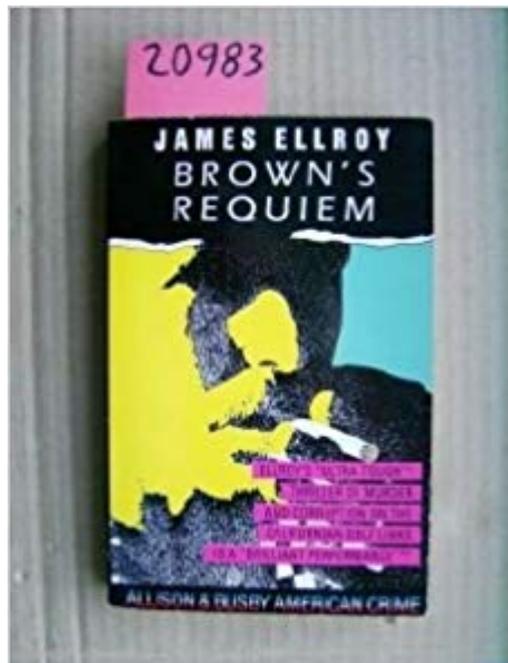


Brown's Requiem *by* James Ellroy



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Reviews of the *Brown's Requiem* *by* James Ellroy

Leniga

A fascinating look at Ellroy's early attempt at crime writing. His desire to emulate the "hard-boiled" prose of the detective novel icons who preceded him is evident (and largely overwrought), but the story is good and the characters are well-drawn. It's a good read overall and gives a welcome insight into how far the Demon Dog has evolved as a writer.

Ttexav

I found the setting, characters and plot interesting and complex enough to be satisfied with the buck

ninety nine I paid for it. The book is set in 1980 and seems either dated or purposefully anachronistic. For example, I was a 'tween' then and I don't recall 'Daddy-O' to be a common phrase. Note that while this is not a golfing story, if you're a golfer you may get a kick out of the sideplot/storyline especially regarding caddies. Overall the plot and pace was enjoyable and I don't regret reading this ebook. I'll give the author another chance...provided it's at the same price point.

This is my first full length novel read on the Kindle (and first ever review) and I am disheartened by the typos it contained. There are several instances of non-hyphenated words that appear hyphenated in this version. I can only assume this is because the novel from which the ebook was scanned contained the hyphen in the appropriate spot and in the Kindle version the word did not appear at the end of a line. There were also a few instances where punctuation would appear randomly in a sentence and a couple of cases where the scanner 'guessed' the wrong word based on the shape of the letters. For example look how similar 'any' is to 'my' (real example). Still, the ebook was readable and these typos didn't take me out of the book too much.

Velan

I love hard-boiled voices. Why? You might ask. Because I like seeing a butthead get punched in the gullet and knocked on his keister. I take an absurdly sick pleasure in this scenario. Again, you might ask why. Well...because I have literally been an underdog my entire life. I might as well have a t-shirt with the mantra "Constantly Underestimated." If it were a theme song, I'd sing the chorus, pound the drums, and lead the backup vocals. But I don't mind. In fact, it's great when the bar is set low enough that I can practically crawl over it, and I set my goals as high as a CEO, and somewhere in the middle, I come crashing through like a hurricane, to the point that I might as well have stunned my opponent with a Taser, stapled his head to the carpet, put a metal plate in his head, and fired up the microwave.

And that's what a good hard-boiled novel does for me. I down a bottle of Jack, fire my Beretta at my flat screen, and then wait for the fuzz to show up at my door, so I can show those coppers a thing or two. And Fritz Brown certainly uses his .38 when the situation warrants it. The voice was hard enough that I might as well have been picking grit and grim out of my teeth with a chainsaw. I savored every minute of the journey. I was transported to a time where rebop and Daddy-O were common lingo, although both were used a bit too frequently for my liking. That's the downside to slang: It doesn't normally age well.

But that was a small price to pay for a story that had me digging my fingers into the sofa cushions and was filled with enough beautiful broads and dames to start a backup band. My personal favorites were Jane Baker and Kallie and Dori, all of whom packed more than enough feminine wiles to start a drunken riot with the right rowdy crowd. The men--Omar Gonzalez and Walter Curran and Richard Ralston--proved just as interesting and even more intimidating.

Every PI needs the right mode of transportation, and the Camaro served Fritz's purposes well. Its heft and muscle popped off the pages and into my living room, the engine roaring louder than a mountain lion. Even brief interactions--Brothers Mark and Randy and Kevin and Bob and Sisters Julie and Carol--proved a nice respite from the heart of the action, and had me salivating at the fire pit, although the thought of gamey grilled dog nearly flipped my stomach.

If hard-boiled PIs and time warps are your forte, and you don't mind early Ellroy where he's still refining his craft, then you might find yourself enjoying the ride. Just make sure you hold on tight and occasionally squeeze your eyes shut.

Robert Downs

Author of Falling Immortality: Casey Holden, Private Investigator

Westened

I must admit I bought this off my Kindle without knowing a thing about it. I loved it. The protagonist is a true "Dark Knight." I read it thinking it was written in 2011 and simply set in the 70s. Finding out that it was Ellroy's first was fascinating to me. If you are interested in an recovering alcoholic protagonist with a unique view on what is right and wrong, I strongly suggest it to you. Very entertaining, an absolute worthy read.

Whitesmasher

This is a good starting point to . James Ellroy noir world. The book is as good as I expected, although it follows a familiar formula: the flawed hero, the femme fatale, the rogue cop, they are all here. But either way that's a good story and well written, so give it a try.

Bedy

Well, every review said this is one of Ellroy's early works. BUT. They did not say how well he nails southern California in the 1970's. Describing the landscape of southern California, the towns, the roads, the people is like looking in a time capsule. And the big car salesman was a real person of those times. The book is a hit for me because I knew southern California like that and it is gone forever. The violence of the book bit hard for the times in which it was written and it still bites. The main character just makes me think of a sad man; overall the book is a sad, hard book, but very real. I really enjoyed it and easily recommend it.

Buzalas

Good old fashioned ,fun to read.

I bought this book when it was a daily deal. I really didn't know what to expect. This book was just really out there. I felt lost with some of the dialogue - loopers, etc. The writing style reminded me of Catcher in the Rye. I think if you like Catcher in the Rye you will enjoy this book. There are an awful lot of plot lines going and sometimes it gets confusing because there are so many characters. The book was interesting and different and definitely kept my attention. I just can't say it was a favorite or something that I would wholeheartedly recommend.

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