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James LePore

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When Jay Cassio's best friend is murdered in a job clearly done by professionals, the walls that he has built to protect himself from the world of others begin to shatter. Dan Del Colliano had been his confidante and protector since the men were children on the savage streets of Newark, New Jersey. When Dan supports and revives Jay after Jay's parents die in a plane crash, their bond deepens to something beyond brotherhood, beyond blood. Now Jay, a successful lawyer, must find out why Dan died and find a way to seek justice for his murder.

Isabel Perez has lived a life both tainted and charmed since she was a teenager in Mexico. She holds powerful sway over men and has even more powerful alliances with people no one should ever try to cross. She desperately wants her freedom from the chains these people have placed on her. When Jay catapults into her world, their connection is electric, their alliance is lethal, and their future is anything but certain.

Once again, James LePore has given us a novel of passions, intense moral complexities, and irresistible thrills. Filled with characters you will embrace and characters you will fear, Blood of My Brother is a story about a quest for revenge and redemption you won't soon forget.

Blood of My Brother Details

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Author : James LePore

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From Reader Review Blood of My Brother for online ebook

Maria Miaoulis says

James LePore delivers once again. "Blood Of My Brother," his second novel in the Tristate Trilogy, centers around Jay Cassio, a NJ attorney who's spent most of his life shutting people out following the tragic deaths of his parents. And now, his childhood friend, confidante, and protector, private investigator Dan Del Colliano, is found murdered in Florida, tortured in his last moments while working on a case.

Who would want to kill fun-loving Danny? Jay sets out to find out, but quickly learns the situation is more than he bargained for. He suspects Donna Kelly, the woman who hired Dan, set him up, but she's gone into hiding after being pursued by two Mexican hitmen. These assassins work for Herman Santaria, a corrupt businessman whose illegal dealings with Bryce Powers, the estranged husband of Jay's now-dead client, not only made them both rich, but helped propel Santaria and his family to the high ranks of Mexican government. Anyone who stands in the way of the Santarias getting what they want will be done away with, as will the people who helped them because they know too much.

Jay only wants to avenge Dan's death, but if he's not careful, he'll have the same fate. Especially since FBI Special Agent Chris Markey is using Jay to draw out Santaria and his men. With the help of friends in all levels of law enforcement, Jay closes in on the truth, but will he live to tell about it?

James LePore expertly weaves together stories of past and present in this wonderful suspense novel. On the surface it may only look like a tale packed with sensational money laundering schemes, shady government officials, drug cartel violence and red tape, things LePore probably encountered often in his years as a lawyer. However, it is the skilled way in which he unveils the underlying motives behind these predicaments where LePore shines. He explores the themes of revenge, redemption and morality through a cast of intriguing characters each fighting their own demons. It is only by relying on one another that they make peace with their former lives and move forward with their destiny. Filled with heartache, passion, and thrilling action, "Blood Of My Brother" is a compelling read that will keep you up at night. I highly recommend to all!

Stephanie says

Jay Cassio and Dan Del Colliano have been best friends for over 30 years, ever since they were school children. So, when Dan is mysteriously murdered, Jay vows to find out who did it and seek revenge. During his search for answers, he encounters Isabel Perez, a beautiful Mexican seductress, who has some of the answers that Jay is searching for... but it's a race against the clock as very dangerous men are seeking both of them out.

What a thrilling novel! I recently read and reviewed LePore's first novel, A World I Never Made, and really enjoyed it, so needless to say, I was looking forward to this book as well. I was definitely not let down. I'd even say I liked this one a little better.

What I loved about this book was the nail-biting suspense. LePore does an excellent job of keeping up the suspense during the entire crazy chase.

Each of the characters had fascinating back stories as well, which really added to the story and made it complete. Jay has struggled for many years after his parents death and is really just trying to get by. Isabel was basically a sex slave who could not leave due to the powerful men that held her captive. Now, her past and Jay's present have collided in an action-filled search for justice.

As with his first book, I had a slight issue keeping all the characters straight. There were SO many characters that I couldn't always remember who was who. While that was a bit frustrating, I bypassed this fact and was able to fly through the book anyways.

I'd highly recommend you check out James LePore's novels if you're a fan of thrillers and suspense with a touch of the political mixed in. His writing is extremely polished and precise. LePore is an exceptionally gifted storyteller whose writing career I will follow through its entirety.

