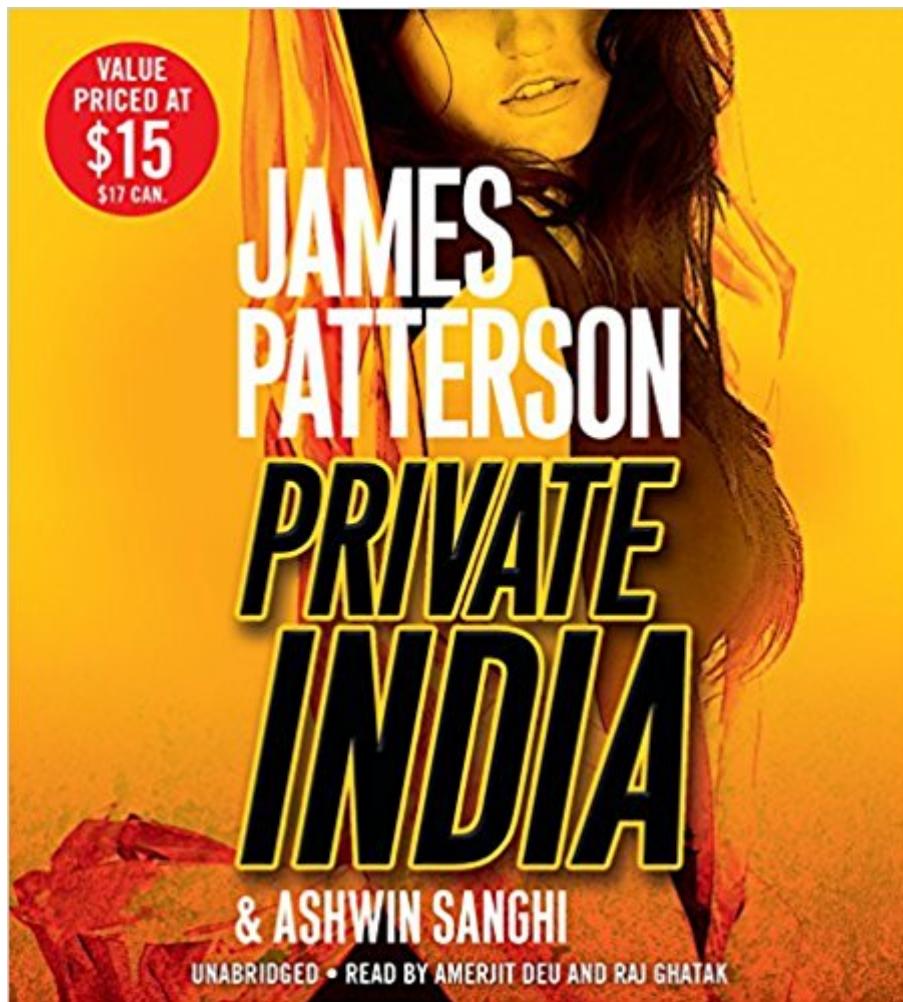


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Private India: City On Fire



Synopsis

When Jack Morgan opens the Mumbai branch of Private, the world's most elite detective agency, he hands the reins to top agent Santosh Wagh. Now, in this teeming metropolis of over thirteen million people where the guilty have everywhere to hide, Santosh goes on the hunt for one elusive killer. A killer who is targeting seemingly unconnected women and placing strange objects at their death scenes in a series of chilling rituals. As the Private team races to find a link that will lead them to the next victim, an unseen menace threatens to destroy the agency from within-and plunge the city into chaos. With countless lives hanging in the balance, Santosh must confront the demons of his past . . . before Private India meets an explosive end.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the Private series!"A thrill-a-minute, plot-driven story full of twists and turns...an addictive read from first page to last." ¢BookReporter.com on Private Games"[A] classy thriller...clips along with twists and turns that come at you from all angles...The talented writing team has scorched the road of suspense and set it on fire." ¢NightsandWeekends.com on Private: #1 Suspect

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.

The story was very well conceived and flowed. The problem I had in staying in touch with who was whom was the language. Perhaps the Indian names were properly selected and mean more to the native reader, but to a foreigner (American) I got confused who each was. The locations would have been helped by a map and some other geographical visual. I kept trying to visualize the scene and people and at times was at a complete loss. I have never been to London or Paris and didn't have as much problem with those venues. I suspect I was trying too hard to identify with the characters and their names didn't fit anyone I had in mind. Would a picture of each person or byline of who he was in relation to the main characters or action might have helped me. Anyway this language thing did distract me far too often and took me away from the artistry of the story and novel.

