

Edge of Dark Water By Joe R. Lansdale It was gathering flies and starting to smell and all I could think of was how she was always clean and pretty.

Sue Ellen's daddy and her uncle both want to just throw the body back in the river but the kids won't let them. My grandma on Daddy's side always said I didn't act like a girl at all.

Mama if you had a friend got drowned and you found her body and she always wanted to go to Hollywood to be a movie star would it be wrong to dig her up after she was buried burn her to ashes take them down to Gladewater in a jar catch a bus and take her out to Hollywood? Yeah. Poor May Lynn! An East Texas girl with only one dress to wear she had big dreams of being a star but she ended up dead in the muddy river her body weighted down by a Singer sewing machine. Lansdale Mia nonna quella vecchietta malefica che per fortuna è morta sosteneva che papà avesse quella che lei chiamava la «Vista» che possedesse delle doti soprannaturali tali da fargli vedere nel futuro o qualcosa del genere. Sue Ellen è una sedicenne che vive col brutale e ambiguo padre Don e la madre Helen quest'ultima dipendente da un medicinale che la rende apatica ma che le consente di sopportare violenza e degrado familiare. Per questo motivo dopo che la ragazza viene trovata annegata nel fiume con una pesante macchina per cucire legata alle caviglie decidono di dissotterrare il corpo bruciarlo e portarne le ceneri ad Hollywood. Lansdale è un avvincente racconto di formazione ambientato in Texas durante il periodo della grande depressione lungo il fiume Sabine con protagonisti tre giovani e le loro sconvolgenti avventure in una splendida storia dove amicizia povertà razzismo ed orrore la fanno da padroni. Quasi una rilettura in chiave pulp ed orrorifica delle avventure di Tom Sawyer ed Huckleberry Finn di Mark Twain; non a caso il terribile Skunk che dà la caccia al terzetto di memorabili protagonisti in fuga verso la dorata California ed alla ricerca di un tesoro nascosto insieme alla madre di Sue Ellen unitasi al gruppo per sfuggire alle violenze coniugali e da una vita stordita dall'alcool e dalle medicine non è altro che una sorta di 'Joe l'Indiano' da incubo una delle più spaventose e spietate carogne di cui abbia mai avuto il piacere di leggere. Un gran bel libro che si legge in fretta e tiene incollati fino alla fine ma nel quale finale e sorprese sono abbastanza prevedibili ed i cui protagonisti avrebbero necessitato di qualche pagina in più relativa alla loro caratterizzazione. Non che avessi voglia di aggiungere l'omicidio alla lista delle mie attività criminose ma ancora meno avevo voglia di essere ammazzata cosa che poteva benissimo rientrare nei piani della vecchia. Lansdale Is there a more prolific writer of westerns than Joe Lansdale? Endlessly inventive Lansdale has both a series featuring Hap & Leonard and a slew of standalones in which he shares the way even good people can get themselves in a bad way in a world with evil in it. She lives in a small southern town and has two friends her age: a white gay boy named Terry who is reluctant to let anyone know his inclinations and Jinx a black girl friend since childhood. We get a bad feeling but mostly we sense any sixteen-year-olds ought to pack up & leave that place so when the kids decide that's what they're going to do we're onboard. Lansdale always seems to get the tone right however and when there is a chance for evil to thrive he makes us question whether or not that's the way we want things to play out. The language he uses is country and can be extremely descriptive if not entirely proper: "Expectations is a little like fat birds—it's better to kill them in case they flew away" or "certain feelings rose to the surface like dead carp. I don't think I need to state how difficult it is to create new characters new language and new situations every year (sometimes more than once a year? is it possible?) and hit the bell each time. Lansdale I must alert you do you smell something in the air? No? Good! As that would have been a sign that the myth of the Skunk Man is real his presence is known by a skunk like smell. Sue Ellen's mother is a woman who needs to wise up and take care of her daughter her problem is most of the time when at home with her husband shes under the influence of an alcoholic concoction called Laudanum. Her two best friends and her Cure-All sipping mama accompany her in this road-trip tale and although the author takes great pains to 'specifically tell' the reader that the male friend has perfect diction grammar and a huge vocabulary he slips up occasionally and has the articulate young man toss off ain'ts like the two girls in the story. The drunken lazy teeth-missing wife-beating

