



Texas Sicario

Harry Hunsicker

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Former Texas Ranger Arlo Baines knows all about pain: how to bear it, how to avenge it, and how to inflict it.

Still mourning the murders of his wife and children, former Texas Ranger Arlo Baines now works security at a bazaar in Dallas. Grief-stricken, he's invested his heart and hope in the welfare of Miguel—a street kid who's become his surrogate son. But the wounds of a brutal past are hard to heal, especially when a new case threatens to rip them open all over again.

Approached by a colleague now working for the DEA to investigate the seemingly random murders of prominent Latino businessmen, Arlo works to expose the common link: an ultraviolent drug cartel pushing into northern Texas. As the vicious power struggle between the gangs turns the streets of Dallas into a war zone, Arlo's investigation threatens everything he loves.

When grief, anger, and secrets stretch the bonds of loyalty to their breaking point, Arlo can trust no one—but must risk everything to protect what remains.

Texas Sicario Details

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Author : Harry Hunsicker

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From Reader Review Texas Sicario for online ebook

Abibliofof says

This one is book number two about ex Texas Ranger Arlo Baines and it's not like anything else I've read. Hunsicker has a view of people in his stories that I'm not used to, they are far from stereotypes and his plots are surprising in both content and twists. I will follow this writer more and see what he comes up with. If you like strong characters and small town feeling, then this is for you I will not go into the story and spoil it but this author is one of my years biggest surprises.

Donna Davis says

I enjoyed the first book in the Arlo Baines Series, *The Devil's Country*, and so when I saw that this, the second in the series was available to read and review, I dove in gladly. Thanks go to Net Galley as well as Thomas and Mercer. This book is for sale today, but it's disappointing, and you shouldn't buy it.

The back story is that Baines was once a Texas Ranger, but after the murder of his family, he quit and now is a drifter that works on his own terms. When we join him, he has taken on the care of an orphan named Miguel in a platonic partnership with Javier, a friend whose life Arlo once saved. And right off the bat my antennae are flickering. How does anyone share custody, legal or otherwise, of a child if that person is a drifter? We learn at the outset that Arlo doesn't want to stay anyplace more than a month or two, so how...? To be fair, later in the book he acknowledges that something must be worked out if he is to continue taking care of Miguel, but right from the get-go it's obvious that more than one thing is off.

There is more than a faint whiff of the White Knight here, the "gringo"—a tired word I never want to see used in fiction again now that Hunsicker has used it a gazillion times here—who uses his training and superior judgment to help Latino people (referred to in the narrative as 'Hispanic') that somehow can never save themselves. We have Latino—uh, Hispanic—criminals, a woman-in-distress, an orphan, a good buddy, a murder victim, gangsters, and a villain—but what we don't have is a Latino that's a good person who can express himself or herself articulately in English.

But wait, I am not done. The women! Not that there are many of them here, but once again when they are present, they are here either as victims to be saved, or as a fem fatale. No women here are the competent sort that can save their own butts, let alone anybody else's. For that, we need a man I guess. A Caucasian one--excuse me, a gringo.

The sad thing is that Hunsicker seems to be making a genuine effort at working a social justice, immigrants' rights angle, and for this reason I continued reading longer than I otherwise might have to see if he could pull it out of the water; this, of course, in addition to having enjoyed his work previously, (and this is my reason for providing the second star in my rating). I suspect he doesn't realize that this novel comes across as patronizing toward women and people of color, rather than as a work that expresses solidarity and progressive values.

To top it off, toward the end of the novel he hits not one but two of my most-hated, tired, overused devices in mystery and detective fiction.

What the heck happened?

No.

louise dobbie says

Is arlo a Jack reacher wannabe?

He is somewhat similar in style, but nonetheless an enjoyable read for all that, the tragic backstory helps explain why he has no qualms killing the 'baddies', and why he drifts. A better way of filling a Saturday night than watching rubbish films or repeats, but I suspect arlo will make it onto the big screen soon enough. Get someone who actually resembles the character this time - not a Tom cruise lookalike. I think and hope there will be more to follow, and I'll probably enjoy reading them too x

Ray Moon says

Who's Your Friend?

The novel opens with the execution style murder of a tire store owner. Arlo Barnes, the lead character, had found a home next door providing protection for the bar, El Corazón Roto, The Broken Heart, whose owner, Javier, manages the Aztec Bazaar in which the bar is located. Arlo also manages the security of the Aztec Bazaar. Throw into this mix, an 11 year-old undocumented orphan that Arlo found three months earlier for whom he and Javier are taking care. Then, more similar murders occur, and the local police start to sour on Arlo. Lastly his old friend/nemesis, Aloysius Throckmorton, enters the story. He is a Texas Ranger who investigated Arlo's killing of other Texas Rangers who killed his wife. The storyline takes off from here with many twists and turns that quickly set its hooks into my interest so that I want to continue to read and couldn't wait to start reading again.

