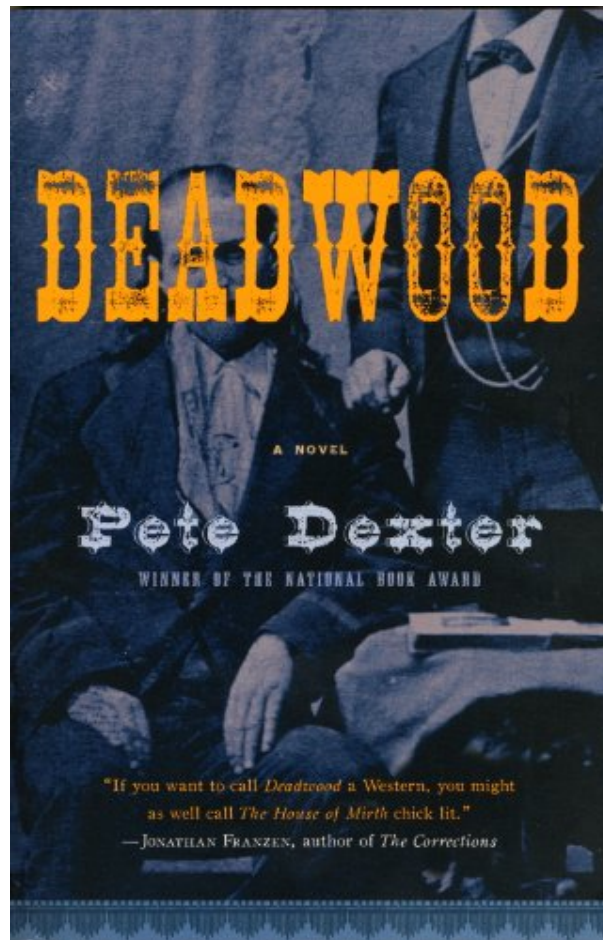
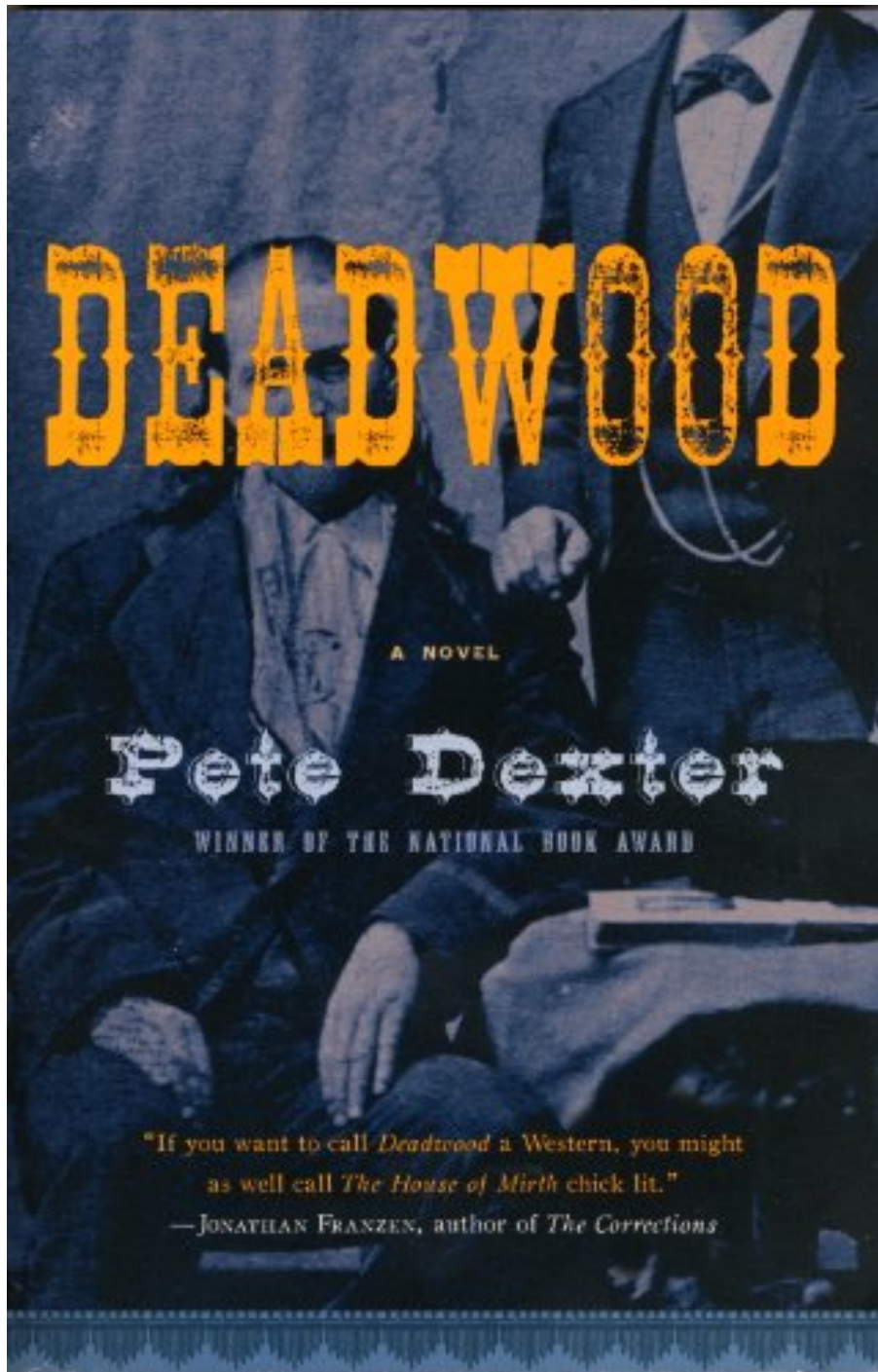


