



# Blade of Dishonor

*Thomas Pluck*

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Taught to fight by his war hero grandfather, Reeves comes home to find Grandpa Butch embroiled in a centuries-old battle over a treasured Japanese sword. Together they team up with Tara the hot-rodding ambulance driver and a secretive member of a samurai warrior brotherhood to take on a powerful clan of ninja and yakuza bent on sparking a third world war.

From the heroics of the Devil's Brigade in World War II and the brutal underground fight scene of Tokyo to the American heartland, BLADE OF DISHONOR pits battle-hardened cage fighters against cunning shadow warriors in a thrilling adventure story that's part Kurosawa and part Tarantino ... with a ton of Pluck!

“The rush his writing supplies is addictive.” –CRIMINAL ELEMENT

“There’s a reason so many brilliant writers cut their teeth on the pulps, and this book both honors that tradition and expands it. You want interwoven plots running parallel between WWII and Right Now? You want violence mixed with romance? You want sacrifice, courage, and honor? Truth-based fable? Or maybe you just want hardcore-clean writing delivered at warp speed. Look no further—it’s all here.” -Andrew Vachss, author of Urban Renewal, Aftershock, and the Burke series.

“The Raiders of the Lost Ark of pulp paperbacks... the most unpretentious novel I’ve read in a long time... I hope Pluck realizes that many of these pulp books had a hundred to a series.” -Scott Montgomery, MysteryPeople

## Blade of Dishonor Details

Date : Published September 13th 2013 by Thomas Pluck (first published September 1st 2013)

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Author : Thomas Pluck

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# From Reader Review Blade of Dishonor for online ebook

## Neliza Drew says

Pluck expertly weaves men's action adventure pulp from the days of dime paperbacks, a modern love story complete with a competent and compassionate female who needs more help than she'd ask for (& gives as good as she gets), gritty WWII historical fiction, and ninjas. Nearly something for everyone.... And ninja.

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## Christopher Irvin says

Action-packed, pulpy goodness! I met Tom only a couple of times in passing and he's one of several writers I wish I had more time with. I'd been meaning to buy BLADE OF DISHONOR all weekend and as luck would have it, I won it by answering one of Todd Robinson's THUGLIT questions correctly at the "Noir at the Bar" panel. BLADE OF DISHONOR was a lot of fun and you can tell the amount of passion and research that Pluck put into it, especially for the WWII storyline. In a way, this book is like getting two stories for the price of one; the story of Butch, the main character's father, could stand on its own as an excellent book, and while I enjoyed Rage Cage Reeve's storyline, I found myself looking forward to the next installment of WWII action with each passing chapter. Looking forward to more pulp from Pluck.

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## Oliver Clarke says

This was a very enjoyable read, I really liked the first book, and loved the second, but the third didn't quite work for me. Still a lot of action and humour to enjoy here though.

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## Max says

I saw someone describe BLADE OF DISHONOR as 'the best 80's action movie you never saw' (y'know, or words to that effect).

I agree, and yet I disagree. Having grown up watching and loving 80's action movies (and those ninja movies!), and later in life having developed a taste for WWII films and samurai movies...

I guess I can say that this is the best 80's action movie you never saw AND it's the best WWII combat movie you never saw, also the best WWII POW movie you never saw and it's even got some excellent ninja movie sequences you never saw and is interspersed with some really solid samurai film moments that you, y'know.

And it's a BOOK, so it's even better still.

Seriously, this Pluck character writes lean, mean action. He knows his stuff - watching the fight choreography in my mind was excellent. From the modern action sequences (the book is split between the

present, and WWII), which are mixed martial arts, Hong Kong Action Cinema-style gun battles, and even some vehicular homicide - are excellent. And the WWI sequences, from training scenes, to fistfights, to commando raids, swordfights - and some truly horrific POW beatings - gripping. Exciting. Engrossing.

And like any great 80's action movie slash WWII movie slash whateverthehellthiswas... it has heart. Soft, quiet moments when needed; pensive, reflective ones at times.