Note: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Heather says

Jay Cassio and Dan Del Colliano have been best friends since the first awful day of the Newark race riots of 1967. Bound together as tightly as brothers throughout their lives, Jay and Dan remain close, though they live very different lives. When Dan, a private Investigator, takes on a dangerous assignment and winds up dead, Jay goes looking for revenge. But the situation isn't as easy as that because Dan and Jay have been involved in a serious situation that includes extortion, money laundering, and murder. It's only when Jay goes rogue to find Dan's killers that he discovers a crime syndicate based out of Mexico that wants to erase not only him, but anyone else who might be able to implicate them in their crimes. Now Jay is not only fighting them, but also the devious Agent Markey, who has plans of his own to stop the crime bosses using Jay as bait. When Jay discovers that all his hopes rest on the beautiful and elusive Isabel Sanchez, a woman also on the run, the stakes of the game get higher and higher. In this captivating story of one man's quest for revenge, LePore brilliantly creates a narrative of high action and even higher tension.

A couple of years ago, I reviewed *A World I Never Made* by James LePore. Though it wasn't my normal fare, I found the story to be utterly compelling and wound up having a really positive reaction to LePore's ability to craft an enticing story around characters I truly cared for. It was one of the only books in the crime/thriller genre I was able to fully appreciate, so when I was offered the chance to review *Blood of My Brother*, I quickly decided I needed to read this latest installment. I knew very little about the book going in, which for me was actually better because it made the story all the more exciting and interesting, and it enabled me to come at the book with no preconceived notions.

One of the first things I noticed was the way LePore shifted his narrative among different times and places. Normally this gets confusing and irritating, but something about the way it was handled in this particular book made me better appreciate the scope of what was being done with the story. In its past and present reflections and its encompassing several characters and places, the story became energized for me, making the narrative seem much more fluid and cohesive than I think it would have been had the story been told from a static and linear perspective.

The characters were greatly nuanced and fully three dimensional, which is also something that really worked for me in terms of this narrative. Though Jay was rather serious, it wasn't hard to see why Dan's murder affected him so deeply and why he wanted to take revenge. There were a host of minor characters as well,

most of them some type of law enforcement agents, and each one was distinct and carried a weight all their own. I grew to really dislike Agent Markey and came to think of him as a villain in himself, which gave the book a solid feel, for there was more than one perpetrator of evil here. I liked Isabel's resourcefulness and ingenuity and felt that there was much more to her than your typical damsel in distress. There was a lot going on with her in terms of her importance to Jay, the crime bosses and the law enforcement agents. Everyone seemed to want something different from her that she was loathe to part with. I felt that she was really the crux of the action in the story and all the other pieces really moved around her.

The action was also quite well done, with tensions and dangers mounting with each successive chapter. It wasn't the type of story that was predictable or laborious to read; rather it was enthralling to try to figure out just what Jay was going to do next, and a few times I wondered if he was going to make it out alive. There wasn't a lot of plot contrivance and coincidence in this tale to make things turn out nicely for everyone; instead, LePore takes the time to write carefully and inventively to twist the tale to a natural and believable conclusion that readers will appreciate. Each character played their role perfectly, leading to a harmonious and credible conclusion.

I really enjoyed this second foray into LePore's work. I like that he writes with confidence and skill and that he's not afraid to take on some daring plot constructions and sophisticated characters. The fact that this isn't my genre of preference, yet I enjoyed it so much, should tell you a lot about the book itself, and for those who are looking for a really diverting read, I would recommend this one to you. LePore also has a new book that will be released soon called *Sons and Princes*, and I'm eager to give that one a read as well.

Wendy says

Last year I had the opportunity to read and review James LePore's *A World I Never Made*, a complex novel about a father and daughter's relationship amidst a tale of terrorism and intrigue. I was swiftly taken in by the author's writing and the complexity of his characters and their stories. And so, when offered the chance to read his latest book, *Blood of My Brother*, I was eager to give it a try.

Jay Cassio is a successful attorney whose best friend is murdered by professional hit men. Danny had been his savior time and time again when they were growing up in New Jersey. Danny's death appears to be connected to a couple of other murders in what the police have ruled as a murder-suicide. But Jay has information that leads him to suspect otherwise. As Jay digs deeper into his friend's murder, the more trouble he finds himself in. Not only is the FBI out to stop him, but he is being targeted by some very powerful people involved in money laundering and the drug trade.

Jay's only chance at exposing the truth and coming out on top is to find Isabel Perez, the beautiful Mexican woman who he believes lured his friend to his death and may hold the secrets to bring down the bad guys once and for all. Isabel's own life has been marred by cruelty. She wants nothing but to escape the bonds holding her down since she was a young teenager--that and to exact revenge against those who have enslaved her.

