



The Power of the Dog

By Don Winslow

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From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Cartel* comes an explosive novel of the drug trade that takes you deep inside a world riddled with corruption, betrayal, and bloody revenge.

The prequel to *The Cartel*, and set about 10 years earlier, *The Power of the Dog* introduces a brilliant cast of characters. Art Keller is an obsessive DEA agent. The Barrera brothers are heirs to a drug empire. Nora Hayden is a jaded teenager who becomes a high-class hooker. Father Parada is a powerful and incorruptible Catholic priest. Callan is an Irish kid from Hell's kitchen who grows up to be a merciless hit man. And they are all trapped in the world of the Mexican drug Federación. From the streets of New York City to Mexico City and Tijuana to the jungles of Central America, this is the war on drugs like you've never seen it.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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The Power of the Dog By Don Winslow Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #22447 in eBooks
- Published on: 2005-04-26
- Released on: 2005-04-26
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The war on drugs is powerfully dramatized in Winslow's ambitious, dense and gritty latest (after 1999's *California Fire and Life*). Art Keller is a brilliant DEA agent who sometimes breaks the rules to serve justice. Adan Barrera is an urbane drug dealer whose charm masks his brutality. Nora Hayden is a high-class call girl whose heart is in the right place. And Sean Callan is a taciturn mob hit man, a stone-cold killer who just wants out of the life. Winslow follows these four characters and assorted extras as they cross paths over three decades in the international drug trade, from Keller's first encounter with Barrera in 1970s Mexico, through the drug cartels' corruption of government officials in the U.S. and Mexico governments, to a final showdown on the U.S. border in 1999. Winslow's depth of research and unflinching attention to detail give the story both heft and immediacy, and his staccato, present-tense prose shifts easily among wildly disparate settings and multiple points of view. A complex plot, well-drawn characters and plenty of double-crossing make this a thinking person's narco-thriller. *Agent, Jimmy Vines. Author tour. (May)*

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From [Booklist](#)

Winslow (*California Fire and Life*, 1999) once again offers a crime novel with breakneck pacing, a sardonic worldview, and a teeming cast of superheated characters. He also displays bold ambition as he takes on the war on drugs, moving his extremely violent story between the DEA, the Latin American drug cartels, and the Mob. At the center of the novel is DEA agent Art Keller, who makes a fatal mistake as an idealistic rookie. On his first posting, to Culiacan, Mexico, capital of the drug trade, Art befriends the Barrera brothers. Their friendship will eventually turn into a personal vendetta of epic proportions when it is revealed that their uncle, Miguel, a member of the state police, is a drug kingpin. The cast also features an Irish hit man, a call girl, and a priest, as Winslow feverishly indicts the U.S. war on drugs, tracing flawed policies that have cost DEA agents their lives yet failed to stop the flow of drugs across the border. Intricate plotting and manic energy power this page-turner. *Joanne Wilkinson*

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Review

"An express train of a thriller that cannot be put down. . . . One of this year's finest novels." —*The Baltimore Sun* "A pit bull of a book. Once unleashed, this thriller . . . charges and attacks without mercy, shredding anyone in its path. . . . A well-tuned plot, driving rhythm, intelligence and a touch of politics. . . . A page turner." —*The Washington Post* "Powerful. . . . A heartbreaking chronicle of the drug wars between the U.S. and Mexico, which is biblical in its dramatic scope and in the classic beauty of its prose rumbling in the background like heavenly thunder." —*The Chicago Tribune* "A rippingly good thriller. . . . It fumes, it smokes, it burns; it soars, it pitches, it cascades along." —*The Dallas Morning News* "The war on drugs is powerfully dramatized in Winslow's ambitious, dense and gritty latest . . . Winslow's depth of research and unflinching attention to detail give the story both heft and immediacy, and his staccato, present-tense prose shifts easily among wildly disparate settings and multiple points of view. A complex plot, well-drawn characters and plenty of double-crossing make this a thinking person's narco-thriller." —*Publishers Weekly* "This book comes at you like a champion boxer, deft and probing, and bristling with menace. Aiming for both the head and the gut, it connects solidly with every punch." —Dan Fesperman, author of *The Warlord's Son* "The *Power of the Dog* is the most compelling crime novel I've read in several years. It's sharply written, vertiginously fast, and best of all it's about something. In the unholy trinity of narcotics, dollars and politics Winslow has located our heart of darkness. This is a spectacular novel, disturbing and unforgettable." —T. Jefferson Parker, author of *California Girl*

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