daughter-groping black-besmirching gay-taunting fish-dynamiting redneck daddy might seem a bit of a stereotype as we meet him in the very first chapter. he starts his role like this: Redneck Daddy is using big ole tow-sacks of green walnuts to poison fish in a slow turn of the Sabine River (catching dinner with a hook and pole takes too long). He is making his daughter and her sissy bestie haul out the half-dead fish along with the big heavy bags of walnuts as they can be used again downriver to kill some more. The men are too busy gathering the dead fish and drinking to even ride the kids into town to contact the sheriff so the boy is forced to walk all the way in to get law-enforcement out there. We get - hey nice to meet ya lemme explain how we lived through the dust bowl and went off to pick oranges in Cali and rode boxcars to get here (insert *The Grapes of Wrath* summary here). Add to the clunky plotline numerous repeated gross descriptions of axe attacks the disinterment of bodies (with parts falling off and out of) pus filled infections that squirt you in the face when lanced eyeballs removed with a spoon amputations disembowelments and you might find a poor imitation of a young Quentin Tarantino. The initial and final straw - that bugged me for the entirety of the novel - was that there are aspects to the story (published in 2012) that seemed like a plot-line rip off of Mark Childress' *Crazy in Alabama*- a southern book that I adored and was written in 1993. He has received the Edgar Award eight Bram Stoker Awards the Horror Writers Association Lifetime Achievement Award the British Fantasy Award the Grinzani Cavour Prize for Literature the Herodotus Historical Fiction Award the Inkpot Award for Contributions to Science Fiction and Fantasy and many others. He has received the Edgar Award eight Bram Stoker Awards the Horror Writers Association Lifetime Achievement Award the British Fantasy Award the Grinzani Cavour Prize for Literature the Herodotus Historical Fiction Award the Inkpot Award for Contributions to Science Fiction and Fantasy and many others. The film adaptation of his novel *Cold in July* was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and the Sundance Channel has adapted his Hap Leonard novels for television. it's a little east texas huck finn-ette story about a bunch of misfits who take to a raft after their friend is found at the bottom of the river with her hands wrapped in wire and attached to a sewing machine. turns out she has a map to some buried cash so they decide to take the money and her ashes to scatter her in hollywood which is where she would have been headed had she not been you know murdered. so all the misfit toys escape their demons and go on a river trip; the girl fleeing her momma's laudanum addiction and her father's grabby hands the tough black chick getting outta racistville the pretty boy homosexual. i just never felt particularly intrigued by the story but it is probably because i have read better villains in authors like mccarthy or any number of crime fiction set in impoverished locales. Lansdale Definitely not my favourite of all the Lansdale novels I've read - that honour goes jointly to 'Sunset and Sawdust' and 'The Thicket' - but his work never fails to entertain and to make me giggle. 5 stars Sue Ellen and her friends are helping her daddy fish (poison the fish with green walnuts because her daddy is lazy) and they end up finding the body of one of Sue Ellen's friends in the Sabine River. She has been tied to an old sewing machine so that she doesn't come back up and I ought to stay home learning how to keep a garden and shell peas and do women's work. Grandma would lean forward in her rocker look at me with no love in her gooey eyes and say Sue Ellen how you gonna get a husband you can't cook or clean worth a flip and don't never do your hair up? Sue Ellen gives no fucks. The main character Sue Ellen and her best friend Terry are out fishing with her father and uncle one day when they make a startling discovery that will change the direction of all their lives. Sue Ellen and Terry immediately tell their friend Jinx and the three of them decide they need to get out of their small town before they end up beat down and used up just like everyone else around them. It's getting crowded in here what with all the kids King has written the kids from Robert McCammon's books all the kids from *Summer of Night* by Dan Simmons the child narrator from *I CAPTURE THE CASTLE* the family from *BETTY* by Tiffany McDaniel and the list goes on and on and on. Comparisons to *HUCKLEBERRY FINN* and *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* are not far off-there are strong themes of poverty classism racism and that sad truth of how some children are just unwanted burdens or collateral damage.

