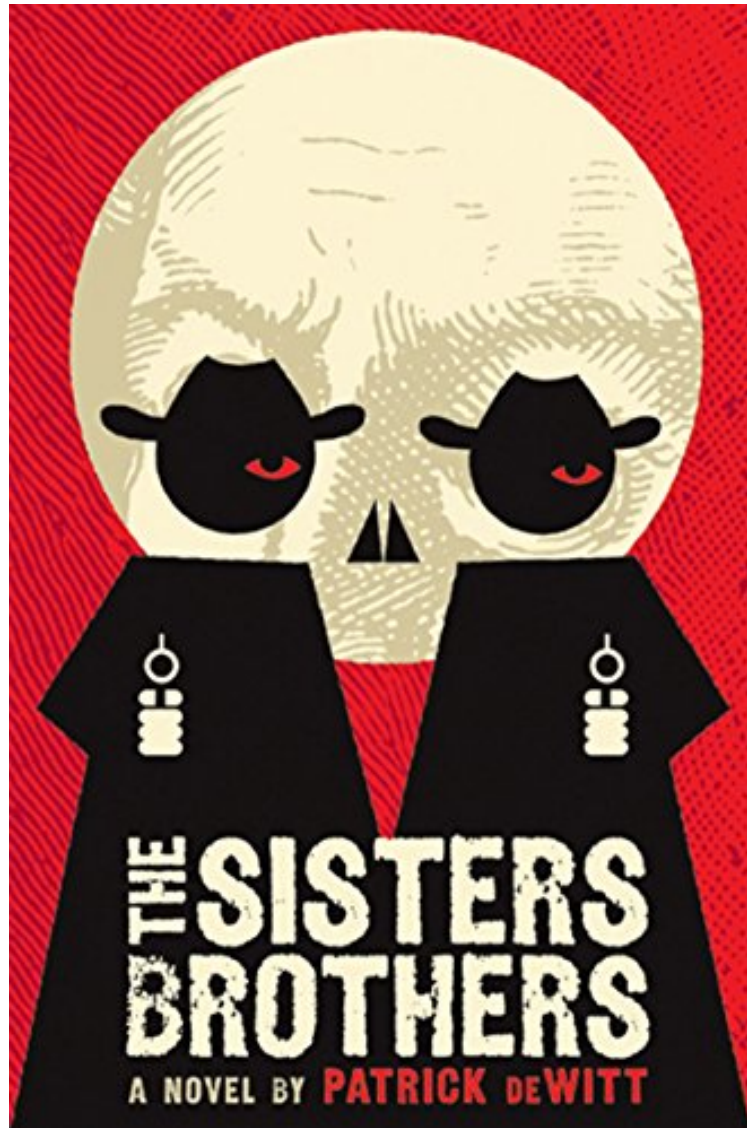


The Sisters Brothers

Von Patrick deWitt

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Von Patrick deWitt : The Sisters Brothers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sisters Brothers:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. San Francisco is a good place to kill someone. After burning the town down, they are distracted by its rebuilding.Von expressMuch has been made, over the last few decades, about the death of the western as a genre. Yet this argument fails to notice a crucial fact: the western was never just a genre. It offers America a heroic vision of its history, rooted in the potential and peril of the westward expansion and the grand design of Manifest Destiny. In this sense, stories

