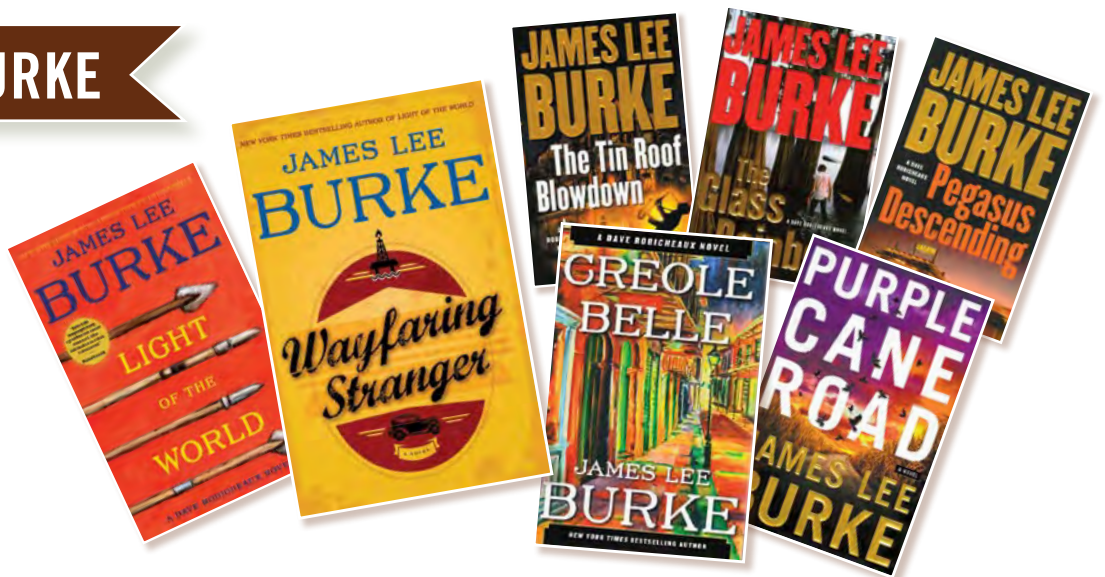


JAMES LEE BURKE



Stories to Savor

NEW IBERIA PROVIDES SETTING FOR BURKE NOVELS

Burke spent his childhood playing and fishing in the local bayous and lakes. When you add the ambiance of the many stately oak trees, you will agree with his belief that New Iberia is one of the most beautiful places in America.

For more than 30 years, award winning author James Lee Burke has enthralled readers with his crime fiction novels. His perennial best sellers draw on his New Iberia and Gulf Coast roots with larger-than-life characters, unique settings and the alluring landscape of South Louisiana. His loyal readers connect to the characters, and savor the intrigue and dilemmas they face.

Burke has written 20 crime novels to date, featuring Dave Robicheaux, the troubled Cajun detective who pursues justice with a vengeance. Robicheaux and New Iberia were introduced to readers in “Neon Rain,” published in 1986. Averaging a novel a year, Burke has continued to weave crime stories through the bayous, streets and settings of South Louisiana. He has twice won Edgar Awards for Best Crime Novel of the Year, and one of his novels, the 1986 “Lost Get Back Boogie,” was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Two novels featuring Detective Robicheaux have been made into movies. The 1988 novel “Heaven’s Prisoners” was released in 1996, starring Alec Baldwin, Eric Roberts and Teri Hatcher. In 2007, “In the Electric Mist,” adapted from the 1993 novel “In the Electric Mist with Confederate Dead” was filmed in New Iberia and released in 2009. The film was directed by Bertrand Tavernier and starred Tommy Lee Jones as Dave Robicheaux, along with John Goodman, Mary Steenburgen, Peter Sarsgaard and Kelly MacDonald.

Burke’s latest novel, “Wayfaring Stranger” takes readers on a thrilling adventure through Louisiana and Texas oilfields. His 2013 release, “Light of the World,” is the latest novel featuring Dave Robicheaux and his close friend, Cleve Purcel. The two friends are found vacationing in Montana with their families, including Dave’s daughter Alafair and Cleve’s daughter Gretchen Horowitz, introduced in “Creole Belle.” Evil is never far behind.