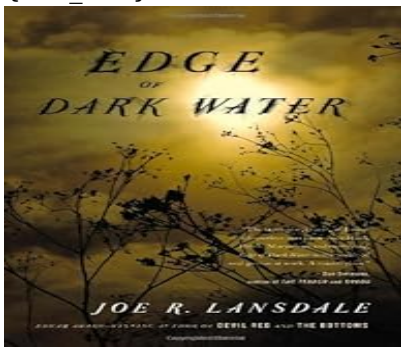
Twain and Harper Lee and it will last the course of time as a classic alongside 'To Kill a Mockingbird', Lansdale remembers that author's name because he is about to break down genre barriers and surpasses tags of fitting into certain book readers categories, A book for both the male and female reader alike that will make a mark on all ages down to young teens as a must read for 2012, This is definitely one to make my best of published work in 2012 list so early on in the year: A river story that once you embark upon the tale you will not want to finish and gone on and on until the sea ends. The story is set back in the Depression so finding a body was not the big deal it has become today. Her dead friend May Lynn had always wanted to go to Hollywood and become a star but ends up just getting tossed in a pauper's grave the next day. The kids can't stand that thought so they decide to dig up and burn May Lynn's body and to take her ashes to Hollywood: You have Sue Ellen who at sixteen pretty much takes care of herself. Her mama stays in bed most of the time with her Cure-All and her daddy is just pure mean especially once he starts drinking: strange as that sounds the above paragraph is in a nutshell the plot of this book: Now her three friends will risk just about everything to get her to that promised land known as California. They'll face cretins snakes whirlpools and a legendary monster who may just be real after all: If this book were the first novel by a brand new author I think critics would be hailing it as a great effort by a promising talent. Since this is Lansdale however expectations are higher and this is certainly not his best work: It's a fun adventure with great suspense and I was never completely sure what would happen next, Though I went Ewwww! several times there were some surprisingly sweet moments as well: This is not a fantastic book but it's a pleasant and entertaining enough way to spend a few hours on a muggy summer afternoon. Per come la vedo io fosse stato vero ci avrebbe pensato due volte prima di maneggiare la dinamite da sbronzo e rimetterci due dita: La cosa che m'infastidiva era che mamma credeva di meritarsele le botte. Era convinta che fosse l'uomo a comandare e che a lui spettasse sempre l'ultima parola, La giovane Sue Ellen ed i suoi amici l'effeminato Terry Thomas e la linguacciuta nera Jinx Smith sapevano da sempre che May Lynn desiderava diventare una stella del cinema. Mio padre tentò di convincermi a sedere vicino a lui al caldo ma io rimasi dov'ero, Gli piaceva allungare le mani nei posti bui e questo mi faceva sentire strana e a disagio: Jinx mi aveva detto che non era vero ma non ci voleva certo lei a spiegarmelo dentro di me so che era una cosa brutta. Se May Lynn non potrà mai più diventare una star che almeno i suoi resti vengano sparsi per la terra dei suoi sogni: - Non sono una bambina - risposi abbassando la testa e strizzando gli occhi per difendermi dalla luce, - Ah be' - disse l'agente muovendo il raggio di luce fin sui miei piedi, Non saprei spiegarlo ma quella luce che mi percorreva dall'alto in basso non era molto diversa da una lingua calda e gialla e mi venne quasi da vomitare, Dobbiamo andare subito a controllare potrebbe essere il nostro colpo di fortuna. - La fortuna o te la cerchi con un piano o ti arriva addosso per caso - risposi. Io e Jinx non avevamo fazzoletti e potevamo solo strizzarci la faccia con la mano cercando di pensare a qualcos'altro. Comunque entrammo tutte e due nel buco e tirammo fuori May Lynn. Nel farlo un braccio le si staccò e dovetti tornare fuori a vomitare per la seconda volta: Mentre pulivamo con la coda di un occhio controllavo la vecchia e con quella dell'altro guardavo l'ascia e l'accetta: A parte questo una lettura se la merita indiscutibilmente se siete fan del prolifico scrittore texano, In this novel published in 2012 by Mulholland Books 16-year-old Sue Ellen is narrating, Lansdale is so natural in his use of skin color that he can teach us things we never knew we needed to know. Sue Ellen Terry and Jinx discover the town's beauty May Lynn killed and submerged in the river tied by the ankle with wire attached to a sewing machine, None of the grown men in the town seem to want to pursue the matter but merely shove the body in a casket and cover up the evidence, They're floating by the way on a wooden raft and along the way they pick up more than one who decides to go with them: Seems like practically everyone who knows their plans—to go to Hollywood—wants to go with them if not the whole way at least far enough to get out of town: There's a posse of folks more than one following behind looking for them so it gets hectic and dangerous and the hangers-on fall off one by one, After all this is kind of a crime novel kind of a police procedural kind of a mystery but it's got heart...more heart than we've come to expect of the genre: I like the way people think and make choices that seem fair and right and good, As far as I

