



Dead Man's Badge

Robert E. Dunn

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“It's terrific. It's lean and smart and very good. I say, check it out.” Joe Lansdale

Career criminal Longview Moody, on the run from killers, assumes his dead, twin brother's identity as the new Chief of Police of a Texas town that's being terrorized by a Mexican drug cartel. To pull off the deadly deception, Longview desperately works to become the kind of cop and man that his brother was. But when the two lives he's living converge, he's forced to embrace the violence within him to get justice...and vengeance.

PRAISE FOR 'DEAD MAN'S BADGE'

“Robert Dunn unloads both barrels – DEAD MAN'S BADGE is a fast, furious shootout from beginning to end. This tale of corrupt cops, cartel killers, and one bad guy just trying to make good, lingers like gun smoke. Bloody, dark, and pistol-whip smart, it's Border noir at its best.” J. Todd Scott, author of THE FAR EMPTY

“Fans of Clint Eastwood's spaghetti westerns will find a lot to like.” Publishers Weekly

"In Dunn's capable hands, readers will jump onboard for the ride. Dunn is a gifted writer and he opens DEAD MAN'S BADGE with one of the most gripping scenes I've ever read. Fans of grit will love this fast-paced book." Mystery Scene Magazine

"Riveting thriller about coming back from the dead, revenge and redemption. The pages fly by even faster than the bodies pile up. DEAD MAN'S BADGE establishes Robert E. Dunn as a formidable new name in hard-boiled fiction." R.G Belsky, author of the Clare Carlson and Gil Malloy mystery series

"DEAD MAN'S BADGE sizzles with suspense! Dunn promises action on page one of this thriller and delivers the goods nonstop to the very end." Margaret Mizushima, award-winning author of HUNTING HOUR.

"Brutal, vivid, and unforgettable...a modern-day western morality tale in crime-novel wrapping with a blood-red bow. This one will haunt you." -Lee Goldberg, #1 New York Times bestselling author of TRUE FICTION

"DEAD MAN'S BADGE is crazy good, a great story, non-stop action, and a brilliantly-crafted hero. Dunn hit it out of the park with this one". -Harry Hunsicker, former executive vice president of the Mystery Writers of America and the author of THE DEVIL'S COUNTRY

Dead Man's Badge Details

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From Reader Review Dead Man's Badge for online ebook

Ed says

Longview Moody is a cash courier for a Mexican Cartel who finds himself forced to dig his own grave in a Mexican desert one night. He turns the tables on his wood-be executioners and heads across the border to his trailer in South Texas where he finds Paris Tyndal, his Texas Ranger look- alike half brother shot dead on the floor. Thinking on his feet, Longview takes his brother's badge and new position as Sheriff of Lansdale Texas, a corrupt border town loaded with sadistic cartel soldiers, trigger happy DEA agents and a police department laced with undercover Feds. All parties are locked and loaded in a complex, money driven cease fire until new Sheriff Paris (Longview) Tyndal spoils the party by poking the assembled bears in the eye! This is Western "border" noir at it's very best. My first book by this very talented author will not be my last. Very highly recommended.

Jay Williams says

A truly exceptional thriller, combining corrupt government agents, drug cartels, wild women, and a dysfunctional family. The writing grabs the reader from the very first page, where the main character is digging his own grave at gunpoint. Many of the characters are flat stereotypes, but that just adds to the pleasure and excitement. The events are extremely imaginative, and the environment is a southwestern border town with action on both sides of the border. Just enough of the details of the environment provide images that go beyond vision to feeling. This is a book that captures the reader in many ways.

David says

Double hell, this was a fantastic crime thriller! My review is now posted here ---> <https://wp.me/p5t5Tf-1wA>

Don Gorman says

(2). Action, violence, craziness. If that is what you are looking for that his is book for you. The wild, Wild West is happening on the Texas border and a truly cockamamie start lets it all happen. Poor Paris, Bad Ass Buick and Lunny Longview make up the family that drives this train. They take on the Feds, the Cartel and any other impediments that come along. A rousing story, thank goodness it is short or it would be too much to handle. Silly, insane fun.

David says

I listened to this one on audio-- I was impressed with the interesting story and the clever plotting-- in places the intelligent dialogue. The hero is on the run from a drug cartel and finds his way into taking his half-brother's place as the chief of police for a Southern Texas town. He doesn't know how long the charade can go on, especially when the DEA and other assorted Federal agencies are on the scene along with members of the same cartel he is running from. The hero pulls off a lot of bluff and bluster, but imagine his shock when

his own father comes into the picture. At times this turns into a modern western, with pickup trucks, automatic weapons, and gunslinging types. It never ceases to be fun.. even in its extreme violence.

