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Maximum Bob



Synopsis

In Palm Beach County, Florida, someone places a live ten-foot alligator in the backyard of the bigoted, redneck judge Bob Biggs--known to all as Maximum Bob--and his wife, Leanne, a former Weeki Wachee mermaid.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,149,497 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \(L \) > Leonard, Elmore](#) #1795 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >](#)

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Customer Reviews

In Palm Beach County, Florida, someone places a live ten-foot alligator in the backyard of the bigoted, redneck judge Bob Biggs--known to all as Maximum Bob--and his wife, Leanne, a former Weeki Wachee mermaid.

Elmore Leonard is one of the greatest living writers of crime fiction - perhaps even THE greatest living writer - so the reader goes in expecting good stuff. This one is good, better than average, but not an exceptional Elmore Leonard novel. The story is fun, sometimes a little silly, at times even slightly sinister, yet it never quite comes together in a cohesive unit. It's good, but it's less accessible than many of Mr. Leonard's greatest works. Part of it might be due to a slight supernatural element that is underdeveloped (and seems out of place), or the character of Maximum Bob himself who never really comes into focus to any great extent, but whatever it is there's something that's just ever so slightly off with this one. When you weave together a twisting, turning plot the way Mr. Leonard does everything has to be just right or it starts to fall apart, even though this one doesn't fall apart you can see it starting to unravel around the edges. The story never engrossed me to the point of shutting out the world around me the way a good Elmore Leonard will usually do. It's a good read. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys the kind of eccentric, oddball characters that Elmore Leonard often specializes in just don't let your expectations get too high going in.

I'm a big Leonard fan. Let's start with that disclaimer. Maximum Bob is something of an oddity for me, in that, on one hand, it is classic Leonard narrative style, that flowing, loose, close-to-character's inner workings stuff George V. Higgins kicked off and Leonard refined. In this respect, Elmore is Elmore again and I'm glad to see it. The problem for me (and what stops me short of 5 star rating) is that the story itself seems to have been stretched too far with the character Leanne. Her presence, as an alligator-paranoid semi-psychic seems forced, as if she were shoe-horned in there in the effort to save and elevate a plot that was in all other respects fairly predictable stuff. Maybe Elmore was tired. Another problem for me, was the now predictable trope of the weak man. Elmore seems to have decided that strong men are anathema to sales, or he has thrown in the towel and accommodated agents and publishers who still think the improbably rational and brave female character is still new and believable. No man familiar with women has ever met a woman as man-like in her takes as Elmore's proto-American s. OK, now call me a chauvanist. The problem is that it seems clear to me that Leonard no more believes his own neo-stereotype than he believes men have wombs. Astute readers will see this nearly crass accommodation of the lowest common readership denominator in his rather bland presentations of Leanne, Kathy and her ill-fated love interest, Gary. Maybe he should go back and read Stick. That one he got perfectly.

Throughout this book I could swear I was reading Carl Hiaasen, not Elmore Leonard. That's not a bad thing, I like Hiaasen, just unexpected. Crackling dialog. Outlandish characters. A touch dark. Very quick read. One note about the Kindle copy. It is very poorly done. There is no line spacing or other break between scenes, its all condensed. So often when the action shifts, it takes a bit to figure out what happened.

This is my favorite non-western Elmore Leonard novel. Even though most of the characters are recognizable clones of other Leonard characters, this book offers some interesting plot twists before finishing with a typical non-ending. I actually prefer Leonard's westerns (Hombre, Valdez is Coming) to his later work, but anything by Elmore Leonard is worth reading. Just don't expect many surprises.

A solid read, but doesn't rise to the level of excellence in other Leonard work like Get Shorty.

Good story. Enjoyed humor, and unique writing style.

Elmore Leonard is a great story teller, any fan knows that several of his books have been made into movies or TV shows. The reason is he is just one of America's best authors.

Haven't read it yet, but the seller shipped promptly and the book quality was as advertised. Good jog

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