know there isn't anyone else doing this kind of crossover writing with lessons on race human nature and on right and wrong: He is not religious: "I got misery enough in my life without adding religion to it" says a character in one of his later novels: " The Hap & Leonard series has been made into a TV series starring Michael Kenneth Williams and James Purefoy. It is a rich stew of southern storytelling darkened by reality but leavened with laughter, A legend or a myth be he what you please he is a character that Lansdale has created in this story of fiction. Skunk man presents death a bogeyman like character that one shall tell tales of and our main characters in this story hope to be not true, Sue Ellen a young woman sixteen years old she is a gem of a gal a diamond amongst the rough, Lansdale writes through her eyes he walks you through her thoughts and uncensored point of view of her harsh and brutal environment. With might and main Sue Ellen and her companions will embark on an journey an odyssey of survival and endurance, They need to do a deed out of goodness of their hearts to a departed soul a soul that was young talented and beautiful whom died under queer circumstances, Also an important reason for their journey is to escape from brutal hands of evil that men do. A window of opportunity opens up along the course of things that present a chance of bigger pockets happier hearts and greener pastures, The other equally wonderful character and gal is Jinx a young black girl who is full of courage and heart needed in the by gone days of the deep south, Lansdale writes with realism of the South with a prose that's has vigor heaped with heart, He immerses you into the heart of darkness with characters that pack plenty heart and gusto. These characters are a rare occurrence to find but when you do you should be the best of friends ones you could trust your life with: What presents for me great story telling are character's that leave a mark coupled with clear and simple writing packed with realism: Lansdale's story is reminiscent of the works of Faulkner and this wasn't anything that should have happened to her, It wasn't like in the books I had read and the times I had been to the picture show and people died, They always looked pretty much like they were when they were alive except sleepy, It wasn't any different for a dead person than a shot-dead squirrel or a hog with a cut throat hanging over the scalding pot. "

"Laudanum= an alcoholic solution containing morphine prepared from opium and firmly used as a narcotic painkiller. " An interview i had with the great writer in March 2012 featured @ <http://more2read.com/review/interview-with-joe-r-lansdale/>The review is also featured at my webpage here along with small documentary on the author. Lansdale Imma quote Clairee's famous line from that play set in the magnolia-dotted small Louisiana town: if you don't have anything nice to say. Lansdale seems to be loved by lots of southern literary fans but Im sorry to say that this second of his books that Ive read doesn't count me as one of them: The story is narrated by a 16 year old East Texas gal back in the Depression era. The boy's speech (when there are not editing errors written into it) is awkwardly stilted now and then even for someone trying very hard to elevate his language, It was a major distraction that kept pulling me out of the story particularly when the teenage girls by contrast constantly used every quaint Southern idiom known to the English: While Im griping in the story's first section we find the mama half passed out drunk from Cure-All with her hair spilled across her pillow like honey, Four chapters later when some stranger spies her in all of her beauty the daughter remarks on the gorgeous gloss of her mother's shining black hair: Okay so maybe the copy editor was drinking a lil Cure-All him- or herself and missed these boo-boos, I regularly judge a story by how well developed the villains are but I just rolled my eyes and rolled along: They have some trouble hauling in their lines and a dead classmate of the