relating to the Alamo, the gunfight at the OK Corral or Billy the Kid took on the value of scriptures and were presented in books, plays and, most successfully, films. But now I have to giddy up and ride off to "sing the praises" (as I do for Mary Doria Russell's "Doc") about Patrick deWitt's tale of two hired guns set against the backdrop of the California gold rush, shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2011. Along the ride, deWitt parallels the trails of James Carlos Blake and Cormac McCarthy, yet he frequently wanders into comic territory to produce a story that's weirdly funny, outright violent and immersed in sadness. It's 1851, around the time of the Sierra Nevada gold rush, when Eli and Charlie Sisters, two brothers and notoriously pistol-sharp killers hit the trail in the Oregon Territory and ride south to California to go about their business. They've been commissioned by a mysterious racketeer only known as Commodore to kill prospector Herman Kermit Warm for some undefined reason. As professionals they don't want to know, they just pursue their path to turn him into a dead man. The narrator and main character is the younger brother Eli Sisters who relates the ride that soon turns into an odyssey and, like all odysseys, it is full of both strange adventures and revelations. As the brothers are riding along there are brief but realistically outlined chapters of men driven insane by loneliness, there is collection of dirty whorehouses and noisy saloons while the brothers slaughter, drink and sleep their way south. Charlie the older brother is the leading member of the killing team and always in charge but due to his temper and a fondness for brandy and prostitutes not always in control. Well, the story is not all the way serious, sometimes it's not even an Old Western and most of the time it's a parody or rather falls into the category of road movies as well as the buddy story. They live an ugly life in an ugly world and violence is depicted in the most grisly detail. As Eli follows Charlie, he begins to wonder whether there is a way out of this trap - he doesn't exactly feel guilt for the murders he has perpetrated, but he does feel a sort of mounting fatigue, and some people he meets along the trail show him that there are possibilities for a more agreeable life. So the brothers begin quarreling over Eli's newfound qualms. However, Charlie is not easy to persuade, particularly not on moral grounds. To him the younger brother is second banana since childhood and claims that he wasn't ever meant to be a killer in the first place. Everything has a price in this Western. Finally arriving in San Francisco the brothers have to realize that they are too late to meet finger man Henry Morris, who's supposed to point out their target, Kermit Warm. On top of that the gold price is plummeting. If Eli thought that the assassination business is tough, he learns that panning for gold is not only more tedious but much less rewarding. In San Francisco the plot shifts gears and the gold rush that only existed as a backdrop, now becomes vital, the McGuffin (the "secret formula") is revealed. Anyone who is expecting a historic description of Oregon and California however, will be disappointed, also deWitt has deliberately avoided showboating his period-specific research. His narrative style is rather flat, which is probably intended to be the hilarious part, yet his voice is sharp and distinctive and the ride through the boomtowns and the detritus of the gold rush highlights Eli's change as compassion is unfolding in him and the effect is stunning. Of course, deWitt is more than capable to investigate history as his lively yet realistic portrait of San Francisco proves.

5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Und er Ichelt, denn er wei: Das Bse siegt immer. Von Abby Normal Goldrausch, Wilder Westen. Zwei Brder begeben sich auf den Weg, um in San Franzisco einen Auftragsmord zu verben. Erzht wird die Geschichte vom kleineren Bruder der beiden Auftragskiller. Auf dem langen Weg erleben die beiden brutale und skurrile Abenteuer. Das Buch beginnt vergleichsweise gemtlich. Im ersten Teil, der Reise, werden in erster Linie einzelne Episoden aneinander gereiht. Doch nach und nach spielen diese Episoden im spteren Verlauf eine Rolle und ergeben am Ende einen guten, komplexen Roman. An Fantasie fehlt es dem Autor deWitt nicht. Er lsst seine Figuren in Situationen stolpern, die sie immer wieder in innere Konflikte geraten lassen. Verstrkt wird der innere Konflikt von Eli, dem jngeren Bruder, dadurch, dass ihr Auftraggeber sie bei diesem Job nicht mehr als gleichberechtigte Partner betrachtet, sondern dem lteren Bruder das Sagen gegeben hat. So durchlaufen die ungleichen Brder auf ihrer Reise auch eine interessante emotionale Reise. Wer hat sich schon ber die Beweggrnde und Probleme von berechtigten Auftragsmrdern im Wilden Westen Gedanken gemacht? Gespickt ist die Geschichte mit dezentem, aber schwarzen Humor. Eine Verfilmung knnte ich mir von den Coen-Brdern vorstellen. The Sisters Brothers ist ein super geschriebener und recht unterhaltsamer Roman. Aber man muss bereit sein, sich mit Schurken auf einen langen Ritt durch die Wste zu begeben. Wer es sich traut, wird mit einer auergewhnlichen Geschichte belohnt.