DEADWOOD (VINTAGE CONTEMPORARIES) BY PETE DEXTER



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Most helpful customer reviews

53 of 56 people found the following review helpful.

Pin Drop

By vanishingpoint

... How come the Wild West is so ...calm in this novel, you ask? Simple. Dexter chooses Charlie Utter as the central character, Bill Hickok's stoic, aloof partner, and it is he and his restrained wit that serves as backbone to this wonderful novel.

The book is split into four parts: Bill, The China Doll (a beautiful Chinese ..), Agnes (Lake, Bill's wife), and Jane (Calamity). Bill is gone by the end of his section, which surprised me because I thought this book was about Wild Bill. It is and it isn't. He isn't physically around after the first part, but his legend is everywhere, and it runs through the book.

I've read Paris Trout and Brotherly Love from Pete Dexter before, and enjoyed this one the most, for it is the funniest. Sometimes it's ha-ha funny; other times it's more reflective. It's a fine book, one that makes me wish Dexter will go back to novel writing soon.

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Pete Dexter's Best?

By Amazon Customer

If you're a fan of Pete Dexter you've no doubt read everything the man has written. However, if you are unfamiliar with this superb writer and in dire need of something with more substance than your average N.Y Times bestseller list fare, please jump in. Regardless of whether you're a "western" aficionado or not this is a stunning work. Mr. Dexter's abilities with language and character place him in the highest echelon of current authors. If someone (Mr. D.?) could lovingly transcribe this into a multi-part television movie a la "Lonesome Dove" I could die happy.

25 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

Deadwood

By Douglas S. Wood

Pete Dexter's Deadwood hews closely to historical reality. The characters are there from the well-known Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane Cannary to the lesser known but vital Charlie Utter, Hickok's widow, Agnes Lake, the China Doll, and a host of others. The events are there from the murder of Hickok to the great Deadwood fire. Are the characters drawn accurately? It seems so - certainly more accurately than the HBO series of the same name (You won't find HBO's Al Swearengen in Dexter's pages).

Much of the book is taken up with tortured internal dialogues, especially of Hitchcock's buddy Charlie Utter. Many of the characters are at least half insane and in poor Jane's case, well over half. Cruelty is the rule not the exception. Dexter's `Deadwood' is an unhappy place.

By the way, according to a story from the Rapid City Journal newspaper posted on the web page `Deadwood

Discovered, the HBO series is not based on Dexter's book and Dexter says he does not watch the show - his loss in my opinion.

Highly recommended.

See all 94 customer reviews...

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