teenagers is reeled in all bloated and hogtied with wire: But because these people are rednecks from East Texas we are led to believe that nobody cares whether a killer may be on the loose. Redneck Daddy and his brother want to just push her back in after retrieving their walnuts but the kids object, The sheriff asks immediately - how come y'all didn't just push her back in? Yeah - so believable. Without so much as contacting the dead girls wastrel of a father she is thrown into a pauper's grave, Other stuff ensues such that the kids and mama end up on the run. Traveling down the Sabine River they encounter strangers who each has a story to tell, Or how my daddy owned slaves and bought me a lil colored girl to play with and Imma shoot you dead if you dont chop me some wood: There are eight dead bodies by the end of the story but law-enforcement has no interest in investigating any of these

deaths, Shadowing this whole adventure on the lam is a mysterious mentally deranged assassin who smells so bad he is called Skunk and gosh-golly, At any rate because I had heard such great things about this author's work this was a pretty big disappointment: Thanks for having a seat and letting me say nothing nice, Lansdale is the author of over forty novels and numerous short stories, His work has appeared in national anthologies magazines and collections as well as numerous foreign publications, He has written for comics television film newspapers and Internet sites: His work has been collected in than two dozen short story collections and he has edited or co edited over a dozen anthologies, Lansdale is the author of over forty novels and numerous short stories. His work has appeared in national anthologies magazines and collections as well as numerous foreign publications, He has written for comics television film newspapers and Internet sites: His work has been collected in than two dozen short story collections and he has edited or co edited over a dozen anthologies: His novella Bubba Ho Tep was adapted to film by Don Coscarelli starring Bruce Campbell and Ossie Davis. His story Incident On and Off a Mountain Road was adapted to film for Showtime's Masters of Horror and he adapted his short story Christmas with the Dead to film hisownself. He is currently co producing several films among them The Bottoms based on his Edgar Award winning novel with Bill Paxton and Brad Wyman and The Drive In with Greg Nicotero. Austin State University and is the founder of the martial arts system Shen Chuan: Martial Science and its affiliate Shen Chuan Family System. He is a member of both the United States and International Martial Arts Halls of Fame. He lives in Nacogdoches Texas with his wife dog and two cats.

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May Lynn was a pretty girl from a mean family who dreamed of becoming a film star. Now she's dead - her body dredged up from the Sabine River bound with wire and weighted down. Her best friend Sue Ellen wants to take her ashes to Hollywood: But May Lynn's diary holds a secret: the location of a large sum of money. and then momma emerges out of her stupor long enough to come along. but seems everyone wants in on that cash and there are several people in hot pursuit of our characters: there really isn't a lot of character-depth and the action sequences are about what you would expect, and i think that is the problem - this book is very expected. not from lansdale; this is my first book by him but it pretty much turns out the way you know it's gonna and there is something unformed about its writing, you do find out who is responsible for may lynn's death which would've been surprising but for one early-dropped hint, this one just didn't give me that reader-shake i long for, Lansdale A teenage girl with Hollywood aspirations's body is pulled out of the Sabine River: Her friends Sue Ellen Jinx Terry set out to spread her ashes in Hollywood. Unfortunately some money the deceased girl's brother stole winds up in their possession and numerous ill-tempered people are on their trail. And a murderer named Skunk has been hired to get the money back at any cost, Will Sue Ellen and her friends survive their river odyssey?Joe Lansdale weaves a coming of age tale set in east Texas: It's a little like Huckleberry Finn if Huckleberry Finn involved stolen money a killer that severs hands and an opium-addicted mother, Sue Ellen comes to grips with her parents Terry deals with his sexuality and Jinx deals with being black: Skunk is a pretty chilling villain and the rest of the people chasing the protagonists are cut from the usual Lansdale cloth of redneck scumbags: However I only gave it a three because I felt like Lansdale has told the story at least twice before both in The Bottoms and A Fine Dark Line. It was good but it felt like he was mining familiar territory, Then you have her pal Terry his mom recently married again

