



Errors and Omissions

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Rock star Brent Hunter has a plan to get back to the top of the charts until his jet vanishes en route to London. Four months later, a phone call convinces Austin Hunter that his brother is alive and in hiding. That, or it's all an elaborate and deadly confidence game. Austin turns to private detective Kirk MacGregor to find the truth about his brother. As Kirk follows a trail of dead-end leads in the most perplexing investigation of his career, a strong attraction simmers between him and Austin, despite the fact they're both married. Together they unearth a tragic family history of violence, pure greed, and a thirty-year-old fratricide as they take on the coldest killer since Hannibal Lecter. But deadly foes have nothing on the painful truths and even more painful losses Kirk and Austin must face... and none of that compares to confronting what they feel for each other.

Errors and Omissions Details

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Author : Lee James

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EllieNY says

This book left me feeling somewhat let down and confused. Firstly, the plot and "who-done-it" was too convoluted. Being of average intelligence this isn't sour grapes on my part. There's just no way the villain could have had the means to initiate something of this scale and the coincidences that enabled it were too farfetched. Secondly, some of the dialogue was wince inducing, e.g. lovers calling each other "top gun" and "baby star". "Baby Star", really?! Thirdly, there's a lot of death in this book and while I'm not opposed to that if it supports the storyline, losing two main protags leaves the story feeling very unsettling/unfinished at the end.

On a positive note, it was a quick read because the twists and turns had me wondering who could have done it. It was sweet to see the friendship grow between Mac and Austin. And, really nice to see a writer unafraid of writing about men who show emotion.

Misty says

**** 4.5 Stars ****

Great gay thriller!

Tracy says

I have to say, this book was pretty much a DNF -- I read the first few chapters before deciding the characters were a bit Too Much all around. Too much talent, too much money, too much over-exaggerated unrealistic accent...you name it, they had Too Much of it. I ended up just skipping chunks and reading a few pages here and there; had no problem following the basic arc of the story and missed out on details that I wasn't interested enough in to go back and catch up on. During my skipping, I actually found one character I was able to connect with on some level, and he died in the next-to-last chapter. The end felt rushed, the dialogue was unnatural and pretentious... and there was a Sekrit Twin. There were some serious issues brought up regarding one character's misogynistic views toward women which were glancingly referred to later, but never actually addressed -- in fact, the character who knew about them pretty much shrugged and ignored the whole issue, which I found rather disturbing. I don't necessarily mind an anti-hero, but I need some reason to CARE about the MCs at least, and ultimately, I didn't.

Nithu says

[Kirk and Stan. They've been friends for two years, which is fine, then all of a sudden they're not just lovers (which was credible), but in love and moving in together. Stan reveals that his

Lisa The Novel Approach says

~ 3.5 Stars ~

Kirk MacGregor is a PI working for his father's law firm. He's also a brilliant artist and has always had the support and love of his family. He's really a great person; you couldn't find a nicer, more giving person to know.

Kirk had made the choice to marry, but now that relationship is legally coming to an end. There's a sense that he's enthusiastic about his profession, but not so much about his personal life. He now feels it's time to come out, at least to his father, Avery. Kirk has a great companion by the name of Gunther, but what he would really like is that someone special to settle down with.

Austin Hunter is laid back and flirty, divorced and the father of twin boys, but is now married to the love of his life, Jase Ruether, a well-to-do author. Austin is a retired recording star who grew tired of life on the road and of being in the forefront of all the hoopla. His younger brother, Brent, has dragged him back into the music world, but Austin stays in the background. Claire, the matriarch of the family, has been very much in control of the boys and the business. The life they had was hard on all of them.

When it's believed that Brent died in a plane crash, the Hunters seek Kirk's expertise as a PI. Claire believes it was murder. Austin thinks his brother's still alive. More than one death has somehow been connected to Brent and the music business. What kind of secrets is this family hiding? Then more grisly murders occur, all with the same MO, and Kirk and Austin find themselves in the midst of more than one bizarre murder investigation.