The B-storyline continues from the first novel. The reader will learn more about Arlo and how relates with his friends and enemies, how he is very protective of a young orphan, a few potential love interests, and how he works with his former nemesis Throckmorton. What I liked was how the author wove the B-storyline seamlessly into the main storyline. This really enriched my enjoyment in reading this novel. Throckmorton is the only holdover from the first novel, and a more detailed picture is portrayed of this old no nonsense Texas Ranger.

This story does not start out of the gate as action packed as the first novel in this series. It is more traditional learning the facts and proceeding, but as the novel continues the action picks up to the level of the last novel. What I like are all of the characters and how they fit into an engaging storyline and Arlo finding out who his friends really are or aren't.

If vulgar language and graphic sex scenes discourage you from reading novel, there is not a problem here. There were only four f-bomb and no graphic sex scenes. There is some use of Spanish but were translated immediately or easily understandable in it context. Lastly, knowledge of the previous novel is needed to understand this novel. You will not have any problem reading this novel first.

My major requirement for a high star rating is that the novel captures my interest and makes me want to continue reading. Sicario did that quite well. As a result, I rate this novel with five stars. I really enjoyed reading this novel, and you may too.

I have received a free kindle version of this novel through NetGalley from Thomas & Mercer with a request for an honest, unbiased review. I wish to thank Thomas & Mercer for the opportunity to read this novel early.

Bonnye Reed says

GN Harry Hunsicker brings us an interesting, fast paced tale set in Dallas, Texas. Sicario is Spanish for hit man, or hired gun. There are several in this story, on both sides of the problem, which is the infiltration of drug trafficking from the Rio Grande border into the transportation centers of Dallas and Fort Worth, with major road and rail access to the rest of the world. Told in the first person of a Gringo ex-cop and retired Texas Ranger named Arlo Baines, this is an intriguing story with several lines of conflict told very well. This is the second of the Arlo Baines novels, but is completely stand alone.

Baines, still mourning the death of his wife and children at the hands of a drug trafficker, has taken on the responsibility of a traumatized 11 year old illegal Mexican boy named Miguel, and rides shotgun as 'head of security' for a middle aged gentleman named Javier Morales who owns a couple of businesses in a huge building -an old discount store of 150,000 square feet in southwest Dallas. One end encloses a bar called El Corazon Roto and the majority of the rest of the old box store is a mercado called Aztec Bazaar, a low end shopping mall composed of secured consignment areas run by independent sellers and food booths catering to Hispanics.

Arlo and Javier found Miguel at the bus station in Dallas, and share the responsibility of getting him help for the trauma he has obviously been through. Arlo and Javier also share the pain of a family lost to the drug wars in Texas and Mexico. All three are smack dab in the middle of the drug war infiltrating Dallas. And the battle over Dallas is one they simply cannot lose.

I received a free electronic copy of this novel from Netgalley, Harry Hunsicker, and Thomas and Mercer in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me. Publishing date January 15, 2019

Thomas and Mercer

Marissa says

Goodreads Kindle Copy Win

Former Texas Ranger finds himself still taking care of an undocumented orphan while providing security. When an execution style murder takes place sets up the world of drug cartels and their fight for power among the citizens.

The struggle between the good and bad guys to who will be left standing. An interesting perspective.

DP Lyle says

Arlo Baines returns. If you haven't yet met him, do so now. Arlo, a former Texas Ranger, is a complex character who is tough, smart, filled with pain and loss, and driven by justice and vengeance. In TEXAS SICARIO, he is confronted with a series of murders that have drug cartel written all over them and threaten to paint the streets of Dallas blood red. He quickly learns that friends aren't always friends, and enemies might be his salvation. Add to the mix his need to protect Miguel, a young illegally immigrated boy with a dark past, and who just might not be as innocent as Arlo believes, as well as his old nemesis Texas Ranger Aloysius Throckmorton, a hardened killer named Fito, and the wealthy Vegas, whose marriage seems on the verge of dissolution, and you have a bubbling cauldron that threatens Arlo on every front. Great characters, a wonderfully convoluted plot, and a fast-paced story makes TEXAS SICARIO a must read.

