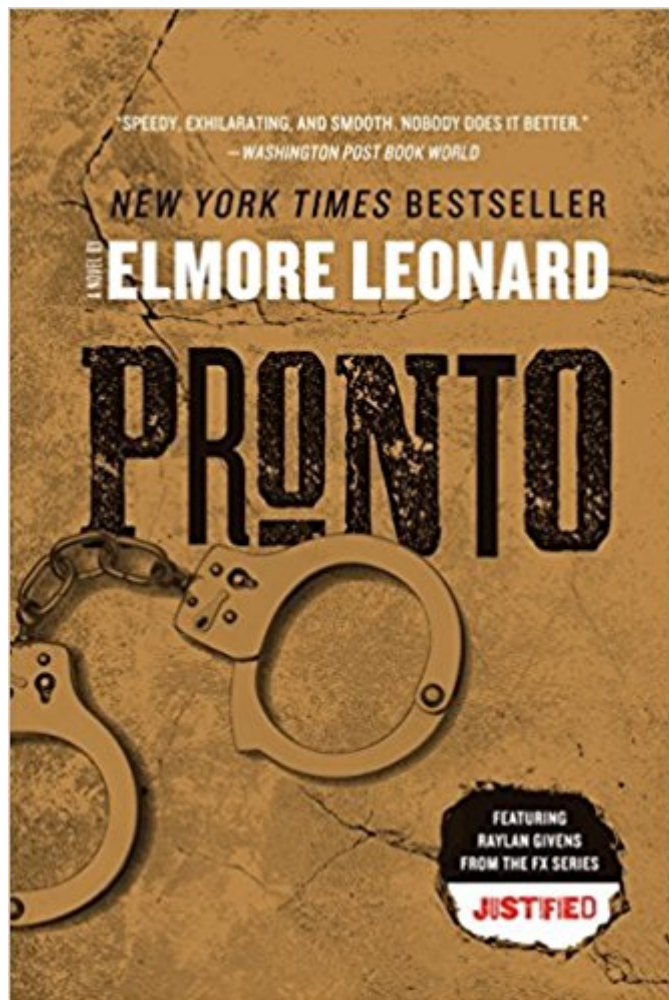


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Pronto: A Novel



Synopsis

“Speedy, exhilarating, and smooth. Nobody does it better.” —Washington Post
“The man knows how to grab you” and Pronto is one of the best grabbers in years.” —Entertainment Weekly
Fans of U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens of the hit TV series Justified are in for a major treat. The unstoppable manhunter with the very itchy trigger finger stars in Pronto, a crime fiction gem from the one and only Elmore Leonard, “the greatest crime writer of our time, perhaps ever” (New York Times Book Review). The Grand Master justifies the overwhelming acclaim he has received over the course of his remarkable career with an electrifying thriller that sends the indomitable Raylan racing to Italy on the trail of a fugitive bookie who’s hiding from the vengeful Miami mob. The legendary Leonard, whom the Seattle Times lauds as the “King Daddy of crime writers,” proves that all comparisons to American noir icons John D. MacDonald, Dashiell Hammett, and James M. Cain are well deserved with this tale of very dirty doings and extremely dangerous men coming together in the birthplace of Puccini, Garibaldi, and La Cosa Nostra.

Book Information

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Crime > Organized Crime

Customer Reviews

In the world of Elmore Leonard novels, cops and criminals get by with a grudging respect for each other’s capabilities: Harry had been arrested by Buck Torres a half-dozen times or so; they knew each other pretty well and were friends. Not socially, Harry had never met Buck’s wife, but friends in the way they trusted one another and always had time to talk about other things than what they did for a living. Right now, 66-year-old Harry Arno’s in trouble. In order to get at his boss, Jimmy Cap,

the feds told Jimmy that Harry's skimming off the sports book he runs, the idea being that Harry will testify in exchange for protection from Tommy Bucks (a.k.a. the Zip), Jimmy's enforcer. But Harry's got a few tricks up his sleeve. Then when a straight-shooting U.S. Marshall decides to spend his vacation tracking Harry down, all hell breaks loose. Set in Miami, Florida, and Rapallo, Italy, Pronto is another brilliantly executed combination of suspense and black humor from the master of crime fiction. --Ron Hogan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From sly title through breath-stopping climax to funny wrap-up, readers will relish Leonard's (Maximum Bob) latest roller coaster ride. South Miami Beach bookie Harry Arno has been skimming from his mafia bosses for years. After a ruthless FBI man spreads a rumor to that effect, in an attempt to get Harry to testify against his boss, "Jimmy Cap," the 66-year-old bookie splits early on his long-planned retirement in Rapallo, Italy. Rapallo is soon mobbed, so to speak, as Harry is joined by his girlfriend, his new bodyguard, Jimmy Cap's Italian-born enforcer "the Zip," a handful of Italian thugs and a deputy U.S. Marshal, Raylan Givens. All engage in a deadly dance before Raylan manages to get most of the good guys back to Miami, where the dance begins again. Leonard's spare language and propulsive plotting still leave room for expositions of Sicilian slang, gamblers' lingo and Ezra Pound's private life. His colorful characters work together splendidly, especially the top trio: Harry, whose drinking, posturing and willfulness endanger everybody; the lethal Zip, who models himself, literally, on Frank Costello; and Raylan, whose Stetson and apparent goofiness mask a hard past in bloody Harlan County, Ky. The only problem with the book is that it ends. BOMC and QPB selection; major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One of the absolute best, funniest, and entertaining reads you will ever feast your eyes and thoughts on. This is one of those I cannot put it down books. You say to yourself over and over, just few more chapters and I will go to bed and get some sleep. Sure...And you find yourself still reading at two thirty in A.M. I am Justified junkie and I am so happy to have read this novel . I love that they took this great character and made him and some of his cohorts into a fantastic TV mini-series. Pass this book by and you have missed some great riveting entertainment.If you accomplish nothing more in life you should make a real attempt at reading all the Elmore Leonard books you can get your hands on but be warned it may place a real strain on your marriage or relationship.