The writing is very good. At times, the author tends to dabble in the sexually explicit-- easily fast-forwarded on the audible version. However, there were some real problems with the tone and inflection. The narration lacked any emphasis on any words and was almost read in a complete monotone. The dialogue worked too hard to emphasize some phrases, etc. Further, there was a glaring problem with the way one important Spanish Word was read-- a direct error. The Word should have been Ciudad (SEE-OOH-DAWD) which means city-- yet the author used the word Cuidad (KWE-DAWD) which sure sounded like the Spanish word for taking care often used as a warning translation for danger... Warning... Now, I'm no Spanish expert, but this was really annoying to me, once I figured out the reader was trying to say city. Maybe it is pronounced as he read it in some circles.

Still, well worth an audible credit.

Lou says

The tale starts right in the middle of something,..with a guy in the desert, digging his own grave and a few guns pointing and waving threats and name calling in Spanish.

It's from then on a Juarvez and wild west Texas kind of thing, with Cartel, drug running, cash drops, Mexico, Texas Ranger, Cowboys, DEA, La Familia de los Muerto, series of choices good or bad, money missing, people dead, corruption and money turning people heads.

You have a thriller with violence and things that bad men do, caution read no further if that is not what you had in store.

Things turn down the wrong road, with a brother dead, and a new identity to uphold, things get mucho locos. There are some neat sentences, wise and potent in this tale.

The tale settles a bit in parts then picks up with a whole mass of conspiratorial manoeuvrings and staying alive into a nice treat of a hardboiled tale.

Review also @ <https://more2read.com/review/dead-mans-badge-by-robert-e-dunn/>

Stephanie says

At the beginning of this novel Longview isn't having the best day, which is hardly surprising when he is digging his own grave at gunpoint. But he manages to escape and goes to meet his brother at his trailer. Things don't go to plan and Longview ends up assuming his brother's identity as chief of police in a town on the Mexican border. He makes plenty of enemies immediately but there are also a handful of people who he feels he can trust. These are also people who he can't fool.

The book is full of violence and corruption and mistrust. Hardly anybody is who they say they are, including obviously Longview. He has to work out who can be trusted the most, and with his most likeable colleagues tries to make things better.

My thoughts changed throughout, I'm not that familiar with the different American agency and Government departments, or the politics between America and Mexico but what I did discover is that the family who ruled the town were capable of anything. This is demonstrated in the latter part of the novel when the reader realises exactly what type of people they are.

I had to admire Longview, the easiest option would have been to walk away but he was determined to be a better person whilst getting revenge for his own reasons. And even though he didn't fool many, there were

people willing to help. My favourite character by a long way was Hector, he was probably the only one who could show how his true feelings. I also liked the married couple who dealt with council matters, they added some welcome humour and compassion amongst the violence.

Andreas Flögel says

You can hear the Ennio Morricone soundtrack in the background.

Gripping tale!

I really liked this story about a bad guy in war with corrupt federal agents and drug cartels.

The writing sucked me in.

The constellation of a crooked brother taking the place of his cop brother was handled very well in my opinion, since there were many people who saw this, but had their own motives to keep it secret.

All in all the book reminded me of Italian westerns including the big shoot-out at the end.

If you are into fast paced action with reminiscence of spaghetti westerns, then this is the perfect book for you.

(5/5)

Jim says

In the pitiful little town of Lansdale, Texas, the DEA and the local police department are at odds with each other instead of attempting to take down the vicious Machados cartel. Protagonist Longview Moody is a career criminal who by accident beats a sure death in the desert. Moody's father Buick Moody and stepbrother Paris Tisdale are in law enforcement. Paris has given up his career as a Texas Ranger to become sheriff of Lansdale. Then due to a crazy series of events Longview steps in for his recently murdered brother and takes the job as sheriff posing as Paris. It seems the ever confident Longview can pass himself off as Paris rather easily. Longview manages to alienate most of the local police force and become a huge irritant to the DEA. Luckily deputy Hector Alazraqui sees through Longview's charade because of a unique secret he shares with the real Paris. In a wild and woolly plot that barely slows down to catch a breath, "Dead Man's Badge" was a tale to sit down and read as quickly as possible. With some oddly unique characters like Officer Bronwyn Gutierrez, and Bascom Wood this yarn does not lack for being something very different as a suspense thriller. I read this book in just two sittings. Coming in around 300 pages, "Dead Man's Badge" gets four stars out of a possible five stars. (4.33 Stars !). It surely would have been a five star read with just a little more meat on the bone. Check it out.

Shane Douglas Keene says

Full review at: <https://inkheist.com/2018/04/25/dead-...>

The first thing you'll notice about Dead Man's Badge is its near perfect adherence to the classic traditions of great noir fiction. Longview Moody is the very definition of a loser, an amoral criminal with anger issues and a tendency to charge headlong into danger, guns blazing or fists flying. Then you have your femme fatale in the guise of the sultry and seductive hotel manager, Lenore, a character whose motives and loyalties remain obfuscated throughout much of the story, presenting Moody with both a love interest and a potential

antagonist in one. Add in a plentiful mix of fateful choices and potentially disastrous decisions and you have a near perfect formula for a gritty noir crime story. But there's more to it than that. The southern border town of Lansdale, Texas is a richly imagined melting pot of angry cops, feds, and hardcore killers and criminals, and it's often hard to discern which is which. Within its limits, Dunn has created an exemplary gritty setting where mayhem and bloody violence is always just a whisper away, and death is as close as the person standing next to you. But Longview is a perfectly developed character and his aggressive shoot first, find his own damn answers later approach is uniquely suited to the brutal situations Robert Dunn places him in throughout this ultra-fast, hyper-violent tale of loss, redemption, and ultimately, revenge.

