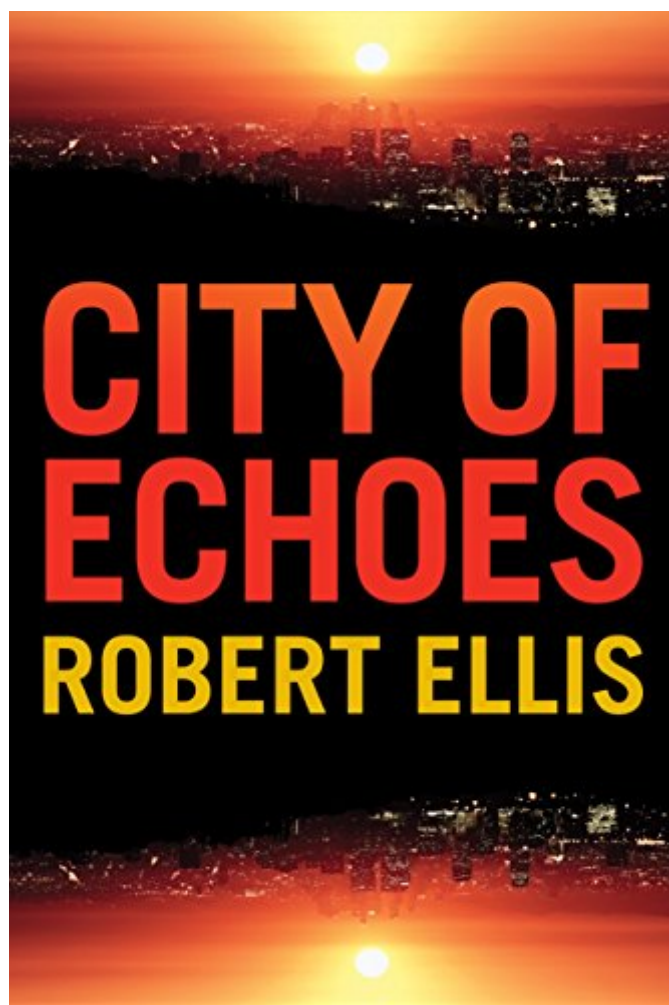


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City Of Echoes (Detective Matt Jones Book 1)



Synopsis

On Detective Matt Jones's first night working Homicide in LA, he's called to investigate a particularly violent murder case: a man has been gunned down in a parking lot off Hollywood Boulevard, his bullet-riddled body immediately pegged as the work of a serial robber who has been haunting the Strip for months. Driven by the grisliness of the killing, Jones and his hot-tempered partner, Denny Cabrera, jump headfirst into the investigation. But as Jones uncovers evidence that links the crime to a brutal, ritualized murder that occurred eighteen months prior, he begins to suspect that there's more going on beneath the surface. When Jones discovers shocking, deep-seated corruption; a high-level cover-up; and his own personal ties to the rising body count, he's no longer sure he can trust anyone, even himself.

Book Information

File Size: 2506 KB

Print Length: 362 pages

Publisher: Thomas & Mercer (September 1, 2015)

Publication Date: September 1, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00R3KUZP0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #6,103 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #46 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Hard-Boiled #47 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Hard-Boiled #95 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Conspiracies

Customer Reviews

Great to see that is offering six kindle first picks for August but the sample of "City of Echoes" hooked me a few weeks ago so it was my automatic pick. The product blurb provides an accurate plot outline and about as much as you can say without spoilers so I won't add much to it here. Although not in the same league, much of the book had the feel of classic LA noir like Raymond

Chandler (my favorite). Instead of Chandler's good guy private eye, Philip Marlowe, you have good guy cop/Afghanistan war vet, Matt Jones. Like those classic novels, there are several twists and turns with many things- and people- not as they seem. And it may be set in modern day but there is still corruption and the claustrophobic tension and paranoia of not knowing who to trust. Setting aside a day to read the kindle first book is a gift to myself every month, but at about the sixty percent mark I had to take a break from the tension for a while. But I will say that first half of the book definitely fell in the "put down" category. On the down side, "City of Echoes" did deviate from classic noir novels with the inclusion of a serial killer (I'm really tired of those) as well as more violence. And although Matt is an interesting and likeable character, there was a lack of secondary character development including some behavior that didn't ring true. I had an overall impression that it was all just too much- too many murders, over the top bad guys, some not too believable twists and turns. Although I didn't think it was egregious, there is a substantial amount of foul language that may bother some people. Once again I wish I had a ten point rating system.

The story begins with Matt Jones who is excited about his new job as a homicide detective in Hollywood. The evening before his first day on the job, he is waiting in a restaurant for his friend, Hughes, to celebrate. His friend is late. After ordering a beer, his cell phone vibrates in his pocket. His supervisor, Lieutenant Bob Grace, calls him into his office and says "You were supposed to start tomorrow, Jones. I know that's how we left it. But I'm in deep s---t, and I need you tonight." Matt sends a quick text message to Hughes. "Dinner off. Call me." Matt wonders why the Lieutenant told him nothing about this assignment except "You'll see why it's so f---d up when you get there." Matt arrives at the scene and understands why Grace is so rattled. A murder had been committed in a parking lot directly across the street and within fifty yards of an LAPD community station. The victim had not been identified until Matt picks up the victim's phone and sees a text message "Dinner off. Call me." Matthew Trevor Jones, welcome to Hollywood Homicide! To say more will spoil the story with all sorts of spoiler alerts. Suffice it to say that the story is a complex, realistic, twists and turns story that will keep you up all night worried about what will happen next. It is not a strict white hat versus black hat cop story. The bad guys and the good guys all have their virtues and vices. For those who want to know, there is some swearing but not much. There are also some romance scenes that I personally think could have been left out but these nit-picks are minor compared to the overall strength of the story line. Hence, my rating of 4 stars. The ultimate questions are: Did I like the book? Yes, definitely.

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