Bollywood (India's Hindi movie industry based out of Mumbai formerly Bombay) is not known for action-thrillers though it does make a lot of thrillers with murder-suspense, terrorism, and mostly gangster themes and it would do well to read this book and consider a movie adaptation of the same! The joint duo of American, James Patterson (Alex Cross novels) and Indian, Ashwin Sanghi (apparently India's "Lord of The Rings" meets "Da Vinci Code" thriller writer who has so far written three novels that I have not read) do such a superb Indo-American co-authoring of a pulse-pounding, page-turning, and edge-of-the-seat body-pileup thriller filled with myriad colorful Indian characters based in India's NYC-meets-LA city of Mumbai, that it makes you wonder: is this book a mish-mash of Bollywood thrillers or is it custom-written to be adapted into a Bollywood movie? The book moves at such a lightning pace that I finished it over a weekend (my fastest read ever)! The only element missing in this novel, are the songs-and-dances!! However, to be fair, the motive (trying not to give any spoilers) behind the serial-killings was a little unconvincing and the climax, a bit of a let-down but it would make sense to Indians and those who are aware (SPOILER ALERT!!) that there were indeed a string of murders committed by an unknown and un-apprehended killer (or killers?) who stalked the streets of Mumbai and Kolkatta back in '85-'90 and who murdered about 26 homeless people in both cities put together, by smashing their heads with a stone (earning the name "the stoneman" or "pathar-maar" in Hindi). Rumor has it, the killer(or killers?) had a religious/superstitious belief that pleasing a goddess with a certain number of human sacrifices would rid themselves of their impotence. Another historical accuracy and factual reference of this novel is the that of India's "Thugee" cult of murderers who used to kill and rob hordes of

travelers by either first hoodwinking them to gain their trust and strangling them with a handkerchief ("rumaal" in Hindi) in their sleep or just ambushing and strangling them. The British did eliminate this cult in pre-independence India (refer to Pierce Brosnan starrer "The Deceivers"). The Hindi word for cheat is "thug" which was anglicized to become the current English word "thug", which means hood. Apart from that, the city of Mumbai and India in general being a frequent target of terrorists sponsored by her neighbor to the west, was dead-on. I enjoyed reading all of this material and was beaming in approval at the accuracy of this novel in blending history and fact with fiction.

I have never read a James Patterson book before, and our book club selected this book. No one cared much for it. Too many characters to keep track of. The James Patterson fans said this book is not up to his normal standards.

good story, but very hard to follow ,just too many names to keep track of almost put the book down but i paid for it so i forced my way through it ,exspected better with james pattersom on the cover

You've already read this one. I love Patterson books and I've never missed one. With that being said I am no longer in such a hurry to read them as soon as they come out. I will take my time and wait for the price to come down. I did so with this one and I don't regret it. The similarities between India and Berlin were pretty glaring. Same story just different location. I have always recommended these books but this is one I will not be suggesting. I don't know if it is because he is using other writers or if he is truly out of ideas. I don't want to spoil the story line too much but the basics were the same tween this one and Berlin. A person abused at the hands of the state child care system lashing out at who she believed put her there, a cop with a past personal tragedy, a lead investigator suspected of murder, blah blah blah. Same story different country. The writing was good as always, the deaths were as gory as always and the sex was described. Typical Patterson to keep you reading even though you figured out where the story was going by midway through the book

This is the first Private book that didn't hold my interest and I have read them all. Usually I can't put them down but this one didn't make me feel that way. I just couldn't get into the characters. It wasn't til Jack arrived that the story had cohesiveness. For some reason the placement of the bomb didn't even shock me. I think I had it figured out where it was placed before the story ended. And knowing the twist isn't good.

Great beginning and very good ending - I felt compelled to finish the book. The middle of the book was a little too muddled. Tended to lose the plot line with the authors' heavy handed deep-dive into the corruption of Mumbai politics. Left me wondering if there were any protagonists left. Almost discarded the book - too darned depressing. The story slowly emerged from the muck and kept you on the edge of your seat at the end. The wrap-up on the terrorist angle was a little too rushed - probably could have benefited from another couple chapters. One other critique - the various chapters where you see the story from the perpetrator's viewpoint was interesting, but it seems to be a Private series' trademark. Patterson & co. need to be careful that the books don't become even more "cookie cutter."

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