



Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1)

By Ben Rehder

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"Thanks to Ben Rehder, Texas now has its own Hiaasen. Don't miss it."

—Tim Dorsey, author of the Serge Storms mysteries.

Buck Fever: It's the week before deer hunting season, as close to a statewide holiday as you get in Texas, and the locals are getting restless. Game Warden John Marlin has his hands full with poaching complaints coming in faster than he can write out-of-season tickets. Then a call of a different sort comes in. A man dressed up in some sort of deer costume has been shot at the Circle S ranch, and witnesses are reporting a massive wild-eyed buck prancing about the pasture in a lovesick frenzy. Marlin's seen a lot in his years, but this is wilder than he could have imagined: the man in the deer suit is a good friend, and the whacked-out whitetail isn't exactly a stranger either. It's the beginning of a mad, frantic weekend in Blanco County, one that will see a few more men shot, an invasion by Colombians with more than hunting on their minds, and damn near the end of Marlin's life. Ben Rehder serves it all up with a huge helping of humor in this debut comic mystery that will firmly establish him as the funniest crime writer in Texas.

REVIEWS FOR BUCK FEVER:

"This debut novel is a complete success, tearing out of Texas chock-full of characters so nutty and events so strange it seems as if they must be real. The writing here is confident and vigorous; the tone is quintessentially Texan and relentlessly wry. There's sure to be a long career for this happy, wacky series."

—Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)

"This is a wild and crazy first novel, crowded with weird people, unusual relationships (both animal and human), and frequent humor that will appeal to fans of Carl Hiaasen, Tim Dorsey, and other comic mystery writers. Strongly recommended for most collections."

—Library Journal (Starred Review)

"It's been our pleasure to be among the first reviewers to take notice of several writers who eventually became best sellers, including Nevada Barr, Lee Child

and Randy Wayne White. Ben Rehder has what it takes to join that group. Imagine Carl Hiaasen with a Texas accent..."
—Denver Post

"Briskly paced, amusing, spiced with deftly drawn good-old-boy portraits: an altogether promising debut."
—Kirkus Reviews

"...side-splitting...akin to the Tom Robbins style of humor writing."
—ESPN Outdoors

"Austinite Ben Rehder's debut novel is the summer's best find. With a nod and a wink to Carl Hiaasen, Rehder comes out swinging with a sardonic Tex-centric look at trophy deer hunters, beer-guzzling poachers, and Game Warden John Marlin—the man charged with keeping them all in line. Buck Fever is too fun to be legal."

—Texas Monthly

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Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1) By Ben Rehder Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

It's not easy to be consistently absurd for an entire book. This debut novel is a complete success, tearing out of Texas chock-full of characters so nutty and events so strange it seems as if they must be real. Game warden John Marlin has been best friends with Phil Colby since grade school. Marlin essentially grew up on the vast spread of the Colby ranch, and he was nearly as crushed as Colby when the ranch was lost. The new owner, Roy Swank, is as greedy and unscrupulous a man as Texas can produce--and everyone knows Texas does things in a big way. Swank can be petty, too: he insisted Colby leave his tame deer, aptly named Buck, pointing out that native whitetails belong to the state. Swank has set up a profitable deer farm, and hunting season is right around the corner. He's got a big opening day planned, complete with rich and famous guests. Marlin, meanwhile, comes across some white powder that spilled from a poached deer--one that belongs to Swank. There's also a wildlife biologist dressed up as a doe, a doe dressed in stiletto heels and a garter belt, as well as some frequently drunk good ol' boys named Red and Billy Don. Rehder gives Marlin a little time to talk about hunting, to explain that it doesn't have to be merely a killing spree. Although his observations seem somewhat forced, it's probably a worthwhile interjection. The writing here is confident and vigorous; the tone is quintessentially Texan and relentlessly wry. There's sure to be a long career for this happy, wacky series.

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From Library Journal

County game warden John Marlin and Sheriff Herbert Mackey lock horns when two dumb-and-dumber poachers accidentally shoot another idiotic guy wearing a deer costume. The poachers also wound a particularly rambunctious big-antlered buck, which just happens to be Marlin's former pet. Elsewhere in the county, a body is discovered beneath a shoddily repaired bridge, and a slick, drug-dealing Colombian comes looking for a game, ranch-owning, crooked lobbyist. This is a wild and crazy first novel, crowded with weird people, unusual relationships (both animal and human), and frequent humor that will appeal to fans of Carl Hiaasen, Tim Dorsey, and other comic mystery writers. Strongly recommended for most collections.

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From [Booklist](#)

First-novelist Rehder makes several rookie mistakes. He's sloppy with exposition (in one chapter, an injured man tries to keep his stitches dry in the shower; in the next, he showers again because "the nurse had told him to clean his stitches at least twice a day"), and he often condescends to a cast of rural rubes who might be refugees from Jeff Foxworthy's redneck routines. But Rehder gets more things right than wrong in this fast-paced comic thriller, which comes within shooting distance of Hiaasen and Leonard territory. Texas game warden John Marlin, a likable lawman who reveres his state's hunting tradition, must stop a drug-smuggling conspiracy at a game ranch owned by a legendary political fixer. Along the way, Marlin crosses horns with a corrupt sheriff, Colombian gangsters, and a pair of poachers who propel the action with increasingly ridiculous schemes. A drug-addled veterinarian, a biologist who gets too close to the wildlife, and some clever one-liners--one jerk's forehead is "split open like an aging dashboard"--help keep this promising debut near the target. *Frank Sennett*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Spencer:

The book Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1) make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem using your subject. If you can make looking at a book Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1) for being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open and read a book Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Alfonso Miller:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the concept Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1) suitable to you? Typically the book was written by well-known writer in this era. Often the book untitled Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1)is the main one of several books in which everyone read now. This specific book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know prior to. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to understand the core of this publication. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world on this book.

Martin Thomas:

The guide untitled Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1) is the book that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to you actually. The language that writer use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The author was did a lot of investigation when write the book, and so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Buck Fever (Blanco County Mysteries Book 1) from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Rosa Crowe:

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