PRONTO by Elmore LeonardI've never read Elmore Leonard before, but I am a huge fan of the TV

series "Justified," which is based on his short story, "Fire In The Hole." The novel "Pronto," is the first novel in which Leonard introduces the Raylan Givens character (main character in the TV series). With Leonard's recent passing, I decided to dive into those novels which featured this character. Leonard had a laid back writing style that was easy and enjoyable to read. In this novel, the story is told through each of the character's perspectives, allowing the reader to see all events from multiple viewpoints. Although it is definitely Raylan's story, it is also equally the story of the other characters, all interwoven into an exciting adventure, racing from the US to Italy and back. Although I haven't read enough of Leonard's work featuring the Raylan character to be sure, I believe the final action of the novel is the set up for "Fire In The Hole," providing the reason for Raylan's transfer back to the Harlan County, KY offices of the Marshall Service. Like most novel series characters who jump to the small screen (well, some home screens aren't so small anymore, are they?), Raylan's backstory in the novels is a bit different than in the series. Winona (ex-wife) is less important and certainly described less attractively than Natalie Zea, who plays her in the tv series! Also, in the TV series, they have no children (until the 4th season, anyway), but he has two sons in the novels. However, the basic character is the same, for the most part, and I'm looking forward to reading the next novel in this short series, "Riding The Rap." No problems with editing, proofing, etc. A thoroughly enjoyable read as Raylan tries to keep the rascally Harry Arno and Arno's girlfriend Joyce, alive and out of the grasp of Tommy Bucks (aka The Zip), and the rest of the gangsters out to make sure all three return home in a pine box.

This book is classic Elmore Leonard which is crime fiction at it's best. Leonard's best characters are flawed and often leave you not sure of whether you want to cheer them on or not but you still cannot look away. In "Pronto" the protagonist is an aging bookie who finds himself on the wrong side of his undesirable business associates and decides to make a run for it. The story winds from there and, like Leonard's better books, it held my interest until the inevitable ending. "Swag" is still my favorite but this one is worth reading.

If you're interested in crime fiction, and you've never read any Elmore Leonard, what are you waiting for? If you have, then you don't need to be told this is worth reading. Savor it. Only problem is, the author is gone and there won't be any new stories. Just have to keep re-reading the ones he left, I guess.

Harry Arno, a Miami bookie, is set up by the feds in an attempt to get more information about Arno's

mobster boss. Arno's been arrested but his life is in danger. He's being watched by Federal Marshal Raylan Givens but he gives Givens the slip and flees the country. Raylan goes after him, intent on keeping Arno safe and returning him to justice. Pronto by Elmore Leonard is a wild ride from Miami to the countryside of Italy. Filled with fun mob characters and plenty of gun slinging action, Raylan Givens is introduced as the cowboy-hat wearing, slow talking, fast drawing Federal Marshal. Pronto was different from my normal reads but I enjoyed Leonard's writing style. Filled with action, genuine dialogue, and entertaining characters Pronto was a fun diversion.

Been meaning to re-read Pronto ever since Justified came on the air; finally got around to it. The hat is different, and the book's Raylan is older and has two kids, but the attitude and tone will be familiar to fans of the show. Leonard goes on a bit much about Ezra Pound "unusual for him to violate his most famous dictum like that" but that's a cold sore on Charlize Theron; the rest is a blast. Written in the early 90s when Leonard was at the peak of his power, I'd share a favorite line or scene, but there are too many. One of my favorite Leonards.

I have read a few Leonard books; need to read more. PRONTO by Elmore Leonard is book one introducing Raylan Givens for those that don't watch JUSTIFIED on TV. Givens is a U.S. Marshall, modern day marshal, not the wild west version. Marshall Givens is out after Harry Arno a bookie in trouble with the Miami mob. Givens goes all the way to Italy to get his man. In this one we meet Givens of course and also more great Leonard characters. PRONTO shows why Leonard is considered a great writer. It is a near perfect first book in a series. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

In this story U.S. Marshall Rayland Givens is working in South Florida and takes off to Italy on his own time, to follow a fugitive who has given him the slip twice. He shoots a couple bad guys along the way, finds romance and ends with his famous, "I give you 24 hours to get out of town" ultimatum followed by the showdown at a Miami hotel restaurant. The writing is paired down, dialogue and action heavy. An easy, breezy read. If you've read other Elmore Leonard stories or have enjoyed the F/X Justified series with Timothy Olyphant. You're going to want to read this book.

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