12 von 13 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sympathische Psychopathen Von Roland F. Der Roman "The Sisters Brothers", auf der diesjhrigen Longlist des Booker Prizes, ist eine wirkliche Entdeckung! Man schreibt das Jahr 1851. Charlie Eli Sisters, zwei mehr als psychopathische Auftragskiller im Dienst des "Commodore", sind auf dem Weg von Portland nach San Francisco, um dort Hermann Kermit Warm zu tten, der den Commodore auf die ein oder andere Art und Weise beleidigt hat. Auf dem Weg nach San Francisco, der mindestens 3/5 des Buches dauert, mssen die beiden durch die aberwitzigsten Situationen, kommen zufllig an Duellen vorbei, Huren und anderen ebenso wie die beiden Sisters Brder zwielichtigen Gestalten. Charlie ist der etwas hellere, dafr aber hrtere Killer unter den Brdern, whrend Eli, der auch etwas fliger ist, hin- und wieder Skrupel hat und zumindest versucht, sich in jedes Mdchen, das ihm begegnet, zu verlieben. Und so schickt Patrick deWitt ein ziemlich ungleiches und extrem witziges Paar auf den Weg, die Gegend zwischen Portland und San Francisco unsicher zu machen. Die Geschehnisse sind teilweise absurd, durch die stilisierte Sprache und Erzhlweise aber immer berzeugend und erheiternd. Schwarzer, bissiger und auch zynischer, immer trockener Humor ist garantiert. "The Sisters Brothers" ist ein hochstilisierter, trockender und

literarischer Western, der auf der Longlist des heurigen Booker-Prizes eine originelle und zündende Ausnahme ist. Absolute Empfehlung, auch wenn man, wie der Rezensent, kein Western-Fan ist... Lesespa garantiert!