Dave says

Dead Man's Badge is a full-bore violent nasty modern Southwestern noir that begins with the main character digging his own grave at gunpoint somewhere near Juarez and almost never lets up the frenetic pace. The initial action comes at you with no letup.

It's got a lot of classic ingredients like the criminal on the run from the drug cartel, the two half brothers, one a crook, the other a lawman, and both with daddy issues, the stranger riding into town with every hand turned against him, the mesmerizing vixen who has him in her crosshairs, and plenty of double crosses and betrayals.

The area on both sides of America's Southern border is an increasingly lawless void where corruption and feed breed. There's no sugar coating it here. It's nasty, raw, hardnosed, and quite a page turner. And it's filled with darkness, hopelessness, and despair.

Chris Bailey says

CBailey31

This was the first time I had read a book by Robert E. Dunn so I went into this with an open mind. It is also the first time I have read a book that involves the Mexican/America war on drug Cartel's. When I think about it, I am not to sure why this is. I have watched plenty of movies and TV shows around this and always loved them. However after reading this, it will definitely not be my last. I loved it. From the very beginning where you have a man digging his own grave in the desert to the end where you are desperately trying to find out the answers to all the questions you have been asked during the book.

I really enjoyed the characters in this book. The lead character Longview Moody was great to follow. I found that I was kind of cheering him on through out the book as this criminal turned police chief did what he wanted and sort of made up his own police rules. He did not care who he upset whether it was the police officers that worked for him or the people at one of America's 3 letter agencies. This wall all in his quest to rid the town of some nasty people but most of all to stop the people who wanted him dead. One thing I think is brilliant when reading is where you can't trust any of the many characters, they all could be hiding something and are not who they appear to be. This gets you guessing all through the book and helps with the speed you turn the pages as you need to find out the truth. This book was one of them. At one point I thought everyone that appeared clean was dirty and those that were dirty could also be clean playing dirty.

This book has lots of violence in it so I would probably not recommend this to children/teenagers or if you are easily offended by this. But, if you are not put off by that, I would fully recommend this book. The

locations, the characters, the action and the deceit along with the really exciting storyline make this a fantastic read. As mentioned above this is my first novel by Robert E. Dunn that I have read, but I will be treating myself to some more come pay day.

James Weaver says

I just finished Dead Man's Badge by Robert E. Dunn and wow...what a ride!

Dunn hooked me right from the opening paragraph - "Nothing is easy—not even dying. At least for me it wasn't. The half hour spent digging my own grave in the glare of headlights and the cold of a desert night was literally the hardest work of my life."

Dunn's novel follows Longview Moody, a money runner for a Mexican drug cartel, who ends up on the wrong end of a shovel. Though Moody is career criminal, Dunn crafts his character well and you can't help but like the guy. While running from those who forced him to dig his own shallow grave, Moody assumes his murdered twin brother's identity and ends up as the Chief of Police in a middle-of-nowhere Texas town terrorized by the Mexican cartels. Those in the town, including our own government agents, don't expect their new arrival to rock the boat, but Moody has other plans.

The book is well-paced and evolves into quite a page turner in the second half. The characters are rich and their web of loyalties complex. Who are the good guys and will Moody figure it out before it's too late? You'll have to read this excellent book to find out.

J Fearnley says

4.5*

You open this book to a terrific scene – two men digging graves it's tense and then POW! The action begins and you're off on a thrilling ride with Longview Moody.

You soon realise Longview is not one of the good guys he's been money-running for the Mexican cartel but they want him dead now. Moving from one action-packed scene to another we travel from Mexico back to the USA. When Longview gets home he sees there may be a chance to disappear, to become his brother and start a new life in Texas.

It's only when he gets to this little border town, which is being terrorised by the drug cartels, that he realises he's probably in an even worse situation and if he had any sense he'd just walk, no run, away. Run a long, long way away.

By now you're so on Longview's side, if he's not going to run then he's going to have to get down dirty and fight for this little scrap of earth not to mention his own life, he's got problems not just with the cartel but inside his own police force and then there's the Agencies. He needs to find out who he can trust, get his team on board and not get killed.

Robert E. Dunn has written a fast-paced, violent, doozie of a thriller with terrific characters, a page-turner

full of tense, gripping and jaw-dropping scenes that will keep you riveted to the end.

I really enjoyed it and would heartily recommend.

With many thanks to Anne, Random Things Tours and Brash Books for the opportunity to read this terrific book and be a part of the blog tour of #DeadMansBadge.

Kelvin says

Someone to look out for!

This is the kind of book that makes you go back and memorize the title and the authors name. Gritty epic retribution!