The novel got off to a slow start for me but soon took off. It is an intense book, right up until the end. I was most drawn to the scenes when the author takes the reader back into the characters' pasts, giving us a taste of why the characters are who they are today. Isabel especially has had a difficult life. She has proven to be a strong and resilient woman time and time again, fighting for her own survival in a world she had so little

control over.

As enjoyable as it was, I wasn't as taken in by the characters of *Blood of My Brother* as I had been of *A World I Never Made*. I was wrapped up in the action of the book but never quite felt close enough to the characters. Regardless, *Blood of My Brother* is a suspenseful read, one I couldn't wait to see how it would end.

Deana says

I received this book through one of the Goodreads Giveaways. I didn't intentionally register for this one, truth be told -- I apparently clicked on the wrong button and didn't notice it was the wrong book until the confirmation page. But I thought, why not, maybe it will turn out to be a new favorite.

The story revolves around lawyer Jay Cassio, whose best friend since childhood (Danny) is murdered in a situation involving a case Jay is working on. Jay gets mad when no one seems to be investigating or following up on his friend's murder, and eventually learns that the FBI has taken the case but won't say why or give anyone information about what is happening. Frustrated, Jay takes it into his own hands to take revenge on his friend's killer(s).

I won't say it will ever be a FAVORITE, but I did quite enjoy it. The story is all twisted up, and it's really neat to see all the details come together in the end. And there are some shocking surprises (though maybe not so shocking in the context of the story). It's a lot of fun to read, even if it is gruesome and kind of horrifying to think of these sorts of things happening in the real world (but I am sure they do). There is something about the writer's style that didn't really appeal to me, though I still can't quite put my finger on what it is. Too matter-of-fact, perhaps? But the story itself was really good, kept me interested and engaged, wondering what would happen next. I found it all to be believable, and parts of it even made it into my dreams one night. The only thing I thought was odd was there was no mention or even concern about disease even though Isabel had admittedly had sex with hundreds (or was it thousands?) of men.

I really enjoyed reading the author's descriptions of Newark (where my mom lived for a long time - she recognized many of the places mentioned here, kind of neat!), the little area of Miami, and the small towns in Mexico with the colorful little shacks.

It's an entertaining, quick read, and I recommend it to anyone who likes crime/suspense books.

Lori says

Pick up James LePore's *Blood of My Brother* and you will find a book that has unstoppable action, twists and turns and plenty of suspense. Fans of Robert Ludlum will enjoy this lighter option.

Mr. LePore makes liberal use of flashbacks throughout *Blood of My Brother* and to great benefit. The flashbacks give us insight into attorney Jay Cassio, private investigator Dan Del Colliano and the mysterious Isabel Perez and how all three tie together. I felt the flashbacks were the strongest part of the book, along with the action-packed portion of the story that took place in Mexico.

Mr. LePore proves to be a fluid storyteller as well as a master of vivid descriptions. Reading *Blood of My*

Brother I could hear the Newark neighborhood kids playing ball, feel the humidity of Miami and Mexico, as well as the melodic music and accents. It's easy to visualize the stories of Jay, Dan and Isabel as a movie, so well developed are both their characterizations as well as the overall storyline. There were a few places in the book where I felt the storyline may have been a bit slow paced but the action quickly picked up and made up for any drags I perceived.

Readers of taut action will thrill over Blood of My Brother's chase sequences and rundowns with a Mexican drug cartel, while those readers who enjoy suspense stories with a bit of mystery will find no complaints. Blood of My Brother whet my appetite for action, excitement and international intrigue and I was left satiated upon the book's conclusion.

I would recommend Blood of My Brother to any reader looking for a solid story with action, intrigue and mystery. You won't be disappointed.

Elizabeth A. says

"I waited too long, Dan. I'm sorry. If I was the one killed like that, you'd have started the next day. I don't know what I was thinking, but I'm starting now." – Jay Cassio

What Jay Casio is starting in James LePore's Blood of My Brother is an investigation into to the murder of his best friend since childhood, Dan Del Colliano. And start with a vengeance he does.

Jay's and Dan's friendship was forged under fire during the turbulent race riots of 1967 in Newark, New Jersey when, barely school age, they were caught up in the violence that erupted in their formerly peaceful neighborhood.

As they grew so did their bond, strengthening ever deeper as they weathered through tragedies such as the death of Jay's parents in a plane crash. By the time they are adults, Jay a successful attorney and Dan a not so successful private investigator, the two have come to think of each other as brothers, through their common bond if not blood.