Kurzbeschreibung A gorgeous, wise, riveting work of, among other things, cowboy noir. Honestly, I can't recall ever being this fond of a pair of psychopaths. (David Wroblewski, New York Times bestselling author of *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*) A masterful, hilarious picaresque that keeps company with the best of Charles Portis and Mark Twain: a relentlessly absorbing feat of novelistic art. Wells Tower, author of *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned* *The Sisters Brothers* is dark, dark, and funny, both ha ha and strange and you'll love the characters you meet along the way. Tom Franklin, New York Times bestselling author of *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* Patrick deWitt, a young writer whose stop-you-in-your-tracks writing has snuck up on the world (*Los Angeles Times*), brings us *The Sisters Brothers*, a darkly comic, outrageously inventive novel that offers readers a decidedly off-center view of the Wild, Wild West. Set against the back-drop of the great California Gold Rush, this odd and wonderful tour de force at once honors and reshapes the traditional western while chronicling the picaresque misadventures of two hired guns, the fabled Sisters brothers. The most original western since the Coen Brothers re-interpreted True Grit: you've never met anyone quite like *The Sisters Brothers*. *Pressestimmen* Patrick deWitt's Booker-nominated tale of two hired guns during the Gold Rush, is weirdly funny, startlingly violent and steeped in sadness, according to Ron Charles. (*Washington Post*) [A]n odd gem... that has one of the most engaging and thoughtful narrators I've come across in a long time.... The novel belongs to the great tradition of subversive westerns... but deWitt has a deadpan comic voice and a sneaky philosophical bent that's all his own. (Tom Perrotta's *Favorite Fiction of 2011* on *Salon.com*) This bloody buddy tale of two hired guns during the Gold Rush is weirdly funny, startlingly violent and steeped in sadness: a reaffirmation of the endurance of the Western. (Notable Fiction of 2011, *Washington Post*) DeWitt's *THE SISTERS BROTHERS* is a glorious picaresque Western; everything about this book is stylish, from its conceit to its cover design making it a truly worthy inclusion on the shortlist. (*Daily Beast*) If Cormac McCarthy had a sense of humor, he might have concocted a story like Patrick deWitt's bloody, darkly funny western *THE SISTERS BROTHERS*... [DeWitt has] a skillfully polished voice and a penchant for gleefully looking under bloody bandages. (*Los Angeles Times*) Thrilling: a lushly voiced picaresque story so richly told, so detailed, that what emerges is a weird circus of existence, all steel shanks and ponies, gut shots and medication poured into the eyeholes of the dying. At some level, this too is a kind of revenge story, marvelously blurry. (*Esquire*) [T]here's something cinematic about Mr. deWitt's unadorned prose style, which at first made this reader do a double-take: can this be serious? only to continue flicking the pages with pleasure. (*Wall Street Journal*) By turns hilarious, graphic and meditative, *The Sisters Brothers* hooked me from page one all the way to 300 and I could have stayed on for many more. (*NPR.org*) Wandering his Western landscape with the cool confidence of a practiced pistoleer, deWitt's steady hand belies a hair trigger, a poet's heart and an acute sense of gallows humor: the reader is likely to reach the adventures' end in the same shape as Eli: wounded but bettered by the ride. (*Time Out New York*) A feast of delights in short punchy chapters.... Deliciously original and rhapsodically funny, this is one novel that ropes you in on page one, and isn't about to ride off into the sunset any time soon. (*Boston Globe*) Mesmerizing: The book seduces us to its characters, and draws us on the strength of deWitt's subtle, nothing-wasted prose. He writes with gorgeous precision about the grotesque: an amputation, a gouged eye, a con in a dive bar, a nauseating body count [without] macho brutishness. (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*) DeWitt's exploitations of the picaresque form are striking, and he has a wonderful way of exercising his comic gifts without ever compromising the novel's gradual accumulation of darkness, disgust, and foreboding. (*The Millions*) A gorgeous, wise, riveting work of, among other things, cowboy noir. Honestly, I can't recall ever being this fond of a pair of psychopaths. (David Wroblewski, bestselling author of *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*) Like Tarantino, deWitt knows that attitude makes blood funny; like Twain, he understands a reader's willingness to forgive a good narrator's personal flaws. (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*) [*THE SISTERS BROTHERS*] is full of surprises, among them is the quirky beauty of the language Patrick deWitt has devised for his narrator.... *THE SISTERS BROTHERS* is deWitt's second novel and is an inventive and ingenious character study. It will make you impatient for the third. (*Dallas Morning News*) Original, entrancing and entertaining. (*Denver Post*) Weirdly funny, startlingly violent and steeped in sadness: It's all rendered irresistible by Eli Sisters, who narrates with a mixture of melancholy and thoughtfulness. (*Washington Post*) The brothers' punchily poetic banter and the book's bracing bursts of violence keep this campfire yarn pulled taut. (*The Onion AV Club*) Funny and strange [and] oddly warm: you'll find yourself ashamedly pulling for the brothers Sisters like you did for Jules and Vinnie in *Pulp Fiction*. (*Outside magazine*) Patrick deWitt's narrator--a hired killer with a bad conscience and a melancholy disposition--is a brilliant and memorable creation. (Tom Perrotta, bestselling author of *Little Children*) A bright, brutal revision of the Western, *The Sisters Brothers* offers an unexpected meditation on life, and on the crucial difference between power and strength. (Gil Adamson, author of *The Outlander*) At once dark and touching, *The Sisters Brothers* has something on every page to make you laugh. Patrick deWitt has given us a gift, reimagining the old west in a thoroughly original manner. Readers are all the better for it. (Charles Bock, New York Times bestselling author of *Beautiful*)

Children)gritty, as well as deadpan and often very comicDeWitt has chosen a narrative voice so sharp and distinctiveits very narrowing of possibilities opens new doors in the imagination. (New York Times Book)A masterful, hilarious picaresque that keeps company with the best of Charles Portis and Mark Twain, *The Sisters Brothers* is a relentlessly absorbing feat of novelistic art. (Wells Tower, author of *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned*)*Pressestimmen*"DeWitt's exploitations of the picaresque form are striking, and he has a wonderful way of exercising his comic gifts without ever compromising the novel's gradual accumulation of darkness, disgust, and foreboding."--*The Millions*