



Bloodbrothers

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Eighteen-year-old Stony De Coco is trapped in a working-class world that offers him only one way of proving his loyalty, and no way out.

Bloodbrothers Details

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Author : Richard Price

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From Reader Review Bloodbrothers for online ebook

Bill says

Richard Price has been one of my favorite authors for a long time, most recently as one of the writers of HBO's The Wire (a fantastic show if you haven't seen it) and I've finally gotten around to his earliest books.

A coming of age story told from the "mean streets" of New York. Stony De Coco must choose between following in his father's footsteps or stepping out (as it were) on his own. Many complexities influence this decision, each a full-blown issue of its own. It's an interesting journey and a bit of a surprise where it ends up.

The story, and the writing, is slightly dated, but it certainly evokes a time and a place well. My only complaint is that the character of Albert, Stony's younger brother, while it first appears that it will be the most important part of the story, really just suddenly drops off at some point and we never really know what happens. Perhaps that is intentional, as real life is often like that (isn't it?)...who knows...

Like all of Price's novels, there is much to recommend it.

Nurul Sakinah says

Actually I nearly gave up reading this book as I cant tolerate how the author focusing on the sex life of them three. However, along the time, this book managed to grip my attention. I find it difficult to let go off this book and I manage to read it in two days only! It's my achievement okay. I love the family theme that the author is trying to portray here. The brotherhood. What makes me cringed a lot and I still gritted my teeth when I think of her is Marie! Ahh damn that woman! Ahem, this is not a spoiler, aye?

However, What makes me puzzled is that what had happened with Stony? I dont get it. Why? What? How? Please anybody enlighten me about thisss.

Gregg Hubley says

Disappointing...

I'm a huge fan of Richard Price and I've read most of his novels, so I was excited to read Blood Brothers, which I believe is one of his first. Unfortunately, I don't think it was nearly as good as his others. This was a very gritty story about an extremely dysfunctional blue collar family in New York in the seventies. However, to me the story and plot went nowhere. I kept waiting for (and wanting) something to happen. Instead, it just followed these miserable people's miserable lives for a short period one summer. Although the very last pages seemed like they were building toward something interesting that might happen, the ending was nondescript and frustrating. I will still read Price's next book, but this one was a disappointment.

Ryandake says

i ran out and bought this one after finishing *Clockers* because i wanted desperately to stay in the Richard Price world but couldn't find my copy of *Lush Life*. the publication date of my copy is 2009, but be warned, Price fans, this was actually his second book, re-issued.

parts of it are stellar, but it is a second book, ya know? if you're expecting the kind of polish Price has achieved with later books, it's just not here.

it also lacks the psychological cohesion of Price's later characters--in this book, Stony's (the protagonist's) young brother Albert is being abused by their mother, and Stony is trying to make a life for himself working with children, but after the first third of the book, Stony just stops thinking about Albert. eh?

so, read it if you want to say you've read all of Price's books. but for the sheer thrill of Price, go out and get a copy of *Clockers* or *Lush Life*.

Chase says

Story of a vigorously dysfunctional Italian family living in the Bronx in the early 70's. The story centers around Stony De Coco, the oldest son of a violent and philandering union electrician father, an unbalanced mother, and big brother to an anorexic and introverted boy named Albert. His influential uncle "Chubby" is also in the union and as Stony comes of age, he has to take a long honest look at his family and make some difficult decisions about the direction of his life.

Sensational dialogue, straight up 70's ethnic New York. Gritty, funny in places, and jarring. I had been wanting to read something by Richard Price for a while, and though I don't think this one was amazing, it definitely was good enough to make me want to read more from him.

Rod says

Read this many years ago (in my twenties) and wanted to see what it was like at my now-advanced age of 53, especially as I had just purchased a new re-issue for my son. It was a gripping, gritty novel as I remembered with the same inevitable swirl of events toward darkness that I find in Russell Banks, Richard Yates, and a few others...yet retaining a belief (a la Faulkner, Steinbeck) in the inherent dignity of human beings in painful situations. At least I think so...