Y'know, all tied up with the BADASS ACTION, I mean.

Read it. It's great. Support this Pluck fellow - it's his first novel and it kick ass. What else do you need to know?

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## **Kevintipples says**

Reeves has come back home to Minnesota and the small town he grew up in to find the town has changed in many ways. The local Ford Plant has closed and the economic pain of that is just one of the things that continue to haunt the town. He has changed as well thanks to growing up and serving in the military though many folks don't seem inclined to talk to him. The various ghosts of the past and shattered dreams haunt the town as well as Reeves and there are no easy answers for either.

Taken care of by Grandpa Butch, Reeves spent most of his life in the back of the local Army Navy store. It was there that Reeves developed a love for weapons--especially knives and swords. Butch is still alive and as angry as ever and isn't about to let Reeves backslide into his old ways. He also isn't about to let anyone else mess with him. That hardcore attitude towards family and the world will come in handy as Takehiko Yoshino has come to buy the old store and all of its contents. A buying attempt that will lead to violence as some things, including honor, simply are never for sale in this martial arts thriller.

Throw in a beautiful babe, a fast car, martial arts, and an enduring love as well as a couple of other elements and Blade Of Dishonor by Thomas Pluck becomes a complicated ride into the past and present. Featuring twin storylines with Grandpa Butch struggling to survive during World War II and Reeves struggling to survive now, the read moves back and forth in time as the storylines merge together. Martial arts and the history of various groups in Japan are major components of this book that blends the past and the present in a way that ultimately results in Reeves fighting for everything he holds dear in a violent final confrontation half a world away in Japan. Officially World War II may be long over, but some of the factors that led into the war are still at work in this very good tale where honor means everything.

Blade Of Dishonor

Thomas Pluck

<http://thomaspluck.com/>

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Kevin R. Tipple ©2013

Mind Slices and Carpathian Shadows, Volume II

Book Reviews and More <http://kevintipplescorner.blogspot.com/>

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## **ColinJ says**

Lightning-fast, incredibly entertaining pulp action goodness with not an ounce of fat on it.

This book has made Pluck one of my writers to watch, and he hasn't disappointed so far.

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## **Rory Costello says**

This is simply a blast. Thomas Pluck's story careens from one hair-raising action scene to the next -- fights (mano a mano and with assorted weapons), car chases, war, you name it. I was particularly impressed by the World War II sequence set in the Monte Cassino campaign, which was jaw-dropping.

I've seen the term "pulp" attached to this book, and though I agree there are strong elements of it, I believe that this work has a lot in common with the work of Leon Uris and James Clavell -- except it's leaner. Those authors topped the best-seller charts, and what their books also have in common with Pluck's -- besides great war scenes (Uris), POW drama (Clavell's *King Rat*, my favorite of his), and Asia-based intrigue (Clavell's epics) -- is character. I liked and rooted for all of Pluck's protagonists, but my particular favorite was Butch.

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## **Tony says**

I have read several of Thomas Pluck's short stories and I've loved all of them. He has such a real and gritty that I find his work irresistible. In *Black-Eyed Susan* I could feel myself winding up for a punch as I read it. I have been waiting for this book to be released for a while as I was pretty sure I'd enjoy it. I wasn't wrong.

I grew up watching action films about evil ninjas and heroes that follow a warriors code. In a lot of ways it feels like an 80s action movie too and I don't mean that in a bad way. The interesting and modern twist is that rather than Kung Fu or Karate Rage Cage Reeves (I love the name) is a mixed martial artist. After some mistakes in his youth that led to a stint in the Marines to avoid jail Reeves finds that his home town and his life are still not great. If anything they get worse. The fight scenes flowed really well and it was really easy to picture the movements in the space. I could probably read fight scenes by this author all day long and not get bored.

The only negative about this book is that I got to the end and the second part was not available to read. I wanted more and straight away. This is a fun and action-packed book that will leave you smiling and wanting more. The ebook costs less than a frothy coffee so there isn't really any excuse not to go out and buy it now.