Lee James has created a mystery with so many twists. Icarus Ascending is suspenseful, horrifying, and it gives us insight into the mind of a killer. The contrast of Kirk's and Austin's lives is clear, and I got the feeling they would always be no more than friends. This is also a very emotional story about first loves lost, finding love again, and losing love in the worst possible way. I think it sends a message about being true to yourself, because you don't know what you're missing, and then when you do find it, it may be too late.

Reviewed by Maryann for The Novel Approach

Nichole (DirrtyH) says

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

Skye Blue ?*~??('`?)~*? says

What?

There are a few things that would have improved my enjoyment.

First off...Austin and Kent. Cut out any touching, or romantic feelings.

As just friends, it would have worked better. Maybe in book 2 you could change it to friends to lovers, but it never felt right here. Between Austin supposed to be morning, and Kent starting up with Stan. The ending just felt like a big FU. I don't know how much time had passed, but it didn't feel right. Now...I did like prior to the end with Austin (view spoiler) I think I would have liked that being the ending point.

Second...and this I could have fixed myself. Read...don't listen.

I've listened to Brian Rollins before, and I've enjoyed his narration in the past.

I just think I would have enjoyed more if I had read the written word, or maybe followed along with the book. There are just some books that work better in my head, if I see the words.

There are some aspects I liked. But they are even more spoilerish. Forget the killer. The (view spoiler) was more interesting to me.

Ingrid says

I like the book for what it is, a thriller with romance sprinkled on. It has rock stars, PI's, cops and a adorable dog and cat, what is not to like?

There are also some some things that threw me off, mention of european jeans (twice!!), inches of cock (better left at Nifty's), spacing errors (spell checker broke down at DSP HQ?)and convenient plot solutions. But all in all I liked reading it, the pacing was ok, likeable characters and good epilogue.

Anna Nesterovich says

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

As I understand it's a second edition and a lot has been changed, even the title. By the way, neither the original, nor the new title makes any sense. The first one was boring and not explanative, the second one would be proper for a sci-fi book. If the second edition is an improved version, no wonder the average rating for the first one is so low.

The book is tagged as "Mystery & Thrillers, Erotica", and I picked it up because I was looking for "Erotica". Unfortunately, this book has nothing to do with the genre. There are several "erotic" scenes, but they go like this: They undressed and went upstairs. One hour later... That's not how erotic scenes should be written in an erotic book.

As for the "Mystery & Thrillers" tag, yes, it's sort of a mystery novel, though also not quite what is expected from the genre. Readers are not given clues to solve the crime on their own, to wait and see at the end whether they were right. Readers are also not told everything the main character thinks or does. So the "surprise" in a "surprise twist" comes from the fact that we don't know, what Kirk deduced and planned, and

learn what's going on only when he acts. Still, it's a fairly interesting mystery.

Stylistically, the book sets in on a bad note. The first dialog is written as though Kirk is speaking with a computer: he has all the eternity between the phrases to reflect and draw, because the robot will wait. He also oddly speaks with one person at a time in a four-way conversation and the other three persons don't speak with each other. I tempted to quit reading right there and then, but persisted and was rewarded - the style gets better after the first chapter, with the exception of some bad proof-reading (like repetition at location 970)

There are some very annoying factual mishaps, like mentioning of 'the rugged terrain of the Arctic' and other geography related incidents, such as the location of the crash site. "Near the top of the highest mountain in the Arctic. Okstindan, I'm told". Well, the highest mountain in the Arctic is Mt Gunnbjorn and it's in Greenland, not in Norway. There are some gaps in biological knowledge as well. "Since twin births sometimes run along family lines" - yes, twin births run along family lines, but it's a maternally inherited trait. The idea of someone trying to shoot a man from three paces and missing didn't set well also. On the other hand, I liked the idea that "many Europeans don't share the same sexual hang-ups most American hold near and dear". It's very true, but unfortunately, wasn't played in the book well enough.

On the whole I would give 2.5 stars, rounding up.

