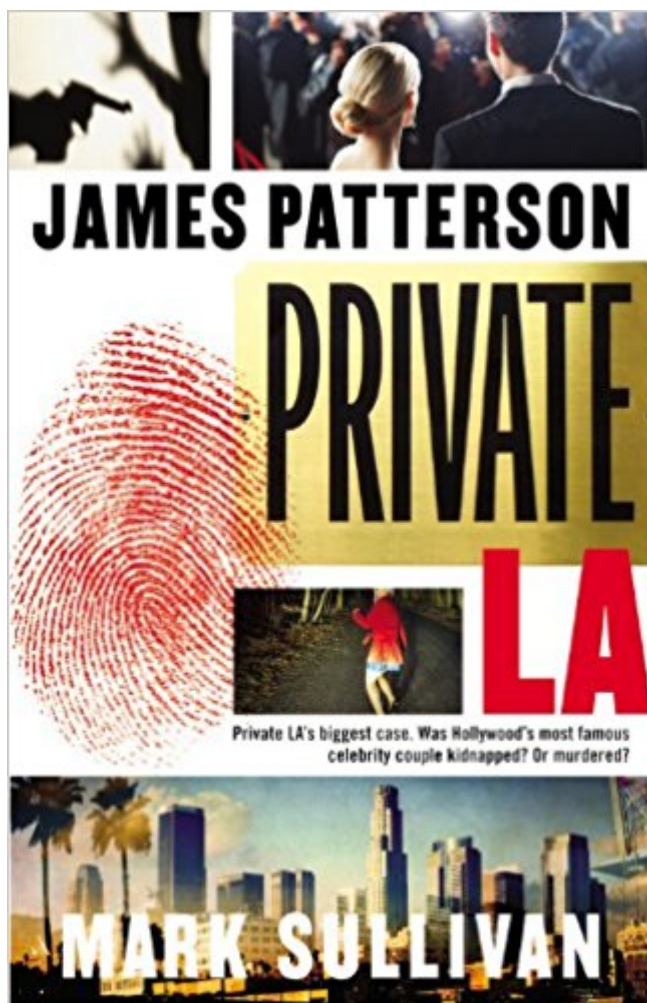


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Private L.A.



Synopsis

Private Jack Morgan investigates the disappearance of the biggest superstar couple in Hollywood. Thom and Jennifer Harlow are the perfect couple, with three perfect children. They maybe two of the biggest mega movie stars in the world, but they're also great parents, philanthropists and just all-around good people. When they disappear without a word from their ranch, facts are hard to find. They live behind such a high wall of security and image control that even world-renowned Private Investigator Jack Morgan can't get to the truth. But as Jack keeps probing, secrets sprout thick and fast--and the world's golden couple may emerge as hiding behind a world of desperation and deception that the wildest reality show couldn't begin to unveil. Murder is only the opening scene.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Acclaim for Private"Private will grab you from page one and force you to sit there until you turn the very last page. A great start to new a series from the master of fast-paced thrill rides." •lorisreadingcorner.com"Slick and suspenseful." •BookLoons.com

James Patterson has had more New York Times bestsellers than any other writer, ever, according to Guinness World Records. Since his first novel won the Edgar Award in 1977 James Patterson's books have sold more than 300 million copies. He is the author of the Alex Cross novels, the most popular detective series of the past twenty-five years, including Kiss the Girls and Along Came a Spider. He writes full-time and lives in Florida with his family.

