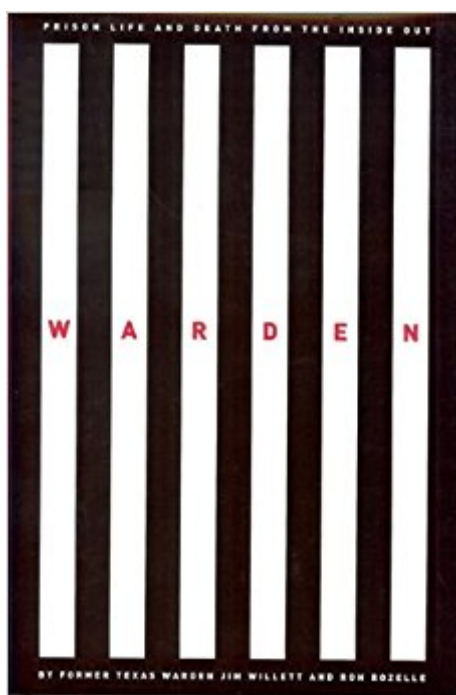


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# Warden: Texas Prison Life And Death From The Inside Out



## Synopsis

The story of the author's thirty-year career in Texas prisons, from his first night as a shotgun-wielding guard to the last man he accompanied to the death chamber, Willett remembers not just the big events of his career but the small ones that give prison life its texture. In measured but powerful prose, he describes the efficient actions of the tie-down team, the prisoner's often meandering last words, and the way that he himself lifted his glasses from his nose to signal the executioner to start the IV flow.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 232 pages

Publisher: Bright Sky Press (May 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1931721505

ISBN-13: 978-1931721509

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #425,147 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #367 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Law Enforcement](#) #429 in [Books > Law > Criminal Law > Criminal Procedure](#) #1351 in [Books > Law > Rules & Procedures](#)

## Customer Reviews

"... a quick, riveting read." -- San Antonio Current  
"... one I'll gladly pick up and read again." -- Huntsville Item  
"... recommended to general readers, students of corrections, those interested in History, for Willett's description of prison and small-town life." -- Southwestern Historical Quarterly  
"... this volume is essential for a crime collection." -- Library Journal  
"tragic, humorous, grim and personal. . . ." -- Michael Graczyk, Associated Press

Jim Willett is director of the Texas Prison Museum in Huntsville, Texas. He narrated the radio documentary "Witness to an Execution," which aired on National Public Radio's Morning Edition and won a Peabody Award in 2000. Ron Rozelle teaches creative writing and his novels include *A Place Apart*, *The Windows of Heaven*, and *Into That Good Night*, which was a finalist for the PEN American West Creative Nonfiction Prize.

I just finished this excellent book. Not only was the book most informative about the workings of a prison, you are immediately caught up in Jim Willett's story from his "day one" on the job. This personal aspect of the book added so much, and the reader will feel that they are there with Jim Willett as his story unfolds. Getting to know this good man as you will, adds credence to all that he has to say about the criminal justice system. Thank you Jim Willett for sharing your story. And to Ron Rozelle who expressed his hope in the foreword that he did a good job in the telling, it is my opinion you knocked it out of the park! It is without hesitation that I recommend this book to anyone interested in the criminal justice system.

this was one of the best books i've read in a long time. it's very blunt & to the point, and is very informative about the texas prison system. the execution journals within the book are also pretty informative and exciting to read. it makes you think twice about where you stand on the death penalty, for sure. i'd definitely recommend this book to a friend, especially someone that may be against the death penalty--like i said, it'll make you question yourself on where you stand :) 5 stars for jim willett!!

Product as described & arrived on time. This is a textbook I needed for one of my classes, so it met my needs. Thank you.

This book was an eye opening look at our Texas prison system. Jim Willett is a man of integrity that had a difficult job to perform. The book is well written and a must read for anyone that ever wondered what it is like inside "The Walls". My husband and I both enjoyed his story.

Willet oversaw many executions during his time as warden in Huntsville. The stories are sometimes chilling but if the subject interests you, as it does me, you should hit the button and buy the book. It's a good read.

I have always had a thing for what goes on in prisons, (watch Lockup religiously), live in Texas, and am a supporter of capital punishment. So I really looked forward to reading this book, and it was every bit as well written as I had hoped!

Haven't finished the book yet, but it has been good so far. Gives the feel of the human side of correctional staff. Reminded me of the movie "the green mle."

Very interesting book for a number of reasons. Story of a long time tough Texas Prison Warden. But the book is not what most people would expect, especially when he talks at length about the executions he had to watch. Good for history buffs and gives an added insight into capital punishment debate.

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