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Donald E. Westlake

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Donald E. Westlake : BANK SHOT. before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised BANK SHOT.:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another madcap caperBy Christopher (o.d.c.)Publication date: 1972, and very evocative of that point in time.Parker fans can enjoy Dortmund under capers too. They just have to get used to what might seem extraneous at first:Kelp drove one-handed for a minute while he got out his pack of Trues, shook one out, and put it between his lips. He extended the pack sideways, saying, Cigarette?True? What the hell kind of brand is that?Its one of the new ones with the low nicotine and tars. Try it.Ill stick to Camels, Dortmund said, and out of the corner of his eye Kelp saw him pull a battered pack of them from his jacket pocket.True, Dortmund grumbled. I dont know what the hell kind of name that is for a cigarette.Kelp was stung. He said, Well, what kind of name is Camel? True means something. What the hell does Camel mean?It means cigarettes, Dortmund said. For years and years it means cigarettes. I see something called True, I figure right away its a fake.Just because youve been working a con, Kelp said, you figure everybody else is too.Thats right, Dortmund said.Or this dinner planned by Herman X- the expensive tastes which mean he has to keep "liberating" banks:... He had planned the menu with the greatest of care. The cocktails to begin had been Negronis, the power of the gin obscured by the gentleness of vermouth and Campari. The caviar and pitted black olives to nosh on while drinking. Then, at the table, the meal itself would start with black bean soup, followed by poached fillet of black sea bass and a nice bottle of Schwartzekatz. For the entree, a Black Angus steak sauteed in black butter and garnished with black truffles, plus a side dish of black rice, washed down with a good Pinot Noir. For dessert, black-button pie and coffee. For after-dinner drinks, a choice of Black Russians or

blackberry brandy, with bowls of black walnuts to munch on again in the living room. I guarantee that once the characters are introduced this way, the heist itself goes off with Stark-like speed. It's like the book rolls uphill, then careens downhill. And just as there was Sara Lee pecan cinnamon coffee cake at the end of *The Hot Rock*, there is coffee and danish at the end of *BANK SHOT*. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. just the best dry wit..By Quentin Feduchin The Dortmunder Novels number at least six, though I haven't checked lately. This one is number two. The novels are basically about some minor criminals and Dortmunder himself plans the capers. Dortmunder is good at it and his plans are detailed. Donald Westlake appears to write the stories quite seriously and with a dry realism that almost connects them to real life. One can imagine the quite accidental things that people do and the silly mess-ups they cause. In his dry way Westlake makes them exceedingly hilarious. One finds oneself laughing loudly and uproariously at quite ordinary 'accidents of omissions', in other words people simply forgetting what they should do. Little events occur that seem to cause the most unfortunate results. Donald Westlake is well into the same area as Carl Hiaasen; Elmore Leonard is another, however Westlake's stories are of a lighter nature. He joins with similar writers of ridiculous, 'almost normal' events; 'lightweight criminality'; and you will definitely love his stuff. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Laugh-out-loud criminal caper By reading writer I will read anything Donald Westlake has written, but in particular I will read any Dortmunder book I can get my hands on. Why? Because I love laughing out loud, and that activity is guaranteed when reading about poor Dortmunder, a terrific planner of crimes (in this case, a bank robbery) with a completely hapless set of partners. This is one of Westlake's best. I like to read in bed at night before I go to sleep, but I had to give up reading this particular story in bed, because I laughed so much that I shook the bed hard enough to wake up my husband...and it's a platform bed that ordinarily doesn't move! Westlake's cast of characters are a pure delight -- each has his/her characteristics and foibles, and somehow those characteristics always seem to stand in the way of a successful heist. Reading about Dortmunder's attempts to make the "big score" is like watching a slow-motion Keystone Cops-style train wreck. I love it.

With the help of an unusual set of cronies, bank robber John Dortmunder puts a set of wheels under a trailer that just happens to be the temporary site of the Capitalists' Immigrants' Trust and hauls it away. But when the safe won't open and the cops get close, Dortmunder realizes he's got to find a place to ditch the "bank".

About the Author DONALD E. WESTLAKE has written numerous novels over the past thirty-five years under his own name and pseudonyms, including Richard Stark. Many of his books have been made into movies, including *The Hunter*, which became the brilliant film noir *Point Blank*, and the 1999 smash hit *Payback*. He penned the Hollywood scripts for *The Stepfather* and *The Grifters*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay. The winner of three Edgar awards and a Mystery Writers of America Grand Master, Donald E. Westlake was presented with *The Eye*, the Private Eye Writers of America's Lifetime Achievement Award, at the Shamus Awards. He lives with his wife, Abby Adams, in rural New York State.