Mikehd1 says

I love books that have an ending which is unusual and unpredictable and unhappy and realistic. The characters in this book are interesting, vile, viseral unlikeable and their descriptions hold the reader's attention.

I enjoyed this book .

Sherry Chiger says

Admittedly I am a huge Richard Price fan. But I believe that *Bloodbrothers* is not only Price's best novel but also one of the best novels of the second half of the 20th century. Price nails the Bronx working-class milieu of his characters--their speech, their aspirations, their resignations. Every character is distinct, credible, and memorable. Every subplot fits. Every word fits. I defy you to read this book without being moved to tears, being angered, or finding yourself nodding at times in recognition.

Michael says

Pound for pound, I think Richard Price may well be my favorite author. I've now read all but one of his novels (only *The Breaks* still awaits me, set for 2018) and they've all been surefire 4-star caliber reads, crackling along with an electrifying energy almost unparalleled in my reading life. People have fallen over themselves (justifiably) praising Price's ability to write dialogue, but I also find him to be hilarious, especially in these early novels, where his protagonists are first-rate bullshitters.

This one is 3.5 stars but I'm rounding down because I don't think he quite knew how to end it ((view spoiler)). I also think *Ladies' Man*, which also features a sex-obsessed kid from New York, is a mite better. But when you figure he wrote this (and already had *The Wanderers* in his back pocket) when he was 26 (!! years old, you realize why people found him to be such a hot-shit author.

Luke Johnson says

A snapshot of several days in the lives of a working class family in the Bronx in the 1970s, this book is better in retrospect than it was as I read it. Price has a sneaky ability to get under your skin. His snappy dialogue and terse prose power a story that is anything but remarkable on the surface. A kid with a rowdy father and a rowdier uncle - both alcoholic tail-chasers - struggles to decide whether he should chase his dream of working with kids for a living, or follow in his old man's footsteps as an electrician. An everyday story, and a timeless one. But Price's compact, concise delivery makes it, in the blurbbed words of the Chicago Tribune, "unforgettable".

Dave says

Pretty decent apprentice fiction, with the total lack of self control you'd expect in a mid-20s writer but with the top notch dialogue that would later make Price fantastic in his work on *The Wire* and very strong in *Lush Life*. Lots of cursing, graphic sex, more N-word usage than a DMX song, a number of plot threads that disappear. However, the characterizations seem mostly legit and Price really does have an ear for transcribing the spoken word in a very accurate, interesting way. Not a novel that I would straight up recommend, but not a bad one either.

Jim says

If this book had been translated into a movie for someone like Marlon Brando (in his younger years), I might have been more interested, but in its present form, it has little interest for me. It's an achievement, I suppose for someone as gifted as Price to have put together such realistic dialogue, but the subject matter and the ways thoughts are expressed are far from uplifting. I checked the book out by mistake; I thought it was another of Reynolds Price's books.

Orsodimondo says

INIZIAZIONE

Il diciottenne Stony, al secolo Thomas Junior, è figlio di paisà che parlano broccolino, e ora ha davanti diverse scelte che si configurano tutte come bivio senza ritorno, tutte come dolorose, ogni strada chiude porte alle spalle.

Co-op City nel Bronx, dove vivono i protagonisti, fu costruita tra il 1966 e il 1973, ma i primi residenti hanno cominciato ad abitarla già nel 1968.

Affiancare il padre nel lavoro di edile (elettricista) e farlo felice? Posto sicuro, protetto dal sindacato e dalla posizione che il padre s'è fatto in trent'anni di lavoro, guadagno assicurato e non da buttar via. E soprattutto, dare una gioia al padre, un'immensa soddisfazione. Oppure spezzargli il cuore?

E per cosa, quale sarebbe l'alternativa?

Lavorare in un ospedale nel reparto dei bambini, intrattenerli, raccontare loro storie, talento che Stony possiede in misura spiccata, distrarli dalla malattia. Stipendio basso, lavoro da 'femmine', o donnicciole se si preferisce, e contatto quotidiano con malattia e dolore.

