

Power in the Blood

By Greg Matthews

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Torn apart by fate, orphan siblings Clay, Drew, and Zoe leave New York in 1869 and set out on separate quests that will take them thousands of miles into the untamed wilderness frontier and, ultimately, reunite them amid the savage splendor of the Old West. Reprint. *PW.*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Matthews here confirms the storytelling gifts and knowledge of the bad, lawless Old West that he demonstrated in Heart of the Country . This is a spellbinding, tragicomic, rip-snorting and deeply moving novel about three sibling orphans who are wrenchingly separated in 1869 and are accidentally, joyfully--but briefly--reunited 16 years later in Colorado. The trio--Clay, Zoe and Drew Dugan--board a westward-bound "orphan train" in upstate New York and disembark to meet foster parents in three different states. Clay later kills the farmhands who murder his kind foster parents and becomes a sheriff, then a bounty hunter. Zoe, brutally raped by her foster father, a strict farmer, gives birth to Omie, born with a strange blue birthmark across her face. Omie's paranormal powers--she can foresee events, read minds, teleport objects and converse with spirits--will protect Zoe in her loveless marriage to Colorado mining magnate Leo Brannan, a politically ambitious monster who ditches Zoe for a gold-digging prostitute and who hires a transvestite assassin to deprive Zoe of her share of their fortune. Drew runs away from his foster father, a religious fanatic, is rescued by Apaches, and becomes a whorehouse attendant, then a bank robber. The siblings' reunion leads to a bizarre train robbery, part of Zoe's revenge on Leo. Despite too many improbable coincidences and recurring episodes of lurid melodrama, this gripping story provides compelling commentary on blind ambition, murder, sex, euthanasia, true grit, the vagaries of fate and the self-destructiveness at the heart of America.
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From Kirkus Reviews
A family epic set in the Wild West during the decades following the Civil War, with a telekinetic twist--the latest from Western specialist Matthews (One True Thing, 1989, etc.) is big, bloody, and breezy, but runs out of gas by the end. Three orphaned Dugans--two brothers and a sister--are sent from New York to the Midwest and adopted by different families, in spite of their wish to remain together. They vow to reunite quickly, but circumstances conspire against them. Clay, the eldest, finds a good home as the son of an educated farmer; but when the man is murdered by the brother of his hired hand, Clay becomes a killer himself in revenge, receiving a terrible wound through his cheeks in the process. Brother Drew fares little better, as his adopted father hears voices that tell him to take his family to the desert, where his mother dies of thirst and he barely escapes playing Isaac to his raving dad's Abraham. Meanwhile, sister Zoe is raped by her new father, gives birth to a girl with a vivid blue mark covering half her face, and is turned out to fend for herself and her child. And that's only the beginning. Clay turns into a humorless lawman and bounty hunter, Drew into a bank and train robber, and Zoe becomes the wife of the richest man in the West, having found herself a fantastic vein of gold high in the Colorado Rockies with the help of daughter Omie's unerring second sight. After much bloodshed and unhappiness, the three cross paths again, joining forces to deny Zoe's faithless, murdering husband his grandest conceit: a massive elk made entirely of her gold. Unfortunately, death isn't far behind them, and the Dugans are quickly eliminated after dumping the elk into a chasm. Redolent with frontier flavors, but the violence and menace, and even the supernatural effects, ultimately prove more gratuitous than gripping. -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kathryn Sheffield:

The book Power in the Blood make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading through a book Power in the Blood for being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open and read a guide Power in the Blood. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this guide?

Anna Gann:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't know what type you should start with. This Power in the Blood is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Emily Sandlin:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book Power in the Blood it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

Jeanne Pratt:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Power in the Blood, you could enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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