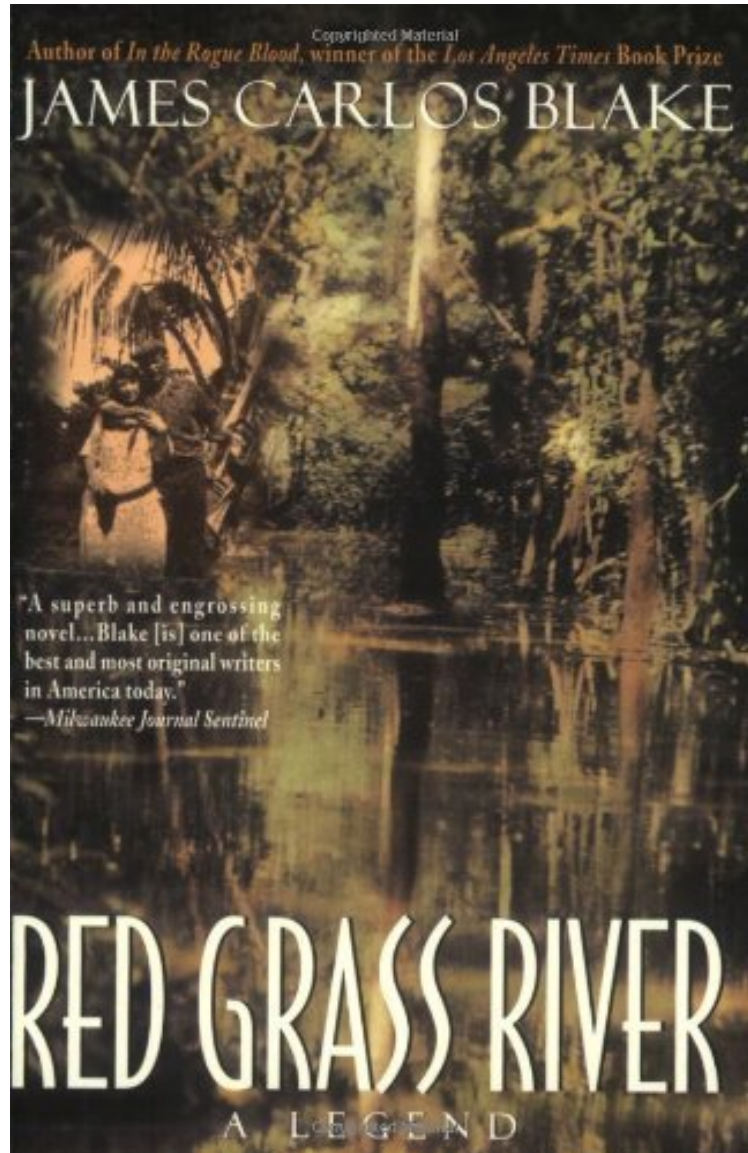


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Red Grass River: A Legend

Von James Carlos Blake

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Von James Carlos Blake : Red Grass River: A Legend before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Red Grass River: A Legend:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. More Rogue BloodVon Scott Rogerson (JSRgson@aol.com)James Carlos Blake's previous novel, In the Rogue Blood (1997) won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction. His new elegy to the past, Red Grass River: A Legend,

moves forward in time and geographically eastward to a place called the Devil's Garden. "If the Devil ever raised a garden the Everglades was it." In *Red Grass River*, Blake lays stake to the literary high-ground of south Florida during the raucous years between 1911 and 1924. His fourth novel chronicles a gangland-style family feud between the Ashley's and the Baker's that peaks during the most lawless days of Prohibition. It is the glassy sawgrass swamps full of gators, tigers, and snakes, and every other abomination of wild beast, that gives Blake a perfect setting for his thunderous prose. Like any good novelist, Blake tells his whole story in the first few pages. He uses a clever device called "The Liars Club", where an oldtimer who knew the Ashley's and still remembers their sorry exploits narrates some of the club's taller tales and gives *Red Grass River* its context. "That's for damn sure the way of it down South. Back when we was pups a bunch of graybeards used to sit around in the town square and tell stories about the War Between the States and the bad old days of Reconstruction and the doings of the Klan and such. Everybody used to call those oldtimers the Liar's Club. And now it's what everybody calls us too..." Blake works his magic as only a master storyteller can do and transforms this reedy down-home vernacular into historical reality that explodes off the page. Bootleggers, bankrobbers, and bloodshed. The Ashley's were hunters, trappers, and moonshiners from Georgia. The Baker's were Palm Beach County lawmen. The two families warred more fiercely than the Hatfields and McCoys and, in the end, the Ashley's were all but exterminated by their nemesis, Sheriff Bobby Baker. "Only the godawful desperate or the plain goddamned could ever live out there." The story quickly unfolds when Blake's young hero, John Ashley, kills DeSoto Tiger while delivering a load of his father's whiskey to an Indian Camp. From that point forward, John Ashley is a hunted man, and the Ashley Clan is marked. Bobby Baker and John Ashley were rivals since three years before when John was fifteen and stole the girl nineteen year-old Bobby wanted to marry. Then he stole his wooden leg the first time "daddy's little deputy" tried to arrest him. A few years later, Bobby gets some revenge after a botched bank robbery and shootout and he runs down John Ashley in a swamp. Ashley had been shot in the face. Bobby cruelly thumbs out his eye before hauling him off to jail. Brown eyed John, now with a glass blue one, escapes from a chain gang and the all-out murderous war between the Ashley's and the Baker's escalates until that infamous night at the Sabastian River bridge a decade later. "The Ashley Gang is a historical reality," and Blake leaves no doubt that the profound tragedy of these events did happen. The Ashley boys and the Baker boys fought to the death and killed hundreds of others who got in their way. How it happened is a matter of Blake's remarkable ability to tell a story, and the way he effortlessly makes his characters roar to life until the blood and viscera pour off the page. *Red River Grass: A Legend*, like the western before it, should be another blue-ribbon prize winner. Blake's reverential tone and elegant style renders historic detail with the same similar precision and beauty and affection for words as Cormac McCarthy. He is almost that good.