For reasons unknown, this book was written with two plots that have no relationship to each other. Most plot turns were predictable; those that were not related to storylines I'd stopped caring about at all. The writers may have visited Los Angeles a couple of times, but they know little about what it is like to live here. They drive all over the place but never get caught in any traffic (even at dusk on Halloween). They call Pacific Coast Highway "Highway 1," whereas most Angelenos don't use that term for that thoroughfare anywhere south of the split from the 101. The Huntington Beach Pier is moved to Los Angeles--not just the county, but the city, and into LAPD jurisdiction. That mistake could have been fixed easily, by transferring all that action to the Venice Pier, but the authors simply didn't care. A woman has a fling and is seized by guilt when she finds out that her booty call is married and has two kids. Although supposedly a smart adult, she is unable to place responsibility on the guy--who wore no wedding ring and implied he was free. She has to have this pointed out to her by a therapist, even though she supposedly has an academic background and is a therapist herself. Naturally, she has multiple therapeutic specialities--working with children, helping PTSD patients--and has an "academic" background. She lives in a million dollar home (a detached single-family dwelling in Santa Monica), with no explanation given as to why she is that wealthy. There are way too many names given, for stock characters who are about to be killed. The point of view changes radically, jarringly, even in the middle of action sequences. These types of problems made the book a lot of work to read. Not "thought-provoking" . . . work. Characters do a lot of things for reasons that are hard to fathom at all . . . until one realizes that they are doing them because it is convenient for the writers. Near the end, the main characters take enormous risks with their lives and futures by engaging in illegal and dangerous activities in Mexico, when it would have made more sense to walk away and let poetic justice take its course. They are thereby able to achieve a "storybook" ending (that is no more believable than the rest of the book), but their motives for the extreme recklessness are never explained. This book was easy to put down, and I finished it out of a vague curiosity only, not because I truly cared what happened to the characters. If this is representative of Patterson's actual work, I will be taken aback--given his popularity. I hope he's better than this, and that he and Sullivan simply phoned this book in. Essentially, this was over 400 pages of broadcast television writing, rather than a satisfying crime book.

James Patterson, with co-writer, Mark Sullivan, has put together his third "Private" novel starring Jack Morgan, owner and operator of a powerful worldwide investigative agency. Morgan is immediately overwhelmed with murder cases. A group known as "No

Prisoners of War is terrorizing Los Angeles with random group massacres and threatens to up the ante if the City doesn't meet their outrageous monetary demands. Private is asked by the mayor of L.A. to discretely resolve the murders before her city falls into panic mode. A powerful Hollywood couple and their children are reported missing after returning to Los Angeles from filming a movie in Vietnam. Jack Morgan is tasked by the head of the film production company to investigate their disappearance before the media gets wind of it. The case quickly turns international. As if Jack Morgan hadn't enough on his plate his errant twin brother, Tommy, is charged with murder. Tommy, hoping to get off the hook for murder at any cost, threatens to implicate Jack in the murder if his demands for money and ownership of Jack's company are not met. The triple-plotted story is action packed, never slows, and consistently holds the reader's attention. Truth and reality are often stretched to their limits but Patterson and Sullivan skillfully weave a story of intrigue to keep the pages turning. Private L.A. is a fun read. I give it a 4 out of 5 rating.

This book has so many plots going on it's ridiculous. The main plot was sufficiently disgusting but it had 3 other stories going at the same time as well. The stories were ridiculous. For example, the female detective goes to Mexico looking for the missing family and mouths off to the chief of police there. Do I have to tell you how well that went for her? Then, after having previously gone into tedious detail several times about her monstrous workouts at the gym, the first time she gets into a fight in the Mexican jail she not only loses, but she gets traumatized about it and diagnoses herself as having post traumatic stress disorder. So....how's that workout helping her? It was a total waste of words putting the workout in the book when the first time she needed to use her strength and power she folded like a cheap suit. I used to love James Patterson's books and bought each book as it got released. Then he started co-writing with other authors and they weren't up to par so I stopped reading his books. Last month I took a chance and bought NYPD Red and it was fantastic. So I got fooled into trying this book. UGH. A total waste of time. If I could give it zero stars, I would.

Great..JAMES DARING, when will you write a Great book w/out Co-Writers WRITTING your Book's. You put YOUR name First so your (Fan's) Me, Who's read ALL of your books.. My Mum (RIP) Used to take turns buying them .. She was also a Great fan. Your first Books we're amazing, They we're yours.. I get that every month you have a new book .. I've do enjoy the writer of whom ever is Cowriting. I still Love them. In fact my Kids bought me the #14 of the women club.. Love the Ladies.. I feel like they're my Friends.. Which means I care for them. Anyway.. Keep Doing You

James. I wish I had the money I've spent buying your Book's, So I can keep buying your new release book's. Most I have to wait until they've gone to paperback.. But I don't mind..God Bless you in so many ways.. You're a Amazing writer WHICH means you must be a Great Friend..Thanks for Many.... Year's of Reading You!!!

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