



## Hyenas

*Joe R. Lansdale*

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Hyenas marks the always-welcome return of Joe R. Lansdale's most indelible fictional creations: Hap Collins and Leonard Pine. Once again, the embattled but resilient duo find themselves enmeshed in a web of danger, duplicity, and escalating mayhem. The result is a tightly compressed novella that is at once harrowing, hilarious, and utterly impossible to put down.

The story begins with a barroom brawl that is both brutal and oddly comic. The ensuing drama encompasses abduction, betrayal, robbery, and murder, ending with a lethal confrontation in an East Texas pasture. Along the way, readers are treated to moments of raucous, casually profane humor and to scenes of vivid, crisply described violence, all related in that unmistakable Lansdale voice. An essential addition to an already imposing body of work, Hyenas shows us both the author and his signature characters at their inimitable best. It doesn't get better than this.

Hyenas also includes the bonus Hap Collins short story, "The Boy Who Became Invisible".

## Hyenas Details

Date : Published March 19th 2011 by Subterranean (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781596063563

Author : Joe R. Lansdale

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Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Crime, Fiction, Novella

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## From Reader Review Hyenas for online ebook

### Dan Schwent says

Hap drives over to the Big Frog Club to find the police questioning Leonard after Leonard put the hurt on three guys. One of the guys appreciates Leonard's toughness and hires him and Hap to get his younger brother away from a group of suspected bank robbers he's fallen in with. Can Hap and Leonard save Donny from the influence of Smoke Stack and the other thugs?

Hyenas was a worthy addition to the Hap and Leonard canon. It has all the hallmarks of a good Hap and Leonard tale: humor, cursing, and furious violence. My favorite line was "Brett thought it would be cute if we got matching guns with our initials on them," the we being Hap and Leonard. Funny stuff. The action was hard and fast when it arrived and the humor was top notch. You don't read too many stories these days that feature an Ultra-Light aircraft AND a reference to The Last Airbender.

So why only a 3? This thing cost \$25 bucks and was barely a hundred pages long! If my math is correct, between this and Devil Red, Joe Lansdale has fifty of my dollars for under four hundred pages of story in two weeks time. It seems like Hyenas and Devil Red could have easily been bundled together. I'm not saying I feel ripped off but the lightness in my wallet is throwing off my manly stride a bit.

To sum things up, Hyenas is a good story and a worthy Hap and Leonard tale but get it on the cheap if you can.

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### Trevor says

This Hap and Leonard book is like a snack you have between lunch and dinner. As a matter of fact, this one was so short that I started it at lunch and finished it before dinner, on the train home.

Like all their other adventures, they get into trouble and the bad people die. But given the brevity of this book there wasn't any time for Brett and Hap to have copious amounts of sexual intercourse or for Hap and Leonardo to exchange pages of witty banter and profanity.

Still fun.

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### Jeffrey Keeten says

With only 100 pages and with 7 of that being a flashback Hap story at the end of the book I was worried that this book could actually give me a true Hap and Leonard fix or if I'd be left with just a tingle and not a climax. The book delivered.

Goodreads informed me this is the 10th Hap and Leonard adventure. This is an expensive way to try the Lansdale series as it was published by the small press Subterranean, and the cheapest version is \$25 which is pretty steep for 100 pages. I would hope that at some point in time it will be collected with other novellas in

a much more affordable format. If you want to try your own dose of Hap and Leonard I would go back to the beginning with Savage Season.

I don't want to sum up the plot of this short little gem, but thought it might be useful to those of you that haven't been introduced to the duo from Texas to read an interview conducted by Lansdale with his two favorite fictional characters.

Joe R. Lansdale Interviews Hap Collins and Leonard Pine  
as published in VEIL'S VISIT

Q. Hap, I'm going to start with you. You strike me as an intelligent guy. Why don't you try and make a little bit more of your life?

Hap: Haven't a clue. I keep thinking I will, but I seem to take wrong turns.

Q. Why not back off from the situations you get yourself into? You deserve a little better, don't you?

Hap: I get into them before I mean to. It's like they're kind of lurking out there. I turn left to avoid them, there's more trouble comin' the other way.

Leonard: And he drags me in after him. Can I say something?

Q. Be my guest.

Leonard: Hap's bright, but doesn't fully believe it. He thinks because he hasn't come up with the formula for something like Coca-Cola, or has done him some brain surgery, or cured a disease, he hasn't lived up to his expectations. Problem with Hap is, he coasts. Ain't sayin' he's lazy. He works hard. When he works. But he hasn't got any rudder.

Q. Now, don't take this wrong, Leonard, but what's your excuse?

Leonard: I don't make any. I'm doing what I want to do. That's the difference between me and my brother here. He isn't entirely happy being him. I'd damn ecstatic about being me. I work hard. I don't worry that much about the future. A little. But nothing serious. Hap, he's nothing but a big ol' bag of worry.

Hap: I thought I was a love machine.