15.372 appartamenti divisi in 35 edifici residenziali che variano dai 24 ai 33 piani. Se fosse un municipio a se stante, sarebbe la decima città più grande dello stato.

Però è questo che Stony vuole.

Ma vuole anche salvare suo fratello Albert, otto anni, bambino per il quale l'anoressia è il minore dei problemi: la madre lo respinge, lo terrorizza, lo strattona, l'ha ridotto una larva. Stony non vuole abbandonarlo e vuole proteggerlo dalla genitrice.

Ma se rifiuta il lavoro col padre e sceglie quello in ospedale dovrà andarsene di casa, dovrà trasferirsi a vivere da solo: e dopo che ne sarà di Albert, il fratellino?

Gli abitanti sono al 60% afro-americani, per circa il 30% ispanici, e per il resto bianchi e asiatici. I bianchi sono principalmente paisà.

Scelte che sembrano irrevocabili perché Stony ha diciottanni, che non è l'età dell'attesa, della possibilità, della seconda chance, ma quella del tutto e subito.

Bambini sulla sedia a rotelle che vengono da famiglie disastrate, odore di disinfettante e di malattia, camici... Dall'altra parte, vivere tutta la settimana aspettando il weekend, ripetere il modello familiare, moglie a casa, marito fuori a bere con gli amici e a mettere corna. Mette i brividi questa decisione.

La famiglia De Coco a tavola: in piedi il padre Tommy Sr interpretato da Tony Lo Bianco, Richard Gere è il figlio Stony, o Tommy Jr, la madre Maria è Lelia Goldoni, di spalle il piccolo Albert interpretato da Michael Hershewe, che ha proseguito la carriera d'attore per un altro paio d'anni.

Non è ancora il Price delle opere migliori, questa è ancora a suo modo acerba: qualche lungaggine, qualche ripetizione, qualche insistenza, troppo vomito.

Ma la storia ha già la potenza delle sue migliori (pur se in completa assenza di poliziotti e criminali) e a momenti i dialoghi hanno l'eccellenza che lo contraddistingue.

Il film uscito nel 1978 è affidato a Robert Mulligan, un regista solido e capace, con buoni titoli all'attivo. Ma il protagonista diciottenne viene interpretato da Richard Gere quasi trentenne, troppo uomo, troppo poco adolescente, fuori parte, se non altro per l'età. Buone intenzioni, ma non del tutto risolte. Un po' come il romanzo.

PS

In italiano, invece che fratelli di sangue, il titolo del film è diventato "Una strada chiamata domani".

Padre e figlio, i due Thomas, Senior e Junior, hanno una divergenza generazionale sul luogo di lavoro (elettricisti edili).

Anand says

This is the book that made me want to read. Before this book, I hated to read, all the books we were forced to read in school sucked big time, so i had no desire to read any other books. This book was sitting on my dad's book shelf forever, having nothing to do, I decided to give it a try. This was the first time I understood what people meant when they said they could not put a book down. I could not put the book down, I was reading because I wanted too, not because I had too like in school. Also unlike school books, this book contained violence, profanity and sex scenes all of which i have never read before. Took me a week to read, the fastest time at that point in my life. I was soon searching for other Richard Price novels but could not find any, but this led me to discover a whole lot of new authors i love and a passion for books

Karen Klink says

I have read two other books by Richard Price, which was the only way I managed to get through the first forty pages of belligerent anger and sexual garbage in this one. I was glad I hung in there. As usual in a Richard Price story, there's a lot more going on underneath all that hard hat blue collar brag.

I don't know of anyone who can write so realistically about these folks. So much so that the familiarity of it

from my childhood was depressing at times. If you ever watched "The Wire" on HBO, you have an inkling of what I mean. Only, in this case, the subject is construction workers in the Bronx and one young man's efforts to break out of the suffocating "love" of his family and situation.