The popularity of Burke’s Robicheaux novels draws fans from around the world to New Iberia and the surrounding area to visit places made familiar through the novels. Walking tours of “Dave’s Domain” throughout Iberia Parish are a popular pastime for visitors who are avid followers of the Cajun detective’s adventures.

For a downloadable map of Dave’s escapades, go to iberiatravel.com. You can also download a Main Street brochure that identifies many other New Iberia points of interest.



DAVES' DOMAIN

As most accomplished novelists do, James Lee Burke freely invokes literary license with the use of numerous local landmarks. Hence, visitors who are eager to see actual sites depicted in Burke's pieces often find the site to be somewhat different from what is described in the novels. Still, you'll find New Iberia and the surrounding area are filled with natural and historical beauty waiting to be explored.

Consult the centerfold map for the location of some of the sites Dave visits most frequently and are referenced by map number in the following text.

A WALKING TOUR

Approximate time: 1½ hrs.

Park in the large free public parking lot at the corner of Main and Iberia Streets (known as Bouigny Plaza). (#13)

Then, walk two blocks south down Iberia Street to the Iberia Parish Courthouse (#6). The building houses the present day sheriff's office, and it was, of course, the location of Dave's office. Visitors are welcome in the building, which also houses courtrooms for the 16th Judicial District.

Retrace your steps to Main Street. Turn left on Main, and a half block away is Victor's Cafeteria (C), one of Dave's popular downtown eateries. Continue your stroll on Main in a westerly direction for another block. The tallest building in the downtown area is the Evangeline Life Building. It was originally a part of the Frederick Hotel (#20), which graced downtown New Iberia in Dave's era.

Proceed another half block to the Episcopal Church (#16), located at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets. Return down Main Street, passing the parking lot to Clementine Dining and Spirits (F). This was the site of the Provost's Café Burke referred to in his novels. The old establishment went out of business and the building was refurbished and opened as Clementine.

Pass the restaurant to the next corner, which is Bridge Street. Turn left and walk a block to the bridge spanning Bayou Teche (#26). Stop atop the bridge and look down the bayou. It's along these banks that Dave's legendary bait shop was located.

After crossing the bridge, you'll see a stately building and grounds formerly known as Mt. Carmel (#12), which was an all-girls school for many years. This property is now re-named Place Eugénie. (#12)

Turn and retrace your steps along Bridge Street to its intersection with Main. After crossing Main Street and walking down the narrow alleyway known as "Church Alley" for a block, you'll end up face-to-face with St. Peter's Catholic Church (#4). St. Peter's is the last stop on your tour.

A DRIVING TOUR

Approximate time: 1½ hrs.

Begin this tour by exiting the Bouigny Plaza parking lot on Main Street (#13). Turn right out of the lot, to the first traffic light. Turn left on to French Street. Drive one block to the next light. Turn left on to St. Peter Street. Drive down St. Peter Street for six blocks and turn left on Ann Street. Continue north on Ann until the street dead ends into Main. The house at 715 East Main facing you is the old Burke home (#17), where James Lee Burke's grandfather, Walter Burke, lived.

Turn left on to Main Street and note the many oaks that line the thoroughfare. Many of these majestic trees are charter members of the Live Oak Society. As you drive through the next traffic light, notice the Civic Center on the right; it includes the local public library (#9) that Burke refers to in his writing.

After passing the library, continue down Main Street to the intersection of Bridge Street, where you will turn right, crossing the Bayou Teche (#26). If you took the walking tour, this is the same area you previously covered. Drive on Bridge Street to the first traffic light, and then turn right onto Marie Street. This will lead you into New Iberia's beautiful city park (#28) that borders the Bayou Teche and offers an interesting view of the trees native to this area.

After meandering through the park, it's time to see Cypremort Point (#61). Exit the park by turning right onto Parkview Drive. Continue down Parkview to the next traffic light. Turn right on to Lewis Street. Continue down Lewis for some distance until you reach four-lane Highway 90. Head east toward New Orleans, and stay on Highway 90 for approximately one mile to the LA Highway 83 intersection. Exit there, turning right and head for Cypremort Point.

You will be treated to a beautiful view of the water where Burke imagined Dave escaping for a fishing trip, often with his daughter, Alafair.