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makes his characters roar to life until the blood and viscera pour off the page. *Red River Grass: A Legend*, like the western before it, should be another blue-ribbon prize winner. Blake's reverential tone and elegant style renders historic detail with the same similar precision and beauty and affection for words as Cormac McCarthy. He is almost that good. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Groartig generisches Gangstergarn, unlesbares eBook Von B.L. Wer "Boardwalk Empire" kennt, wei: Florida war zur Prohibition eine wichtige Alkoholschmuggelroute für den Chicago Mob. Wer James Carlos Blake liest, lernt hinzu: Mittenmang befand sich damals der Ashley-Clan, eine Schwarzbrenner- und Bankruberdynastie mit Sitz tief in den Everglades. über knapp 15 Jahre schildert der Roman ihren Aufstieg und Fall als proletarische Legendenmalerei: zyklisch wiederholen sich Binnenstränge um Stick-ups und Shoot-outs, Freunde, Feinde und Frauen, die kommen und (meist gewalttätig) wieder gehen, grundverschiedene Brüder und heimlich sich hneidende Rivalen, lust- wie gefährvolle Aufenthalte in Natur, Stadt und Knast Kurz: Nichts, was einem nicht bekannt vorkäme aus Gangsterkino und Südstaatenliteratur, aber in hochvirtuoser Genrejonglage und dialektmächtiger Gossenpoesie verdichtet, ebenso oft niederschmetternd brutal wie mit überraschenden Schlagseiten ins Komische versehen. Gewarnt sei aber vor der hochgradig rgerlichen Kindle-Ausgabe, die offenbar schlampig maschinell eingescannt und niemals gegenlektoriert wurde: keine Seite ohne falsche autokorrigierte oder verschluckte Wörter. Flüssig lesen lässt sich dieses eigentlich wunderbar flüssig geschriebene Buch so kaum noch.

Kurzbeschreibung James Carlos Blake is a masterful chronicler of the restless, outcast, the lawless, and the lonely heart. His previous novel, *In the Rogue Blood*, was awarded the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction. Now he has written a powerful and rousing historical saga of family loyalties, blood feuds, and betrayed friendships; of bank robberies and bootlegging; and of a passionate love as wild at heart as the Everglades. It is the story of sworn enemies: John Ashley, a criminal and folk hero, the brightest star in a family destined to become the most notorious in south Florida; and Bobby Baker, a lawman born of lawmen, a violent, hard-hearted man driven by the searing memory of past affronts and the enduring hatreds the engendered. Ashley and Baker will clash many times over many decades. And as the twentieth century encroaches on their world and the wildlands give grudging way to the rising boomtown of Miami feral, sensual mating will place one man in gravest peril...while his adversary contrives a dark, personal vengeance that could leave countless lives his own included in ruin. Pressestimmen "Ladies and gentlemen, the next Cormac McCarthy...Blake already stands among the best explorers of our lost frontier...The execution of his talent has grown with each book."--"Texas Monthly" "Vivid...enthralling...well worth the read...This lively saga barrels along through years of mayhem and outlawry that rival anything found in the annals of the old West."--"San Antonio Express-News" "No one writes about blood and guts better than James Carlos Blake. He knows in his bones that violence is at the heart of our American history. He respects that violence."--"Washington Post Book World" "Blake is writing books that move like a stampede of mustangs with prose that ripples like Hemingway on steroids..." *Red Grass River* "is filled with the casual mayhem of the American fringe in an era when outlaws were heroes to those whose own wild spirits were crushed by the Great Depression. Blake is a unique chronicler of hard lives in harder times, and he gets better with each book he writes."--"Rocky Mountain News" "A superb and engrossing novel...Blake [is] one of the best and most original writers in America today."--"Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" Kurzbeschreibung James Carlos Blake is a masterful chronicler of the restless, outcast, the lawless, and the lonely heart. His previous novel, *In the Rogue Blood*, was awarded the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction. Now he has written a powerful and rousing historical saga of family loyalties, blood feuds, and betrayed friendships; of bank robberies and bootlegging; and of a passionate love as wild at heart as the Everglades. It is the story of sworn enemies: John Ashley, a criminal and folk hero, the brightest star in a family destined to become the most notorious in south Florida; and Bobby Baker, a lawman born of lawmen, a violent, hard-hearted man driven by the searing memory of past affronts and the enduring hatreds the engendered. Ashley and Baker will clash many times over many decades. And as the twentieth century encroaches on their world and the wildlands give grudging way to the rising boomtown of Miami feral, sensual mating will place one man in gravest peril...while his adversary contrives a dark, personal vengeance that could leave countless lives his own included in ruin.