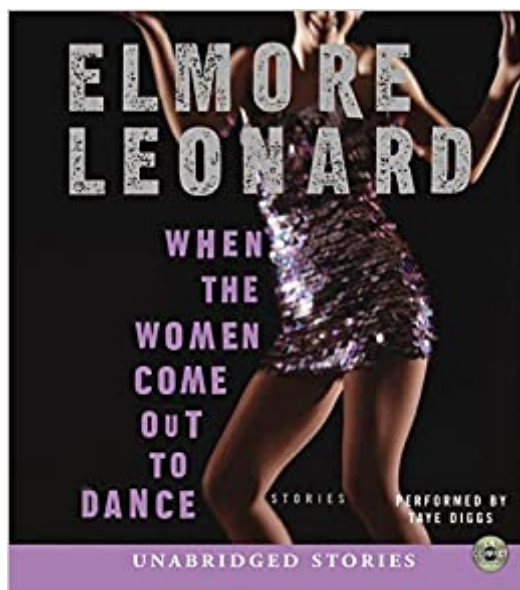


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When The Women Come Out To Dance



Synopsis

In this collection of new and recently published short fiction, Elmore Leonard demonstrates the superb characterizations, dead-on dialogue, vivid atmosphere, and driving plotting that have made him a household name. Federal marshal Karen Sisco, from the bestselling novel *Out of Sight*, returns in "Karen Makes Out," once again inadvertently mixing pleasure with business. In "Fire in the Hole," Raylan Givens, last seen in *Riding the Rap* and *Pronto*, meets up with an old friend, but they're now on different sides of the law. In the title story, "When the Women Come Out to Dance," Mrs. Mahmood gets more than she bargains for when she conspires with her maid to end her unhappy marriage. In all nine stories -- each unique in their own right -- reluctant heroes and laid-back lowlifes struggle for power, survival, and their fifteen minutes of fame. And as always, the stories ring true with Leonard's signature deadpan social observations and diabolical eye for the foibles of the good guys and the bad. Performed by Taye Diggs.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HarperAudio; Unabridged edition (November 19, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060527803

ISBN-13: 978-0060527808

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 5.1 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 84 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,698,557 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(L \) > Leonard, Elmore](#) #364 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories](#) #3620 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Anthologies](#)

Customer Reviews

What a treat! The nine stories in this collection--some never before published, others available only in anthologies or magazines-- demonstrate why Elmore Leonard has achieved both bestsellerdom and critical acclaim. Ranging in length from a four-page trifle to two novellas of 50-plus pages, these are gems of sly humor, suspense, and, above all, character. Most are in the contemporary crime-fiction vein that made Leonard famous, but a few are more contemplative set pieces, and there's one fine Old West story (Leonard was a Western writer before he became a crime king). Longtime fans will recognize some familiar faces, including the U.S. marshals Raylan Givens, from

1993's Pronto and 1995's Riding the Rap, and Karen Sisco, from 1996's Out of Sight (played by J. Lo in the movie). But whether familiar or new, the people in these stories lunge off the page and seize you by the lapels. Nobody writes character and dialogue like Leonard. In fact, several tales feature some rural white-trash bad guys who are so utterly plausible that you'll look over your shoulder next time you drive a country road. The short story format suits Leonard's stripped-down style beautifully. While one or two of the slimmer pieces feel a bit disposable, all nine are engaging, and the best are breathtakingly good--the crispest, best-plotted stuff Leonard has published in years. --Nicholas H. Allison --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Elmore Leonard's latest, *When the Women Come Out to Dance*, is a collection of short sketches that feature strong female characters in trouble. "Sparks" describes a flirtation between an insurance investigator and a widow who has apparently burned down her own mansion in the Hollywood hills. The riveting title piece involves a rich Pakistani surgeon's wife, a former stripper who's terrified that her playboy husband will have her killed once he gets bored with her. Hoping to knock him off first, she hires as a maid a Colombian woman rumored to have murdered her own abusive husband. "Fire in the Hole" finds two former co-workers pitted against one another in a deadly showdown: Boyd Crowder is a Bible-quoting neo-Nazi with a penchant for terrorist acts, and Raylan Givens is the U.S. marshal sent to shut him down. Leonard fans may wish for something meatier, but the razor-edged dialogue and brisk storytelling won't disappoint. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although I am a huge fan of FX's *Justified* series, I'm not really an avid fiction reader and never gave Elmore Leonard's books much thought.

