

L.A.CONFIDENTIALMOVIE TIE-IN



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James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential* is film-noir crime fiction akin to *Chinatown*, *Hollywood Babylon*, *Raymond Chandler*, *Dashiell Hammett*, and *Jim Thompson*. It's about three tortured souls in the 1950s L.A.P.D.: Ed Exley, the clean-cut cop who lives shivering in the shadow of his dad, a legendary cop in the same department; Jack Vincennes, a cop who advises a *Police Squad*-like TV show and busts movie stars for payoffs from sleazy *Hush-Hush* magazine; and Bud White, a detective haunted by the sight of his dad murdering his mom. Ellroy himself was traumatized as a boy by his party-animal mother's murder. (See his memoir *My Dark Places* for the whole sordid story.) So it is clear that Bud is partly autobiographical. But Exley, whose shiny reputation conceals a dark secret, and Vincennes, who goes showbiz with a vengeance, reflect parts of Ellroy, too. *L.A. Confidential* holds enough plots for two or three books: the cops chase stolen gangland heroin through a landscape littered with not-always-innocent corpses while succumbing to sexy sirens who have been surgically resculpted to resemble movie stars; a vile developer--based (unfairly) on Walt Disney--schemes to make big bucks off *Moochie Mouse*; and the cops compete with the crooks to see who can be more corrupt and violent. Ellroy's hardboiled prose is so compressed that some of his rat-a-tat paragraphs are hard to follow. You have to read with attention as intense as his—and that is very intense.

indeed. Buthe richly rewards the effort. He may not be as deep and literary as Chandler, but he belongs on the same top-level shelf.

作者介绍:

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