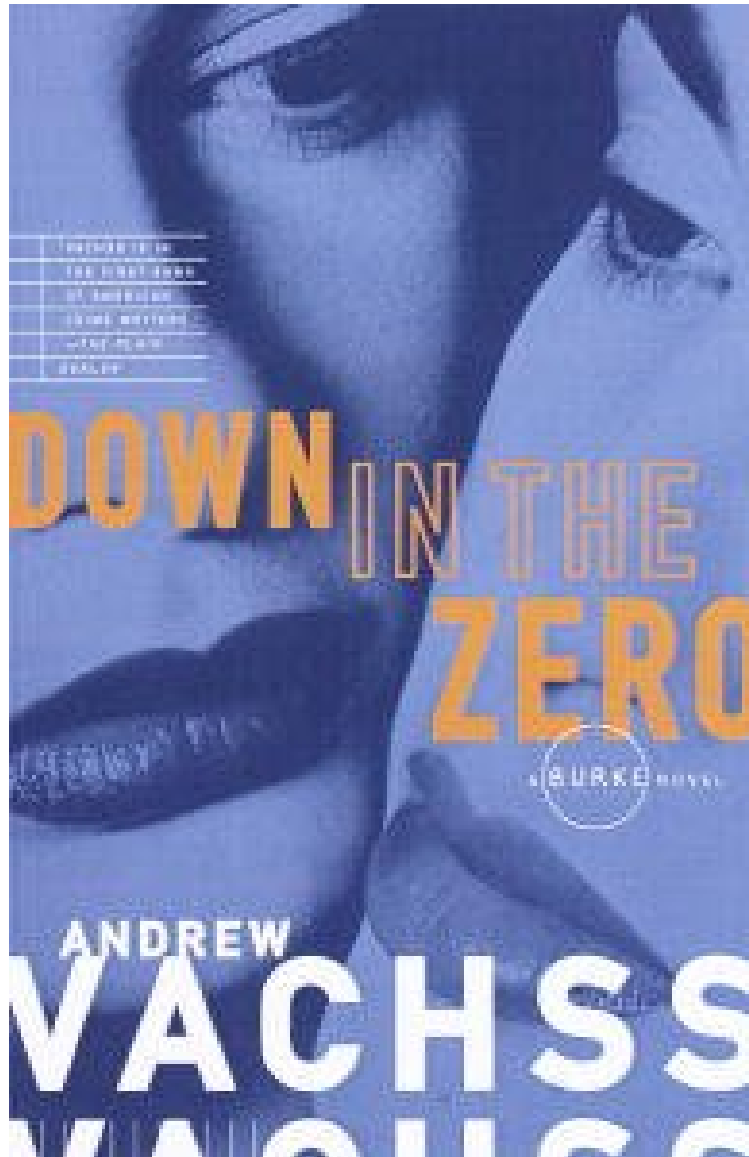


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Down in the Zero

Von Andrew Vachss

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Von Andrew Vachss : Down in the Zero before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down in the Zero:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Burke can get on your nerves after a while...Von Ein KundeI feel a little disloyal critisizing one of Andrew Vachss' books. I wasn't sorry I bought this because I like contributing to his cause, but this one bugged me a bit. The sado-masochistic sex seemed disturbingly gratuitous. It almost seemed thrown in to titillate the reader -- ironic, since Vachss abhors the

connection "freaks" make between sex and violence. And listen here, Burke: You love Judy Henske, you love women with big butts (want my number?), and you respect dogs more than you respect most people. I got it. Again. Actually, I love Burke. Keep it up. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sexy and hard-edged Von Carrie D. This book is a terrific introduction to the world of Burke. He's got his own way of thinking, his own way of loving, and a heart much bigger than it appears in the steel-caged life he has to lead. All the women in this book are strong characters, but the one who joins him is also sensuous, dangerous, and absolutely addictive. It's a great read, and I plan to read the rest of the series as well. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fan's opinion Von Ein Kunde I first picked up Andrew Vachss because I heard his name mentioned in connection with Batman. Figuring it was going to be fiction in the Raymond Chandler vein, I picked up one of his books. Needless to say, the hard steel nightmare that Burke and his "family" live through daily floored me. Down In the Zero is a very good book in that we get more of an insight on Burke. Vachss refers to events in other novels; it helps if you read the whole series in order. We get an insight into Burke's soul that is both entrancing and disturbing. This isn't a poetic book, and Burke is not a likable person. The entire novel is told from Burke's point of view, that of a hardened, callous criminal. And any poetry would get in the way. The novel is sharp, quick, and to the point. The cutting edge of detective fiction, well worth reading.

Kurzbeschreibung Andrew Vachss has reinvented detective fiction for an age in which guilty secrets are obsolete and murder isn't even worth a news headline. And in the person of his haunted, hell-ridden private eye Burke, Vachss has given us anew kind of hero: a man inured to every evil except the kind that preys on children. Now Burke is back, investigating an epidemic of apparent suicides among teenagers of a wealthy Connecticut suburb. There he discovers a sinister connection between the anguish of the young and the activities of an elite sadomasochistic underground, for whom pain and its accompanying rituals are a source of pleasure and power. From the Trade Paperback edition. From Kirkus After an absence in Vachss's last novel *Shella* (1993), Burke--the PI hero of all the others--returns for this, Vachss's eighth. Burke's been doing some general snooping--checking up on cheating spouses, etc.--when he gets a call from Randy, a teenager from a wealthy Connecticut neighborhood whose friends are all committing suicide. He has a feeling his life is in danger--and remembers that his mother (Cherry, who saved Burke's neck long ago when he was a freedom-fighter in Biafra) once told him to contact Burke if he ever felt endangered. Burke moves into Randy's house for an extended investigation of the area--and this leads him to Cherry's friend, Fancy, a potentially dangerous vixen whose trust Burke casually earns through a mixture of sexual role-playing and a very careful search into her past. What follows is a plot (that's possibly more intricate than it needs to be) about a porn-film ring and a wealthy dominatrix/sociopath--but Vachss is so sure-footed on psychological terrain, especially that of the sexually abused, that his plot-cramming secondary stories are all captivating sidelines. He takes Burke's tough-guy status to excessive limits, investing him with nearly superhuman powers of strength, libido, and intellect. But Burke also has a maudlin side--part of his tough-love routine is to spill lines like "The night didn't have a chance against the kid's smile." Joined by a cast readers will recognize from Vachss's previous work, including *West Indian Clarence* and *the Prof*, Burke ends up meting out justice according to his prison-honed bullshit detector: He helps all those who have a shred of goodness in them, and he helps destroy the irredeemably evil. Burke's return is welcome--his superstud act may be extreme here, but he's one of the most fascinating male characters in crime fiction; and as usual, Vachss controls his narrative, cut up into bullet-sized chapters, with admirable precision. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From *Library Journal* Here is yet another hard-core novel in the author's series of fictional battles against child abuse amidst sleaze, slime, and the nearly surreal. Burke, who was last seen in *Sacrifice* (Knopf, 1991), is now confronted with young adult suicides and sexual blackmail in an affluent Connecticut suburb. Hired to watch the young son of a former lover, Burke is drawn into a bizarre situation populated by characters almost as strange as his friends. The suicides and the sadomasochistic sex, which are weirdly connected, force Burke to enlist his usual cohorts. Fans will want this crisply written work, but those not familiar with the bizarre characters who make up Burke's circle may be confused. Purchase where the series is popular. Robert H. Donahugh, formerly with Youngstown Mahoning Cty. P.L., Ohio Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.