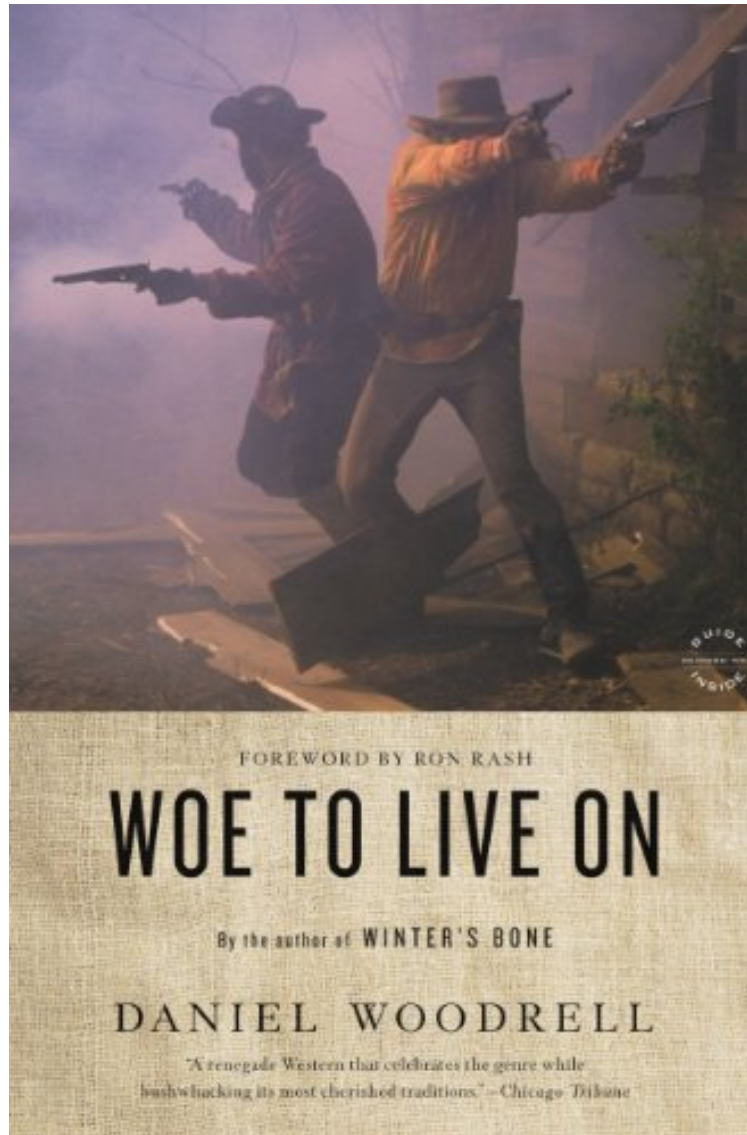


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Woe to Live On: A Novel (English Edition)

Von Daniel Woodrell

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Von Daniel Woodrell : Woe to Live On: A Novel (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Woe to Live On: A Novel (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. More Bloody Bill than Josey WalesVon Ein KundeThe Civil war along the Kansas Missouri border produced no good guys, just an archetype for violent guerilla war sorely unbecoming to our great nation. With such a promising subject until recently left unplumbed in the main, someone had to get it right. No other work of fiction has captured the theme of

savage American partisanship, casual deathdealing and the bitterness it bred before this novel by Daniel Woodrell. Woodrell's second novel comes with most all the features of his other writings. Taut/tough dialog and prose that floats you through a sometimes lazy chain of events. The story is loosely constructed about the first person of Jacob (Dutchie) Roedel. A 17 to 18 year old riding among a guild of bushwhackers and recounting what he hoped to be the best days of his life. The story is spiced with violence. But, literal violence, used deliberately, not the hero-kind that schoolboys could ever daydream about. It all comes across as cowardly or very close. Some die quickly, snuffed out. Heads are mounted on telegraph posts. Bodies are forever disabled then endure quack-cutting later. And the wounded bleed to death from clumsy handling. The cast of secondary characters seem composited from some reference library's rogues gallery. Black John stalks about in the boots of Bloody Bill Anderson. Coleman Younger shows up as nebulous as ever. Quantrill makes a speech, then dissolves from the Lawrence massacre. The strength of the book centers about Jake and his relationship to his core group of ruffians. He highlights for us the gang and it's creeping, conniving hatred of those not "sound on the goose", anyone who won't give them their last chicken, and inevitably each other. But, how we come to immediately identify with a narrator that begins his tale recounting the murder of a 12 year-old immigrant boy by his own hand is a wonder. But it works well, and the act foreshadows every development in this sensitive, literate boy-killer until the last page. Read it before seeing the film, tentatively titled "To Live On" or "Ride with the Devil".