Leonard's passing in 2013 certainly revealed the universal respect and appeal people had for his work and made me wonder what I was missing. I chose *WHEN THE WOMEN COME OUT TO DANCE* mainly because it was published before the *Justified* series and free of the show's hype -- just a book with 9 short stories; one which happens to be the basis for the incredible television series. I didn't even reach the *Justified* story before I fully understood the attraction to Leonard's story-telling. Each chapter represents one story and range from 5 to 50+ pages. *Fire in the Hole* is the one I really wanted to read as it introduces the world to the cool, calm and deadly Raylan Givens and his arch-nemesis, life-long criminal Boyd Crowder. It's not *Justified* in a nutshell, but merely the first episode of the series (with a different outcome). If anything, the book remarkably confirms how

dead-on the series presents Leonard's vision of both the storyline and the characters. While I certainly enjoyed that particular story, I found most of the others to be better. Leonard had a knack of being able to paint an elaborate tableau with relatively few words that gets readers involved. Real page-turners filled with drama, suspense and a variety of interesting characters of all calibers (good and bad). One of the reasons I really don't enjoy fiction is verbosity, but Leonard's stories never become mired in words, they all roll smoothly and at a decent pace. I found myself immersed in each and every chapter and refused to part from the book until I'd finished the story I'd started. Another enjoyable factor is that each chapter presents readers with a change-up (and puns aside, "Chickasaw Charlie Hoke" was one of my favorites) in terms of theme, mood and era (some stories are current, some not). The longer chapters ("Karen Makes Out", "Fire in the Hole" and "Tenkiller") take time to develop, but build excitement along the way and certainly deliver in the end. WHEN THE WOMEN COME OUT TO DANCE proved to be the perfect appetizer for me to start a steady diet of Elmore Leonard books. I'm hooked.

Wonderful collection of short stories....every one unique....every one a winner. The characters are memorable and the plots are absorbing. I was happy to find a video stream series "Justified" based on a character in one of the stories.

This is the old title. It is now Fire in the Hole. Chapter under the old title. It contains a short story that the TV show Justified is based on. I enjoyed it.

What else is there to say but "Elmore Leonard"? You're either familiar with his outstanding writing or you should be. Most will be familiar with the television series "Justified" and Leonard wrote the story the series is based on, so that should turn several new generations of readers on to him. (Leonard also wrote the stories for the John Travolta movie "Get Shorty" and a great old Burt Reynolds' movie "Stick") If you like great writing, if you're looking for great crime fiction, noir, and just good old fashion crime/criminal character stories, Elmore Leonard is your man.

I bought this alongside a copy of his western short stories. Those are interesting because you can see his voice emerging from what is otherwise generic pulp western. These stories are more in the vein of Justified and Get Shorty. Heavy on dialogue, grey in moral and deep on character, these are complex people who never start the things they do with the word "Suddenly." A particular highlight

for me was the dialogue driven tale of the woman whose house burned down, but every story in here has its merit and its own surprising depth.

Short Story, "Fire in the Hole" was the reason I bought this book. It's in there, but don't overlook the other great examples of Elmore Leonard's great writing.

As always, Elmore does NOT disappoint!!!

I got turned on to Elmore Leonard from watching the TV show "Justified" (which is fantastic, by the way). This book contains several short stories, including "Fire in the hole", which the TV-show is based on. Mr. Leonard paints a very vivid picture in a very easy to read way. His writing has a certain amount of 'cool' to it, and every character is well-defined and interesting in their own way. I did some research on him, and I see why he was a 'writer's writer'. His prose and pacing are to be admired. This will be the start of a journey through the rest of his works for me. I loved every bit of this book.

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