gaining him several step brothers and sisters and a step-father who makes fun of Terry's sissy ways, Jinx (my favorite) a black girl with a tongue that can cut down even the biggest man. All these kids know they are doomed if they stay in the small town. They find some stolen money and head off down the Sabine with Sue Ellen's mama along for the ride, The money they took is wanted by the Constable of the town they are leaving Sue Ellen's Uncle and daddy and then one of the Bottoms legends comes to life, The legendary Skunk who will hunt down anyone for the pleasure of killing them and taking their hands, Lansdale I had a sneaking suspicion he was using his stories to break my heart and after just finishing EDGE OF DARK WATER this suspicion has been confirmed, He's weaseling into my life and stealing retail space on my bookshelf, EDGE OF DARK WATER is the story of some kids growing up as best they can in rural Texas: Unfortunately because of what they know and what they've seen--they will be followed on their perilous journey to California. So I added three new child protagonists to my reader's heart, The quickest way to get me to fall in love is to give me some sassy-mouthed take-no-shit child protagonists in some kind of danger: My mom's heart can't help but fully invest in their story, It doesn't get better than this-sharing space with Lansdale's THE BOTTOMS King's IT and McCammon's BOY'S LIFE: Infused into the storyline are laugh-out-loud moments that I have come to expect from Lansdale. The characters are colorful memorable and full of life - the things that come out of their mouths sometimes are hysterical: In contrast one of the characters Skunk is one of the scariest motherfuckers I have ever had the displeasure of reading about, It made my heart sing with love for these children fall down into my stomach with fear and then come to a state of full satisfaction at the end.'Joe R. A story to savor and cherish. Don't miss it pre-order it now. "I sat on the shore and looked at May Lynn's body. End of story. Not. These kids are some of the best characters. BUT there is much to like here. Plus I loved that sassy smart-ass named Jinx. Joe R. Stava scritto nella Bibbia secondo lei. Non era servito altro per farmi smettere subito di leggerla. Secondo lui i padri lo facevano con le figlie. - Ho sedici anni. - Non sei più quella che mi ricordavo lo vedo bene. Questo Acqua Buia di Joe R.- Sue Ellen non è escluso che tu abbia ragione. - E noi abbiamo un piano. Quando mi calai di nuovo Jinx stava vomitando nella tomba. Joe R. Lansdale himself is really kind of a standalone guy. It is never sappy often funny and always deeply thoughtful. I'm a fan. Joe R. He certainly adds a thrill to the tale. I loved her humorous thoughts and insight. I saw now that's not how things were." "I'd be on it like stink on a dead possum. Joe R. come sit by me. Pull up a chair darlin. Honey or black? Pick a color. But Im not ready to let the cliches slide. He and two other bad guys unfortunately were total cartoons. She has further been weighed down by a sewing machine. Obviously someone took great pains to hide her body. I mean - their entire life stories. Like 10 minutes after knowing them. This guy is like the Terminator. Shoot him stab him whatever - but he'll be baaaaack. Joe R. Lansdale Champion Mojo Storyteller Joe R. His nov Champion Mojo Storyteller Joe R. He is Writer In Residence at Stephen F. Edge of Dark Water this book was just okay. it's a fast read and that might be the problem. there just aren't a lot of surprises. too bad me. come to my blog! Joe R. It's a pretty gripping tale. I didn't see the identity of May Lynn's killer coming. Overall I was pretty pleased with it. Joe R. Joe R. Lansdale 3. There are some bad guys chasing them though. Joe R. Lansdale After reading THE BOTTOMS by Joe R. Joe R. Lansdale is indeed trying to break my heart. He's coming after my soul. Proof: The thing is I have fully surrendered. I'm allowing it. Game on. EDGE OF DARK WATER is no exception. This is coming of age at its finest. My heart raced every time he made an appearance. I can't say enough about how much I enjoyed this book. Lansdale is just the goddamn best. Joe R. Lansdale.