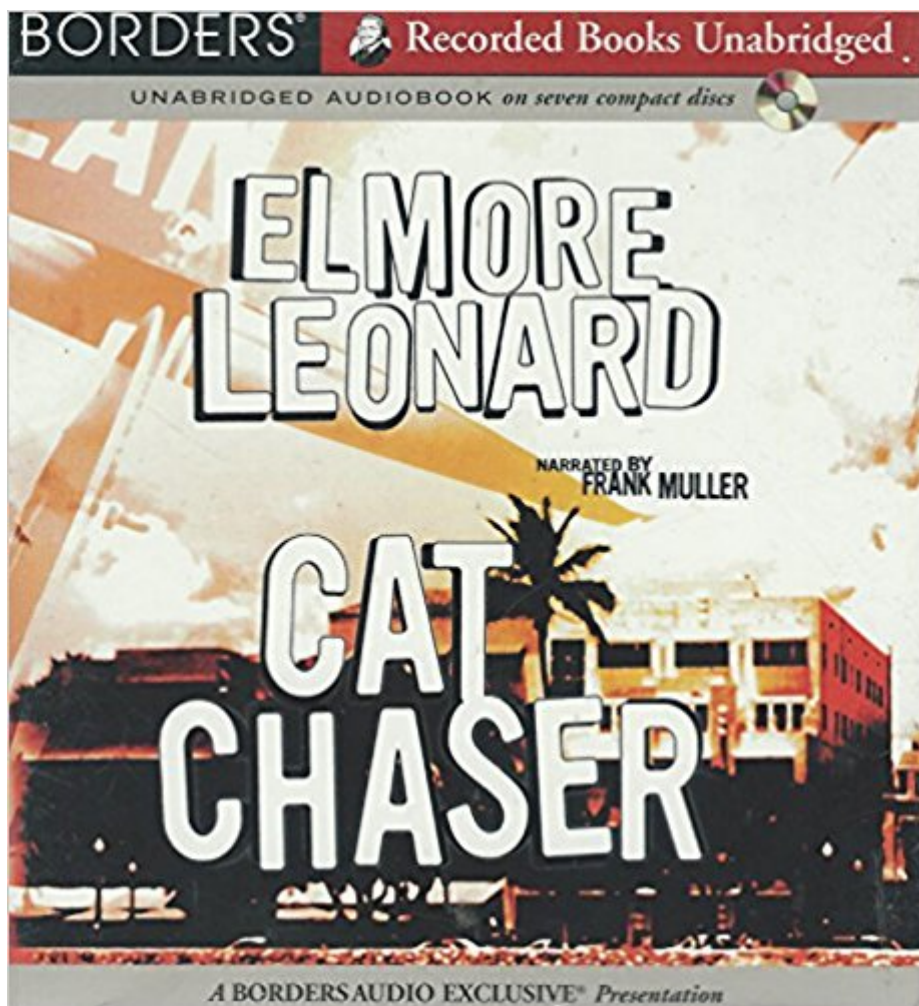




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Cat Chaser



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I should start off by saying that I am not the biggest Elmore Leonard fan. I love his writing style, but I usually don't care much for his stories or his characters. Not that I hate them, just that I don't find them particularly interesting. Having said that...Cat Chaser is weak by almost any standard. It starts off with George Moran, an ex-Marine, deciding that he wants to visit Santo Domingo. Why? For closure, since he fought a war there. Okay, whatever. We'll discover he's EXTREMELY sentimental. Anyway, while he's there he decides to look for some kid that tried to shoot him 16 years ago. He puts an ad in a newspaper, which just happens to get picked up by a radio station, making Moran famous. Why does any of this matter? It doesn't help him find that (now grown) kid, but it does give a con-artist a chance to step in. So the kid is a plot device; got it. Meanwhile, Moran meets up with a former...let's call her girlfriend, Mary. Moran knew Mary a few years ago, but he hadn't seen her since his divorce until she just happens to show up in Santo Domingo on the same day as George. So they have a nice few days in bed and try to decide how Mary can leave her husband. She can't just come out and leave him, you see, because then he wouldn't realize it's all because he's a creep. So she decides to wait until her departure will best advance the plot. And the con-artist, well, they both know he's a con-artist but still keep him around because...actually, there's no viable reason at all for them to keep him around, they just do. Anyway, George and Mary both head back to Miami, where they part and 15 minutes later -- literally -- start missing each other. Moran's such a softie. He also owns a motel that never has any guests. But it serves as a place that all the secondary characters can hang out so plot things can happen. So we get detectives and con-artists

and ex-generals and bodyguards and lots of other people getting embroiled in a plot that wouldn't even be possible if a single coincidence failed to materialize, or if the characters ever made a rational decision. I'm sorry, am I asking too much for middle-aged people to act like adults instead of love-struck teenagers? There simply isn't a believable moment in the whole story (that was just the first third). Thankfully that story goes by fairly quickly with Leonard's natural flair for storytelling. But this is a weak entry in the Elmore Leonard canon.

I'm still trying to get used to not having an actual book in my hands when I read, but it is convenient to have my complete library available in my little lightweight Kindle. I liked this book, I liked the characters and I really like the way Elmore Leonard writes. So I didn't think it fair to penalize him because of something the publisher did. This is the second EL book I've read out out by this publishing house and they both have 30% of filler at the end, identical each time, giving short synopses about every book Leonard ever wrote, every book made into a movie, the same interview he gave a guy who's name I've already forgotten, etc. So what's the big deal? I can just flip through all that to the end, right? But when my Kindle tells me I've still got 30% of the book left to read, and then it suddenly ends, it feels like the rug is being yanked out under my feet. I just never feel prepared for it. Maybe it's just me, but I like to know I'm coming to the end because I read it differently then. Do any other readers feel like I do about that? I paid full Kindle ebook price for this novel, so I'm not looking a gift horse in the mouth. I just wish the publisher would either put all this at the front of the book or take it out altogether.

Leonard is an amazing writer. Funny, intriguing and outlandish most of his books are without comparison. This book left me unimpressed and irritated. I did not care about the characters. Too much book for not enough enjoyable plot. That being said, I miss him and hopes he entertains heaven as much as he has all of us.

Bought for friend

I thought I'd read all of Elmore Leonard's novels, but Cat Chaser is a new one for me. I'm about a third of the way though, and it has been a real struggle. A few of his books have been too light or even silly, but I've never come on one that it's been difficult to finish. I'll keep going though since this is Elmore Leonard, and maybe it will get better

Another home run by Elmore

Classic Elmore Leonard! He's the man! What a world he creates, with such ordinary flawed characters who emerge and survive. Absolutely love him! And such spare writing! He cuts through the crap!

Everything Elmore Leonard writes is golden.

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