Leonard: You're a love machine can't keep a woman.

Hap: You've had a bit of a problem maintaining relationships yourself, my good man.

Leonard: Yeah. But, you know what. I think I've found a man finally.

Q. That's another thing. Don't the people you guys care about seem to...Well, you know?

Leonard: Yeah, they seem to give us bad luck. We haven't figured that one out yet.

Q. Well, they're the one's get killed.

Leonard: Yeah. We haven't figured that out either.

Q. This one's for you, Leonard. Do you feel that as you get older you're gettin' your temper under control?

Leonard: What temper?

Q. Well...

Leonard: Hey, answer the question. I didn't stutter. What temper?

Q. I was merely sayin'...

Leonard: You haven't said anything yet. You asked if I had a temper. I don't have any damn temper.

Hap: Yes you do.

Leonard: Hey, you want a piece of me, brother? You want to wake up with a crowd around you?

Hap: Hey, bubba. You and me get into, you better brought yourself a sack lunch, cause we're gonna be here all night.

Leonard: Yeah?

Hap: Yeah.

Q. Let's change the subject. You guys seem to survive through pure tenacity and a feeling of quarrelsome brotherhood...

Leonard: Quarrelsome. Who you callin'-

Hap: You're right. We do. There's this, Lansdale. You can have all the money there is, every damn thing, and what it comes down to finally, like it or not, you got to have someone to lean on. Leonard and I aren't brothers by birth. But we are brothers. Like our lawyer friend Andrew Vachss says, "It's the family you choose that counts." We stand by that. It can be your blood kin, certainly, but it doesn't have to be. Way we see it, we can argue and fight with each other, but no one else better think they can. Least not in any serious manner.

Q. All right. Let me ask this. What are future plans?

Hap: Hard to say.

Leonard: Charlie Blank and Hanson have some ideas for us. They've got a little Private Investigator's agency, and we may be picking up a few jobs from them. Nothing technical. Just little stuff, you know. Hap here, he'll still be looking for a date. Watching his weight. Sticking to non-alcoholic beer and losing his hair. I'll still be cool and calm in my J. C. Pennys suit.

Hap: You may be calm, but that cheap suit is enough to make anyone else nervous.

Q. I have just a few more questions.

Leonard: Actually, we got to go. We borrowed the truck we're in to get over here, and we promised to have it back. Our junkers are in the shop. Guy needs this one back to go to work.

Hap: And there's a monster movie showing on channel 38 I want to see.

Leonard: Not that he hasn't seen it about a hundred times.

Q. Well, thanks, guys. And be careful out there.

Leonard: Hell, careful's our middle name, man.

I did keep wondering as I read this book how Spencer and Hawk would stand up against Hap and Leonard. It would be hard for me to bet against Hap and Leonard. What they lack in expertise they make up for in dumb luck. Highly recommended to read this with a beer or two or a few fingers of bourbon.

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### **Katy Brandes says**

Still full of some rip-roaring fights even though this novella was much shorter than others in the series. I like how the guys outshine as do-gooders!

The short at the end left me with such a creepy feeling. Good work should make the reader feel, and - damn - it did. Lesson learned. If it's this dark, don't read before falling asleep.

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### **Kemper says**

That was short and sweet.

Actually, it was very, very short and sweet.

Hap and Leonard are up to their usual hijinks when they get hired by a man who thinks his younger brother has gotten mixed up with a crew of armed robbers. The guys come up with a plan to show the young man the error of his ways, but as always they get a lot more than they bargained for.

This has all the stuff I could ask for in a Hap & Leonard novel. It's funny, profane, action packed and generally great. Lansdale once again walks a fine line in making the violence brutal and scary but still finds the dark humor in it, too. The opening of this book finds Hap picking Leonard up from the cops after his enthusiastic self-defense during a night club brawl left a hilarious amount of damage behind, and as usual I found myself laughing out loud several times.

My complaint with this is that it's a novella, not a novel, and it clocks in at 100 pages including a short story about an incident during Hap's high school years. None of the books in the series have been particularly long, but the last one, Devil Red, was only about 200 pages and felt way too short for the hardback price I paid for it. So when I saw that this was a 100 page hardback for \$25, I decided it could wait until I got it from the library someday. Now I see that the next one will also be another very short hardback at premium prices.

I love Lansdale's writing, but I'm too cheap to pay these prices for books I can read in a couple of hours. I'm not sure why he's releasing them like this, and if his only story ideas are coming to him as these shorter tales, why not collect three of them in one hardback? As someone who has purchased a pretty good stack of Lansdale's books over the years, I can't help but feel that the loyalty of the Hap & Leonard fans is being taken advantage of.