Ajax1978 says

I've generally liked other books from Dreamspinner but this one let me down. About a quarter of the way through I really thought I was just going to give up. But I stuck it out and finished by skimming over large portions, if only to say I had finished it. It's not often that a book makes me irritable but in this case, mission accomplished. How many times can someone be described as a "superstar" let alone refer to HIMSELF as a rock superstar? Do you think Madonna says to her latest boytoy, "life as a rock superstar is not as glamorous as everyone thinks"? And the constant brand-dropping grated on my nerves. Yes, I know we are dealing with fabulously wealthy superstars, but must every wristwatch be referred to by brand name? Every car? The brands of furniture? The brands of clothing? Do really wealthy people refer to their house as "my mansion"? Let's go back to my mansion and have sex? I don't mean to come across as hateful. When I read books of this genre I'm not expecting great literature, but sometimes an author just seems to be trying too hard.

adrienne says

what the hell are "roomy, bespectacled eyes"? are they large, spacious eyes with glasses, or did the author mean to write 'rheumy'? seriously confused by this. later, the character (samuel stein) is described as having "glasses, and big eyes", but "roomy" to describe big eyes? christ almighty, at first i really couldn't decide if this is a case of homophones that confuse, or a writer making a bizarre word choice. i'm' fairly certain it's the latter.

sigh

setting that bit of writing/editing oddness aside, there were other random instances of grammatical/spelling flubs, but nothing else to that level of strangeness.

interesting premise, decently structured plot, no real rush-rush moments that can often be found in mystery/suspense sub-genre within broader romance format- where everything just seems awkward & like the author lost patience. actually, this author seems to have taken his time building to climax, and at several points could have peaked but merely built the apex higher- but not in an annoying just-get-to-the-point way. no really glaring red neon signs pointing out 'whodunit', but instead the author has laid rather subtle hints along the way.

the sex scenes are somewhat randomly raunchy- not a nasty-bobby-michaels raunchy, but in comparison to the rest of the book. & really, who the hell calls a lover who is a *grown ass man* 'top gun' or 'star baby'? or refers to a cock as a 'unit'? yech. these bits were disjointed and disconcerting, but not jolting to the point i couldn't continue to read.

could have done without constant brand referencing and long descriptions of everything posh. the book would have been 30 pages shorter had these been pared down.

i kind of liked how the author didn't come out and write the exact ages of each character, least not that i remember, but they're somewhat older than the average m/m mains. no, you will not find the stereotypical just-turned-18, wide-eyed (hehehe roomy-eyed) boyish ingenue here.

(view spoiler)

adding & subtracting as necessary for 'roomy' word choice (that's like -15 stars), other editing, sex scenes, wierd emotional responses (or lack thereof), decent suspense, not total happy ending... 3.5 stars, rounded up to 4, because i'm nice like that.

EDIT: author was kind enough to explain 'roomy' was the intended word, so, although it's not my favorite word choice for that instance, subtracting aforementioned 15 stars now seems excessive so we'll knock it up to a 3.75

S.A. Collins says

Icarus Ascending is a brisk but deeply fulfilling dive into crime noir with a succulent thread of man candy woven throughout the work. To say Icarus is cinematic in Crime Noir scope and appeal would be akin to saying Hitchcock knew something about thrillers and film.

Yet, like the master of suspense that Hitch was, James weaves a tale that is concise with prose to the point where, as a reader, you are compiling your own hit list of whodunnit as you turn the page. The thing is, with each plot twist and curve James deftly slings your way, your list quickly devolves into being written on quicksand. This is a very good thing. Like Mr. Hitchcock did with "The Man Who Knew Too Much" (first attempted in 1939 and then again in 1956, where Hitch described himself as saying the '39 version was "crafted by a talented amateur and the latter by a seasoned professional") Mr. James retake on it's previous incarnation (Errors and Omissions) in its newer retelling follows Hitch's success in that E&O was a well crafted and engaging novel, the reworking of it is that much cleaner - a deft eye and a steady hand of, dare I say it, literary genius at work in this genre.

