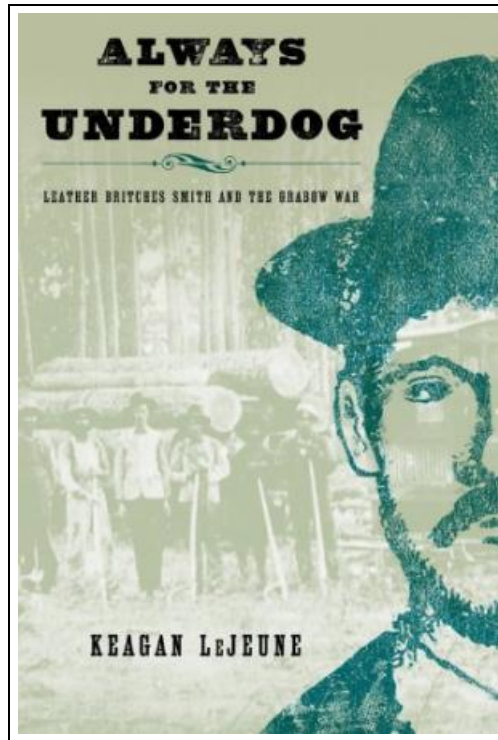


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ALWAYS THE UNDERDOG: LEATHER BRITCHES SMITH AND THE GRABOW WAR (HARDBACK)



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University of North Texas Press,U.S., United States, 2010. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Louisiana s Neutral Strip, an area of pine forests, squats between the Calcasieu and Sabine Rivers on the border of East Texas. Early in its history, the region developed a reputation as a harsh frontier where grit and tenacity became indispensable tools of survival. During the Louisiana Purchase, bureaucrats from both Spain and the United States squabbled over the exact boundary line between the two rival powers. Both governments removed militia from the contested land to avoid war. Intensifying its reputation, the region served as an official buffer zone. Without the security of a military presence, residents quickly realized they would need to protect and govern themselves. Soon, tight-knit communities formed, and residents developed a reliance on self, kin, and neighbour. In the early 1900s, the timber boom sliced through the forests of East Texas and the former Neutral Strip, disrupting these dense communities. Mill towns sprang up, and the promise of money lured land speculators, timber workers, unionists, and a host of other characters, such as the outlaw Leather Britches Smith. The entrenched local residents soon confronted not only these new community members but also a dynamic cultural moment that struck a defining blow in the making of the region. That moment continues to shape the place s cultural consciousness, and people fashion a lore connected to this time. In a fascinating exploration of the region, Keagan LeJeune unveils the legend of Leather Britches, paralleling the stages of the outlaw s life to the Neutral Strip s formation. LeJeune retells each stage of Smith s life: his notorious past, his audacious deeds of robbery and even generosity, his rumored connection to a local union strike-the Grabow War-significant in the annals of labor...



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