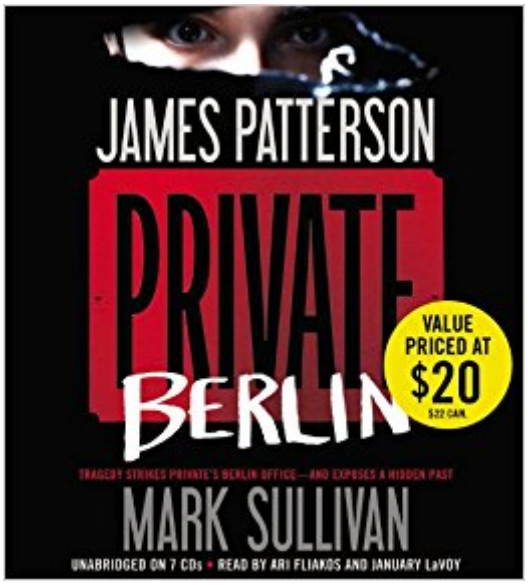
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Private Berlin



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Synopsis

Private Berlin has the extraordinary pace and international sophistication that has powered The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and Patterson's #1 bestseller The Postcard Killers. IN EUROPE'S MOST DANGEROUS CITY Chris Schneider is a superstar agent at Private Berlin, Germany headquarters for the world's most powerful investigation firm. He keeps his methods secret as he tackles Private's most high-profile cases-and when Chris suddenly disappears, he becomes Private Berlin's most dangerous investigation yet. AN INVESTIGATOR IS SEARCHING Mattie Engel is another top agent at Private Berlin, gorgeous and ruthlessly determined-and she's also Chris's ex. Mattie throws herself headfirst into finding Chris, following leads to the three people Chris was investigating when he vanished: a billionaire suspected of cheating on his wife, a soccer star accused of throwing games, and a nightclub owner with ties to the Russian mob. Any one of them would surely want Chris gone-and one of them is evil enough to want him dead. AND SHE'S AFTER MORE THAN THE TRUTH Mattie's chase takes her into Berlin's most guarded, hidden, and treacherous places, revealing secrets from Chris's past that she'd never dreamed of in the time they were lovers. On the brink of a terrifying discovery, Mattie holds on to her belief in Chris-in the face of a horror that could force all of Europe to the edge of destruction and chaos. James Patterson has taken the European thriller to a masterful new level with Private Berlin, an adrenaline-charged, spectacularly violent and sexy novel with unforgettable characters of dark and complex depths. Private Berlin proves why Patterson is truly the world's #1 bestselling author.

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."Ã¢â ¬â ¢lorisreadingcorner.com"Slick and suspenseful."Ã¢â ¬â ¢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.

I learned history as I reÃƒÂ d this book which was hard to put down. As I reÃƒÂ d I was reminded of man's inhumanity to man and I was reminded of the civil wars that are being fought in the world currently. The book is fast paced and the characters are interesting and developed well enough that as I reÃƒÂ d I was able to connect with them. Not all of the characters were likeable.

This story takes place primarily in Germany when the communists took it over and after the Berlin Wall came down. That appealed to me because I was in Germany for a couple of days a few years ago and vividly remember seeing parts of the Berlin Wall and a few of the guard stations that were left standing for tourists to see. We the reader almost immediately learns that a team of investigators are trying to track one of their own who is missing. Mattie, who is associated with the team, had been engaged to Chris - also on the team - has been missing for at least a day. Mattie and her family and a few people become real for me in this story. This book also used an interesting device in which periodically a chapter was written in the first person but without that person letting the reader know the name of who was speaking. This make it both cryptic and kind of scary or "yucky", giving a sense of what kind of person the killer might be.What I didn't particularly like was that quickly, as the investigation increased, too many people and names were introduced without my being able to take them in as real persons or having a sense of who they are. That aspect seems like too many details and overly complicated. Through most of the broad middle of the book, I felt as if Grisham was off his game or that he or Sullivan wrote separately; I was quite disappointed.

This has been on the best seller lists for some time, which puts me at odds with most readers. I

used to enjoy Patterson’s books when he wrote them, but since he has gone to co-authors in a big way I don’t enjoy them nearly as much as I did. This one has too many twisted scenes for me.

Private BerlinI’ve managed to avoid reading anything by James Patterson. Not easy to do given how prolific he is as an author. As some others have said, he may be "too" prolific, relying on co-authors to help him get more books out there. The same thing happened with Tom Clancy when he started using co-writers...the quality suffered, big-time.OK, to start with, the book is about things happening in Berlin. Which just happens to be in Germany. Which just happens to be in Europe. Where they use the metric system. Just how hard can it be to convert feet to meters? To convert miles per hour to kilometers per hour? Apparently either the author(s) and/or the editors either didn’t catch that or didn’t think it was that big a deal.Another thing which bugged me more and more as I got further into the book, is that the characters use American terms and slang in their speech. You could have dropped this novel into rural America, or even a major American city, with absolutely no re-editing to change to American terms.This lack of attention to detail (using American language, not using the metric system) is off-putting, to put it mildly.So, if you’re a BIG Patterson fan, you may enjoy this...if you don’t mind having the plot and dialogue be "dumbed-down".

Patterson brings back the people of Private - Berlin chapter. Private is a worldwide investigative agency headed by Jack Morgan. He has offices in LA, London, Berlin .... and plenty of work to keep his operatives busy.Private Berlin opens with a missing operative: Christoph Schneider. After taking several personal days he has failed to check in with the office. A former fiance, Mattie Engel knows that Chris is meticulous about procedure and believes something is amiss. The personnel of Private have the option of having a chip implanted so they can be found, and Chris has one. But to activate it? What if they are overreacting and barge in on a personal moment?Eventually they decide Chris is at risk and activate the chip - following the signal to a former slaughterhouse in the countryside. The house of horrors leads to follow up on Chris’ investigations. He was assigned to a soccer player that was being wooed by a major team, a philandering husband and had taken a case of his own... Did one of these lead to trouble?The three cases are investigated and Mattie finds herself learning about the man she almost married.Typical Patterson - short chapters, easy to read. Some convenient plot devices and some thin characters but worth the time it will take you to read it if you are a fan of the series.

This book was what I call "Not Sit-Through-able". It was so boring that I just didn’t even look forward

to picking it up again. I got through chapter 20 and just couldn't read another chapter. It was that awful. I had just finished reading James Patterson's "NYPD Red" and couldn't put it down. I finished it in 3 days. Thinking that Patterson was once again writing terrific thrillers, I rushed into buying this dud. Ugh. What a waste of time. It was hard to get engaged into the book from the very start. Usually, the very first chapter of a Patterson book grabs your attention and only escalates from there. This one, however, I kept reading if for no other reason but to wait for that moment when the book would grab my attention. After 20 chapters, I just plain gave up. Maybe I'll come back to it later in the year just out of curiosity, but I'm not counting on it.

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