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## Steven says

The text starts on Page 3, the first threatening conversation takes place on Page 4, the martial arts mayhem gets rolling on Page 11 and from that point on Thomas Pluck's narrative is a nitro truck driving at top speed along a mountain road, taking the curves on two wheels but always under control. I liked the way Pluck offers just enough insight into the hero's life and MMA background, with observations on the fighter's mental state that suggest knowledge earned firsthand. Just when things threaten to slow down a bit, Pluck gives us a World War II flashback and a series of intriguing plotlines that come together most satisfyingly. You've studied a katana blade and seen all the layers of steel hammered into a strong, unified whole? That's how Blade of Dishonor works, too. An immensely enjoyable read, from a writer who's only going to get better.

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## Dale says

What's this book about? It's about ninjas, and guns, and swords, and fights, and assassins, and a storyline that encompasses a time from World War II to the present.

Hooked yet? You should be, if you like action, because this book is jam-packed with flying fists and feet, bullets, and badmen.

Start with the modern action-film trope about the martial-arts-savvy hero (Rage Cage Reeves) who's been away, returning to a working-class hometown populated with feisty louts. He has to get rough with a bunch of them, while romancing a tough cookie from the mean streets.

Now mix in a Japanese ninja film, some Quentin Tarantino, a WWII commando film with later POW abuse, explosions, machine guns, and a sword of destiny. Enough for you?

The book tears through the action scenes so fast that at times you almost get dizzy, feeling like you're dodging the bullets and kicks and sword-strikes yourself. It's an adrenaline thrill ride with sex, soldiers, and samurai.

So strap yourself in- it's gonna be a bumpy ride. But a fun one. You've been warned. Now read the book already, before Reeves comes to your house and punches your door in!

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## Angel says

Hot damn, Blade of Dishonor took me back to the days of Cinemax action flicks and when Van Damme was the king of action cinema - taken up a notch thanks to some great writing.

Pluck's got a gift for writing action scenes. They're clear and in no way confusing, even with multiple limbs and weapons flailing around.

I also enjoyed the back and forth between timelines. The flashbacks were as equally engaging as the main plot.

Only complaint was with a few scenes that ran a little long, but it really wasn't an issue that killed the story. Recommend this one for martial arts, war and action movie junkies alike. Tons of fun.

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## Paul Mirek says

It's hard not to compare this to *Kung Fury* with their shared love of grainy martial arts flicks. Pluck plays the material relatively straight, though (no Triceracops here). This fast-moving first part is over too soon, but I'm definitely intrigued enough to check out the next entries.

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## Nigel Bird says

My eldest child will often describe wonderful things in life as 'epic'. In that context, *Blade Of Dishonour* certainly is. It's also something of an epic in its own right.

OK, it's not a poem, but the scale and the nature of the adventures of the main characters fits the bill.

It all starts when an ex-cage fighting soldier returns to his home town. He left to join the army as an alternative to going to prison after ruining the sporting future of the town's main cop and, needless to say, the cop's got it in for him from the off. Compounding the old gripe is the spark that ignites between Reeves and the cop's on-off girlfriend Tara.

Reeves turns in to live with his Grandfather, Butch. Butch is an ex-soldier himself and runs an army surplus store in town. Butch's prize possession is a Samurai sword that he reaches to when recalling his own wartime adventures back in WW2 and remembering his comrades. On top of it all, he's made a promise to keep the sword safe and to Butch a promise on this scale means he'd put his life in the way of anyone coming to get it.

Someone comes. A Japanese business man wanting to buy the store and all of its contents. In the end, Butch has to agree, but not before selling the sword on to Reeves that day and therefore exempting it from the deal. When it's discovered that the sword is missing, all hell breaks loose.

At this point, the story breaks into a number of strands and they all come together beautifully.