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### **Lynn says**

Of course I enjoyed this. I love me some Hap and Leonard when they're in kick butt mode....which is always. I'm also very glad I got this through inter-library loan because I'm cheap. This is my first muscleman Hap and Leonard cover. For some reason I've always pictured Hap as scrawny and Leonard as brawny. These cover models are one ripped tee shirt away from raunchy pulp imagery. Hmm, a perfect fit really :-)

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### **Bob Vickers says**

*Hyenas* was a pretty typical Hap and Leonard story. Very enjoyable. However the short story following *Hyenas* "The Kid who Became Invisible" will be the most unforgettable story I've read in the last 10 years.

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### **Darren says**

\*NB: I consider Hap & Leonard a five-star series. I love the books, love the characters. So the ratings you see here should be filtered within that scale. They're all five stars to me, but some are better than others, and my ratings are about that. If a part of you is saying "...but that's not how goodreads works!" or "... that's not how statistics work!" well, you're right. Nevertheless, this is the way I'm doing it.\*

The main story, a Hap and Leonard novella, was a little Vachssian, and didn't seem very Hap and Leonard, to me. The whole taking-the-troubled-kid-under-their-wing and teaching him how to be a Tough-Guy-With-Integrity plotline... that's straight up Andrew Vachss. It was alright, though I'm a little unsatisfied with the portrayal of Leonard Pine, of late. He was always the more mature one, but the last few H&L stories I've read, all he does is eat vanilla wafers and drink Dr. Peppers. Where did his boyfriend go? When will he get off Hap's couch? Obviously these things can't be answered in a novella, but I'm hoping the next novel (which Lansdale says might be a good long while before it arrives) deals with these things.

The short story included with the novella, [The Boy Who Became Invisible](#), (view spoiler), was wonderful.

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### **Marvin says**

I read this in two sittings separated by a good night's sleep. I would have read it in one sitting but my wife told me I would have to chose between her or Hap & Leonard. With some hesitation, I chose my wife. *Hyenas* is a piece of short fiction (93 pages) featuring the East Texas odd couple, Hap & Leonard. The short fiction form works well for these two. It is comfortably tight and to the point with just enough room for the

sharp wit and tense action author Joe Lansdale is noted for. There is a certain pattern that has developed in this series. Leonard, or sometimes Hap, gets into a tussle and the tussle turns into a working proposition involving more tussles and eventually a showdown. But it is always the rapport and love (not *that* kind of love!) that makes Hap & Leonard so enjoyable. I'm also happy to see Brett, Hap's girl friend, become entrenched in these tales as the one who wields the common sense and wisdom.

Aside from the tale "Hyenas", there is also an excellent story called "The Boy Who Became Invisible". Even though I liked "Hyenas" a lot, this brief tale is the real showcase here for the literary power of Lansdale.

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### **Gef says**

Fun little interlude with Hap and Leonard--and Brett--but despite the great dialogue and action, the suspense seemed to be missing out in this one. Or at least missing its mark.

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### **Chompa says**

I kind of flew through this book. This is possibly my favorite Hap and Leonard yet. Some of the discussions in here really hit home with me. Lansdale discusses morality in a very clean and attainable way.

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### **TK421 says**

Incredible. So sleek. So minimal. So perfectly written.

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### **Zoeytron says**

Leonard Pine doesn't take kindly to insults. He won't tolerate them, certainly not in the dingy confines of the Big Frog Club in East Texas. He puts paid to the ones who spoke without thinking it through and he does it in style, neatly parting one thug's hair with a chair and shoving another miscreant's head through the bathroom wall. The third mouthy one is left in the road outside the bar with several of his teeth on his chest.

Hap and Leonard are back, ready to create their own brand of mayhem. Witty, wild, and ribald equals rootin' tootin' fun. "The Boy Who Became Invisible" is a bonus short story that was included in this edition. It was a sobering look at an incident in Hap's school days.

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### **Lisa says**

This is really a short story, or the nut of a larger novel. The companion story was tight and well told.

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## Randy says

Hap and Leonard are back in the hardcover novella from small publisher Subterranean Press. There's also a Hap Collins short story about a childhood incident.

Hap is called down to a bar where Leonard is in trouble. He arrives to find a swarm of cops, Leonard sitting on the curb holding a bloody rag to his head, and a man lying nearby whose face had been deconstructed by Leonard's fists.

Three guys in the bar had ragged him about being queer and when he stood up, one hit him with a chair. They started the fight, but Leonard finished it, putting one of the other guy's head through the bathroom wall.

Seems simple enough. The third man admits they started it all, then ends up buying the two friends coffee. He explained that he hadn't been with the two, but had come looking to hire some tough guys and they'd felt the need to try to impress him, him getting caught up in it all when the fight started.

He wanted his kid brother separated from a group he was involved with, overhearing them planning an armored car heist. Donnie, the brother, was to be the getaway driver. Kelly, the older brother by ten years, had came home to take care of his little brother after the parents had died and wasn't tough enough to help him this time. He offers ten grand apiece.

They decided to look into it and the story takes off with Lansdale's customary blend of humor(the banter between the two best friends), violence, blood, all in a tightly compact little tale.

Liked this one.

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