Indeed, it is this clean and "take no prisoners" prose that gives Icarus its bite. Like the crazed sociopathic killer at the heart of this tale, James creates an ensemble of characters that take a bite of your imagination and run wild into the night with it. James draws scenes and colors them with all the mastery of JMW Turner masterpiece - the settings are just opaque enough so that every subtle light and dark he paints with leaves you wondering if you saw everything he put there. This is a very good thing in a crime mystery. He keeps you guessing right up to the ending.

I won't go into a blow-by-blow of the work as that is a huge disservice to the author and the work itself. I don't do book reports and loathe those who put plot points into reviews. This is ESPECIALLY true of mystery works. I want you to discover this world and these men (and women) who inhabit them. You'd be all the richer for it. Like Icarus, I found myself ascending toward the climatic light, hoping that the characters I'd grown to love in the works would make it through and not parish from the that harsh light of revelation in the end. A decidedly quality work. Bravo Mr. James. The first of a series and I will rush to purchase the next volume in this illustrious and gripping work.

Too bad ol' Hitch isn't around to option it. It would make for one helluva thriller. Kudos.

Mandapanda says

DNF at about 15% Too many info dumps and the MC (Kirk) casually making out with the 'supposedly' happily married man (Austin) just doesn't appeal to me.

Angela says

This was more like 2.5 stars. I liked the storyline of the book, but I didn't care for the characters- any of the characters. Kirk is a man who was married but is in the midst of a divorce when he gets hired for a simple job of finding a supposed dead rock star. The attraction he feels for the dead guy's brother, who also is a rock star, is returned even though Austin is married too. While working the case we are introduced to Stan, a detective, who ends up in a relationship with Kirk. Stan and Kirk confess their love for each other and even move in together after one date. What?! Kirk and Austin are still flirting with each other while trying to find Austin's brother and fighting off a killer. Which brings me to John, the killer, in the book description he is said to be the "coldest killer since Hannibal Lecter" but Kirk and Austin both get attacked at different times by him and he runs off. And don't even get me started on Austin and his horrible accent. I found myself cringing any time he came onto the page and opened his mouth. And while he is in mourning he is playing poker and looking at other men. I realize there is nothing wrong with doing those two things, but after only a few days or weeks of "the love of my life" dying, the last thing I would be doing is flirting and playing around.

I do give Mr. James credit though cause he did what I can't and that's to write a book. This is just my opinion of the book and you can take it or leave it.

J.B. Sanders says

This is a mystery, with thriller sensibilities, that hails from California -- it has that sunburnt and chrome-

gleaming feel through-out.

There are a lot of sunglasses, fast cars, beautiful Beverly Hills locations and so much sunshine.

There's also plenty of wry and sarcastic humor, a fact which humanizes our hero and makes for several laugh-out-loud moments. As an example: "Avery should be a travel agent for guilt trips".

Our protagonist is a former FBI agent turned law firm private detective. It's obvious that at the start of the novel, while he is enjoying his life professionally, he is very lonely personally. His dog is his only companion at home, and except for his father and a few professional friends, he doesn't have anyone. Added to that is the pang of the divorce from his wife, from a combination of his final acceptance that he's gay and her infidelity.

Over the course of the book, it's encouraging to watch that change and see a great romance develop, even in the face of tragedy.

It doesn't hurt that the sex scenes are hot.

I like the contrast of Kirk, a more straight-laced law-enforcement type (though now in private practice), and Austin, the laid back music star. Both of the guys are as masculine as you could ask for — but gay where it counts. While the characters are rich, their opponents are rich, and the action largely sticks to places where the wealthy tread, I never got the feeling from the main character (or his romantic interest) that they anything less than down-to-earth.

The mystery itself takes quite a few twists and turns, starting with a dead man's missing time and ending with a serial killer.

While some of the action can be rough and heart-pounding, it never descended into the realms of the gory splatter-fests you might find in other mainstream novels.

Highly recommended.

I'm honestly quite befuddled by all the negative reviews here. I have read far worse (in this genre and others), and few that were better.

Notes Score: 5

The "Notes Score" refers to how many highlighted passages the book elicited. Whenever I read on an ebook reader, I highlight passages of the book that strike me as funny, stick out from the norm, or are just very well written.