My favourite element is Butch and the story of his life in Europe and Japan. It's slickly written and has a real flavour of authenticity. During this story, a romance is also told and the true meaning of the sword is revealed.

It's no wonder that there are conflicts over it given its gravity. And it'd no wonder that the good guys don't want the baddies, the shadow clans, to get it. It's a national treasure.

The sense of energy and adventure is maintained throughout and the story fills out perfectly as all the pieces are put into place.

What you get is lots of stories in one. There are the love stories that bind characters together. There are family loyalties and newly-formed friendships that have deep meaning to those involved. There's honour running through from start to finish. You get fight scenes that are written as if the author was write their in the combat. You get Ninjas and Samurai and warriors and tough-as-hell men and women. There are the feuds on local and national scales. You come across Black Dragons and sexy waitresses. There are chases and exotic weapons and prisons and Dirty-Dozen type rogue platoons. There's humour that plays on language difference and on characters coping with the darkest of situations. There's also the nutty wisdom of monks and life-weary characters who manage to phrase a saying like Basho-minus-the-structure.

I imagined this as a number of things – a film; a comic; a graphic novel – but am pleased that I got to read it first in its novel form.

One note of caution. I read this buy getting hold of the first instalment just to get a taste. When I finished it, it was so exciting and at such a point that I simply had to carry on. My tip would be to go for the whole thing and save yourself a little effort and a little cash as once you're in, you'll be in for the duration.

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## Indie Books says

As reviewed on Indie Books R Us.

Rating: Yay!

Okay, guys. Wow. This book has a lot going in it, so I'm going to try and make this review as succinct as possible.

The jacket copy is a bit of a misnomer—I was under the impression this followed Reeves, but the story is really more of his grandfather's—and I'm not certain whose POV receives more time out of the two. This story revolves around 'Rage Cage' Reeves, his grandfather, and an ancient Japanese blade the grandfather smuggled out of Japan to keep it out of the wrong hands. So we alternate in present time, with Reeves trying to save the sword and keep it out of the wrong hands, and during his grandfather's time in the armed forces as a special unit fighter. His story mostly revolves around World War II and the circumstances leading to today's current predicament.

The action is great. Lots of detailed, in your face scenes that hook you in and keep the pages turning. I was pretty disappointed when I had to go to sleep and wait to read the rest. It fulfills its boast of Tarantino and Kurosawa mash-up, both of whom I greatly admire. It's clear from the stories that Reeves did a great job with his research, too—accuracy bonuses to the weapons, history, and his Japanese receives a special bonus mention.

Mikio, a Japanese fighter, is a large part of the story—and he has a very dirty mouth, all of which Pluck leaves in its original Japanese. I was shocked and horribly amused, because I speak Japanese, and it had me cracking up far more than it should have. The caveat to this is that translations aren't given until the end of the book (and in the ebook, I would have liked to have seen a link-up to the translations for people, because flipping around in an ebook is difficult), so if that frustrates you, maybe you should bookmark the translation spot.

Another big thank you goes out to not making the women into hand-wringing sissies. It drives me nuts when women are made into fainting flowers, and they most certainly aren't in here.

Pick this one up. You won't be disappointed.

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## Dave says

Disclaimer: Thomas Pluck is a fellow Jersey Boy and a write I communicate with often. Blade of Dishonor is his first novel.

Blade of Dishonor takes place over many, many years, as it follows the Reeves family and their twisted history with an honor Japanese sword. As former Ultimate Fighter and Marine Rage Cage Reeves tries to track down the sword and avenge his family, Pluck follows his grandfather doing the same during World War II.



Pluck manages to cover several genres in this old school pulpy thriller, but the one he focuses on most is an old Kung Fu style tale. The action is fierce, fast, and violent—and it rarely slows down. But through it all, Pluck never forgets the characters, who shine brightly—especially Tara, who is (forgive the pun) plucky and refuses to give up.

Pluck's first novel is a fun ride, one perfect for the beach this summer. Check it out, because when you close the book, you'll do so with a smile

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