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The war without bugles and banners Von Ein Kunde Finally and at last, the border war of Missouri/Kansas is having its story told. Here were no magnificent lines of battle with brave banners and an awe-struck foe admiring the fatal advance. Here were no bugle calls, no gold braid uniforms or gentleman officers in plumed hats. This was a dirty, vicious, strange-dogs-in-a-meat-house fight that shattered families, emptied neighborhoods, and sometimes created feuds that lasted generations after the war. Daniel Woodrell writes with a remarkable style perfectly suited to the tale he tells. Taut, sparse, haunting, lyrical yet terrible, easing us lazily along from moments of unpretentious poetry to drop us jangling into stark, slamming violence. From the first page, I read it as drinking a rare liquor, sipping and savoring only a few pages a day, in no hurry to have it end. Mr. Woodrell does not rub our faces in gore, but nor does he shrink from or glorify the brutality of killing. We have no doubt of what is happening, recoil from its horror, yet the image is drawn with such spare, severe strokes that we are left stunned as the aftermath of a car wreck - what just happened? When one character dies, the scene is engraved with a laser beam; "Oh, sweet Lord Jesus. It was way down there past terrible.... My world bled to death." Yet rather than being a story about a war and its battles, this a story about very young men - and women - whose lives are turned inside-out by that war. We see them involved in the very human struggle for place, for a sense of belonging, for those fleeting moments of gentleness, set against the smouldering, bloody backdrop of war, and jerked back to the bad-chili burning in the guts for payback when "comrades" are lost. Rather than merely a war story, it is in part a love story, love of friend for friend, a man for a woman. There is no drippy sentimentality, no saccharine examinations of emotion. The same pen that strokes murder in sharp black lines etches with exquisite delicacy the gentler moments. The reader may initially find the Victorian dialogue a bit awkward, but in only moments, there seems no other way the story could have been told. Nor do I feel that any other writer could have told this tale so well, save this native son of the Ozark country. Told through the eyes of young Jake Roedel, who accepts what he sees with no idealism and only later any question, I recommend this book with a whole heart. Most especially I recommend it to those with an interest in the Missouri/Kansas conflict, or any part of the less-defined, personal aspects of the Civil War. For story, characterizations, marvelous use of language, and a haunting quality that lingers long after the last page is turned, I give it a solid five stars.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Border War as Black Powder Drive-By Shooting Spree Von Ein Kunde "Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war!" 16 year old Jake and his friends may not be able to quote the bard, but these teenage hardcases know too much about havoc. You can get a dollars worth of bitterness for only a nickel hereabouts. The war in Kansas and Missouri that raged for years before and after the 'War of North Aggression' left a lot of scars on this edge of the prairie. There weren't a lot of major battles, nothing you had to learn about in school. Just a neverending campaign of mutual retaliation. Casual hangings, work-a-day shooting sprees, ordinary assassinations, mundane decapitations. Even a not-so-ordinary arson where the yankee's burned a warehouse full of captured Southern women in Kansas City. Oops! You know, your ordinary border war. Ho-hum stuff. Payback for payback, ad nauseum. 20 years of Guerilla warfare waged mainly by teenage boys in cowboy hats. Make 'em wear ballcaps backwards while chanting YO and flashing gang signs, and it could be your town, today. In case you didn't think a border war between a couple of bland midwestern states had any relevance to your life... wise up, pilgrim. Read Woe to Live On, you might spot some of those mistakes History professors were always warning you to learn from, or be doomed to repeat. You know, like "Lather, rinse, repeat." This is good stuff, Woodrell is a master at dialect, and his grasp of the underlying hopelessness of this conflict rings true. I advise you to read it before the movie gets here. Get it the way Woodrell meant it, before some scriptwriter tries to make you believe this mess was all about slavery. Yeah, slavery drew a line in the sand between "Freestate" Kansas and "Secesh" Missouri. But how 'bout those poor neutral immigrant rascals standing on the wrong side of that silly line when a batch of masked riders rides up? Not everyone had a dog in the fight, but guess what? Once the payback starts, there isn't a lot of time for sorting out believers from nonbelievers. Ho Hum. Tie him to that wagonwheel, set the wagon on fire,

lets ride into town, I hear they got a real purty gal working at the dry goods store. That attitude makes for a real unhealthy environment, maybe this is the sort of thing your professor wanted you to clue in on. This war out here wasn't about noble causes. There weren't many thin grey clad lines valiently crashing into blue clad hordes. We just had a lot of victims, lots of 'em hanging til they turned icky green. Blue and Grey means less than live or dead. I got one request. Next time this country decides to settle a noble cause by choosing straws and flailing away at itself...y'all go do it somewhere else. This border is closed for repairs.

KurzbeschreibungSet in the border states of Kansas and Missouri, WOE TO LIVE ON explores the nature of lawlessness and violence, friendship and loyalty, through the eyes of young recruit Jake Roedel. Where he and his fellow First Kansas Irregulars go, no one is safe, no one can be neutral. Roedel grows up fast, experiencing a brutal parody of war without standards or mercy. But as friends fall and families flee, he questions his loyalties and becomes an outsider even to those who have become outlaws.PressestimmenPRAISE FOR WOE TO LIVE ON"[A] fine novel...Daniel Woodrell has captured the devastation of war and, more importantly, the twisting of men's minds."United Press International"The violence is fast and understated, and bawdy humor relieves the story's intensity."Kansas City Star"A renegade Western...that celebrates the genre while bushwhacking its most cherished traditions...Jake Roedel recites his tale of woe in an improbably rustic idiom, with a malignant humor and a hip sensibility that are wise beyond his years and way ahead of his times."Chicago Tribune"Woodrell pins it down just right...speaks to the universal cruelty of civil war."St. Louis Post-DispatchKurzbeschreibungSet in the border states of Kansas and Missouri, WOE TO LIVE ON explores the nature of lawlessness and violence, friendship and loyalty, through the eyes of young recruit Jake Roedel. Where he and his fellow First Kansas Irregulars go, no one is safe, no one can be neutral. Roedel grows up fast, experiencing a brutal parody of war without standards or mercy. But as friends fall and families flee, he questions his loyalties and becomes an outsider even to those who have become outlaws.