DP Lyle, award-winning author of the Jake Longly thriller series

Thomas James says

Dark T

Here is an unexpected dark mystery. Nobody really comes out a winner. Nobody is better for it. It gave me a look into the dark side of drugs, cartels, and gang life that is so far different from mine as the dark side of the moon. It also delves into the problem of poverty and illegal immigration. It doesn't offer any suggestions. A dark story of greed and corruption and personal tragedy.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Texas Sicario is the sequel to The Devil's Country that I read two years ago. I really liked The Devil's Country and hoped that this book would be as good. Arlo Baines wife and children were murdered some time ago and even though the ones that did the deed has been punished can't Arlo move on. Now is he working with security at a bazaar in Dallas. A while back did he find a street kid Miguel that he's taken under his wings. However, a brutal killing will change everything for both Arlo and Miguel.

Texas Sicario is well written and fast-paced. I quite liked the book, the only drawback for me is that I just don't like stories about drugs and cartels. I liked reading about Arlo again, and I liked how he's protecting Miguel. As for the murders, the links they have to the cartels, well as I wrote before, I just don't find stories like that especially interesting no matter how well written the book is. I'm not saying the book is bad, the story is good. I just feel I was not as invested in this story as with the first book. Still, there are some good parts (Arlo bonding with Miguel) and I never felt the book bored me. Also, I was surprised by the identity of the killer although not at all surprised about who is behind the cartel.

This book is perfectly alright, I liked that the story was not bogged down with a lot of extra details or unnecessary side stories. Lately, I've felt that some books would have been better if they had been trimmed down. This one felt refreshingly fast-moving.

I want to thank the publisher for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!

Dayna says

Very engaging, well-paced & topical in its treatment of immigration & cartels. The white savior bit didn't really bother me; I figured Arlo simply adapted the Monroe Doctrine to his own stomping grounds. My only complaint would be the novel's portrayal of women; here they are the usual useless creatures populating the stereotypical male fantasies. Aside from that, it's an enjoyable read. I received a Kindle edition from a Goodreads giveaway.

Janet Newport says

Thank you NetGalley and Thomas & Mercer for this arc.

While I have read previous novels by this author, this was my first introduction to Arlo Baines. I had no trouble following this story and what a story it was! Gritty and fast moving after the 20% mark. The Mexican drug cartels are trying to move into Dallas, Texas when they run headfirst into Arlo. Cross, double-cross, triple-cross and then crossed some more. I got a little dizzy trying to keep up. Suffice it to say, very few characters were initially presented as they truly were as the story developed. Although some of the more minor characters were not fully explored, the main characters all felt complete and real. I even felt the summertime Texas heat!

Steve Bivins says

Good book from! Harry Hunsicker.

Also Baines is just the coolest of cool in this exciting story of cartels, of lawmen, and old vendettas. The ending is a great surprise n I am not going to give it away. Read n enjoy!

Anna Stump says

Not my usual genre, however, I enjoyed the Tex Mex Macho Western Lawlessness flavor of the book.

In this country and as in All Wars, though this be fiction, the Drug wars are real and the battle will forever continue. Fact: are you never know who your friends are due to the money aspect. Everyone has a story to tell. The book starts with a fast paced assassination, then moves at a slow paced story introducing the players. Then the tempo steadily increases as you find yourself rooting for Arlo Baines and using your own gumshoe knowledge trying to anticipate the next chess move from all sides.

I did not feel the book was sexist or racist. It represented bad people on all sides. Arlo Baines is not 100% good guy - plus he had some funny lines. Sort of a modern Spaghetti Western. :)

I did not read the first book but this book stood by itself with sufficient retelling of the first book.

I received an electronic copy of this novel from Netgalley, Harry Hunsicker, and Thomas and Mercer in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Cathy Geha says

Texas Sicario by Harry Hunsicker

Intense and intriguing this story of drug dealers and assassins with people caught in the middle left me rooting for Arlo Baines to figure out who was killing people, why they were being killed and then for him to put an end to the murder and mayhem. Who is Arlo? He is a man who has suffered grave personal loss and is digging himself out of grief and anger into his new life as he provides security for his friend Javier's businesses. He and Javier have undertaken the supervision of and care for Miguel, an eleven year old boy found on the streets with nobody to care for him. This book is exceptionally well plotted and filled with interesting characters. I was pretty sure I knew what was happening a time or two only to have the rug pulled out from under me. I have to say that I wonder what will happen next and do hope that this is going to be a series as I would really like to find out where Arlo will find himself next.

Thank you to NetGalley and Thomas & Mercer for the ARC – This is my honest review.

5 Stars
