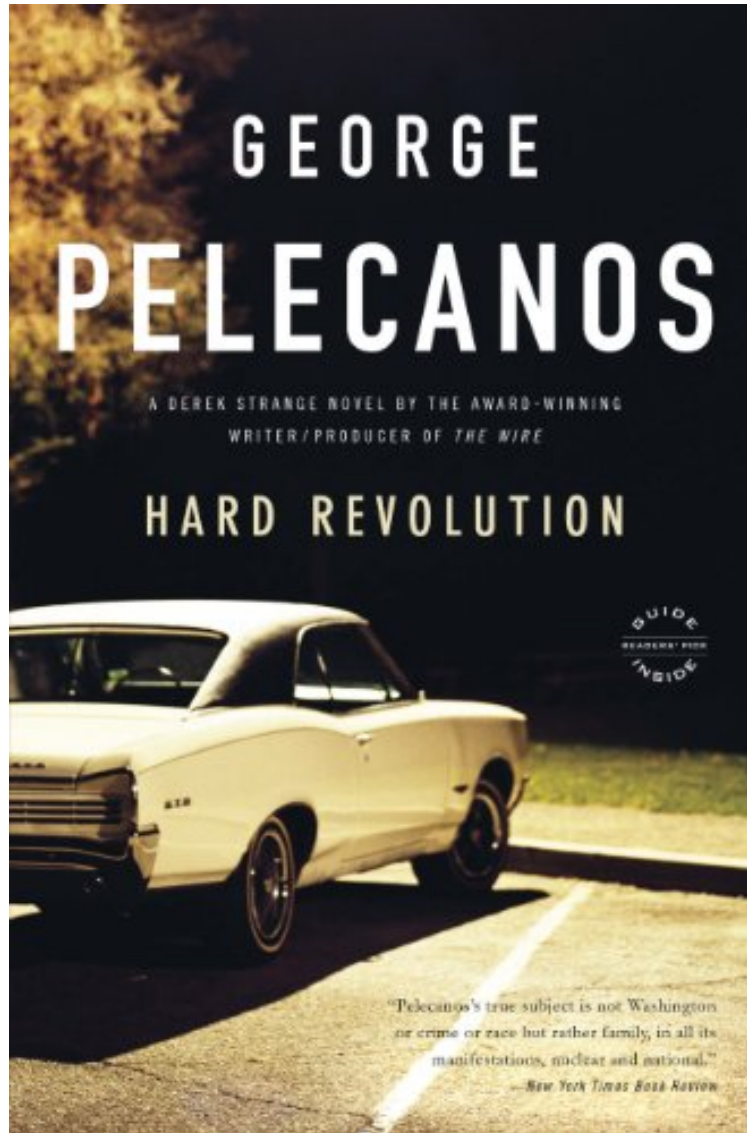


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Hard Revolution: A Novel (Pelecanos, George) (English Edition)

Von George P. Pelecanos

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Von George P. Pelecanos : Hard Revolution: A Novel (Pelecanos, George) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hard Revolution: A Novel (Pelecanos, George) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Misery of Daily Life and the Uproar of the SoulVon Gerhard MersmannThe writer George Pelecanos, recently involved in the production of the very successful HBO series The Wire, belongs to a generation which can be defined as crime driven realists. Most of his fiction is taken from crime scenes, the result of social devastation, lacking

education and a profane and established cruelty. This kind of literal production would be discriminated if it was reduced to crime fiction. Especially Pelecanos is known as a very naturalistic observer of social living conditions and their influencing force on human action. With *Hard Revolution* Pelecanos has chosen a more complex and traumatizing subject: The riots in Washington D.C. as an aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968. The book starts with an introduction of the main characters in 1959, when they were young and playing together. Two worlds were very clean separated by race, although there had been contact and some social relations. After a cut it goes on in 1968. We see Derek Strange, a coloured young man who decides to take the profession of a policeman and becomes a witness of the deteriorating development of former playmates, white guys, and his own brother. Most of them had served in Vietnam and came back with drug problems and a loss of values, now looking for the idle and cheap way of living. Derek suffers with his own family from the same problem his brother Dennis has. Dennis gets killed by black friends, who tried to arrange a robbery but the shop owner was warned by Dennis. White guys around Dominic kill a black guy in a hit and run set up, done without purpose and symbolizing a growing racial hate on the white side. At the end all cases get solved in the middle of the street fights and lootings which are followed by the broadcasted assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis. Especially the black quarters and suburbs in Washington D.C. become scenery of rioting young black folks, hundreds of police squads and later the National Guard sent by President Johnson restoring order by firm action. The story of the families acting differently which was told before the escalation of everything with the political uproar ending in criminal deeds, is creating a very well woven tension. All the time the reader knows that there will be no happy end, that the process of emancipation of the black people will be counteracted by the losers of the white working class milieu, that the pride and self esteem of the well doing and successfully operating young black people will be destroyed for a long time by the own fellows who prefer crime and destruction. With *Hard Revolution* Pelecanos has produced an intriguing picture of the year 1968 in America's capital, and his many notes on black music give the reader an underlining soundtrack of these shaking times, wild, but everything else than glorious.

Kurzbeschreibung In this epic showdown from "one of the best crime novelists alive" (Dennis Lehane), police officer Derek Strange hunts his brother's killer through a city erupting with rage. *Hard Revolution* is the novel George P. Pelecanos was always going to write sooner or later, the book in which his fascination with the casual choices that shape human life was going to interact fully with his interest in racial politics. Young Black cop Derek Strange has plenty of problems in the Washington of 1968--his elder brother Dennis keeps dangerous company and smokes too much dope, yet judges Derek harshly for his membership of a mostly white force radicals see as an army of occupation. Other men are making worse choices--Dominic, whom both Stranges knew when young, comes back from Vietnam with a habit of obedience and drifts into violent crime. And just around the corner is the death of Martin Luther King and the riots that follow it--riots that change the lives of Washington's whites and blacks forever. Pelecanos has always been an intelligent writer whose thrillers are not just about crime, but have a pronounced sense of how it fits into the way individuals negotiate all of their interactions with a broader community. His books simply get better--and his sense of the musical soundtrack to people's lives gets ever more acute as well. --Roz Kaveney.co.uk *Hard Revolution* is the novel George P. Pelecanos was always going to write sooner or later, the book in which his fascination with the casual choices that shape human life was going to interact fully with his interest in racial politics. Young Black cop Derek Strange has plenty of problems in the Washington of 1968--his elder brother Dennis keeps dangerous company and smokes too much dope, yet judges Derek harshly for his membership of a mostly white force radicals see as an army of occupation. Other men are making worse choices--Dominic, whom both Stranges knew when young, comes back from Vietnam with a habit of obedience and drifts into violent crime. And just around the corner is the death of Martin Luther King and the riots that follow it--riots that change the lives of Washington's whites and blacks forever. Pelecanos has always been an intelligent writer whose thrillers are not just about crime, but have a pronounced sense of how it fits into the way individuals negotiate all of their interactions with a broader community. His books simply get better--and his sense of the musical soundtrack to people's lives gets ever more acute as well. --Roz Kaveney