When a woman Jay is representing in a divorce is killed, beheaded, her high-powered soon to be ex-husband is the number one suspect... until he too is found dead. The discovery of Dan's brutally tortured and murdered body in Miami a short time later initially seems like a case of coincidental bad timing. But when the FBI shows up and indicates Jay should stop asking questions it becomes clear to him that something more sinister is going on, something he's determined to get to the bottom of.

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away in Mexico, Isabel Perez is leading her own double-edged life of triumph and tragedy. An orphan herself, Isabel was taken in at the age of fourteen by an "Uncle" who had anything but her best interests at heart. Quickly she is introduced to a world where she is used as the sexual consort and unintentional confidant for high powered criminals and crooked officials. Though she is provided with fine clothes, a fancy car, and nice place to live, she knows her life is not her's to live on her terms, and never will be.

Further, her intimate association with such powerful individuals exposes her to information she eventually

realizes places her in the position of knowing too much, making her a liability. When an assignment from her "Uncle" that she well suspects may be her last sends her to Miami, her path crosses with that of Jay, there investigating Dan's murder, and the stage is set for an electrifying alliance and an explosive race to uncover the true circumstances of Dan's death and expose the crime and corruption in which Isabel is caught up.

Blood of My Brother is billed as a suspense novel, and while there are certainly suspenseful aspects to it I believe it also has a very healthy dose of thriller living between the covers. The story takes place in locales such as Mexico City and Miami, involves corruption and cartels, and includes more than a few action packed sequences and shootouts, giving it a decidedly thriller feel.

Carefully worked into the action, however, is the exploration of the human element at the heart of the story: the fierce bond formed between Jay and Dan; how their childhood molded them into the men they became; how the choices they made as adults led them down different paths, with very different consequences, despite their common background; and, how people respond under dire situations when forced to make life-changing decisions.

It's the action that keeps you turning the pages, but it's the bigger issues LePore works into the story that will keep you thinking even after you've finished. *Blood of My Brother* will be released on December 28th, so go ahead and earmark some of that Christmas money Santa brings you for this one.

Cheryl says

BLOOD OF MY BROTHER by James LePore

Published by The Story Plant

The Aronica-Miller Publishing Project, LLC

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At the request of The Story Plant, a TPB was sent, at no cost to me, for my honest opinion.

Synopsis (borrowed from B&N): "When Jay Cassio's best friend is murdered in a job clearly done by professionals, the walls that he has built to protect himself from the world of others begin to shatter. Dan Del Colliano had been his confidante and protector since the men were children on the savage streets of Newark, New Jersey. When Dan supports and revives Jay after Jay's parents die in a plane crash, their bond deepens to something beyond brotherhood, beyond blood. Now Jay, a successful lawyer, must find out why Dan died and find a way to seek justice for his murder.

Isabel Perez has lived a life both tainted and charmed since she was a teenager in Mexico. She holds powerful sway over men and has even more powerful alliances with people no one should ever try to cross. She desperately wants her freedom from the chains these people have placed on her. When Jay catapults into her world, their connection is electric, their alliance is lethal, and their future is anything but certain.

My Thoughts and Opinion: I was a bit skeptical when I picked up this book to read for a couple of reasons, one being this was my introduction to this author, never having read any of his work and the fact that this book was part of a "Tristate Trilogy" and not reading the first book of the series, would I be able to give this author justice, if I wasn't able to follow the story line out of sequence(I do have his latest one, *Sons and Princes*, also on my requested review shelf). I was proven wrong after reading the prologue, I was hooked. The plot started when the main character, Jay, and his best friend Dan were children in 1967. A story of true friendship, loyalty, betrayal, "street justice", corruption, murder, trust, love and much more. The cast of characters is quite long and at times, I would have to go back in the book to try and find them to see what their roles were. The beginning of the book hooked me, the middle of the book was a bit confusing, and the end of the book was action packed and page turning with some surprises. And as far as the trilogy, this

book can be read as a "stand alone" novel. I look forward to reading Sons and Princes.

My Rating: 3

CorLostForWords says

Source: Received from publicist for Pump up Your Book blog tour. Many thanks goes to Tracee for sending me a copy of this book for review. I received this book free of charge in exchange for an honest review.

My rating: 4/5

Jay Cassio and Dan Del Colliano have been inseparable friends since they were five years old. They survived the Newark riots together, and continued to look out for one another throughout the years. Now, Dan has been murdered, and Jay is on a mission to avenge his friend's death.

What he soon learns, is that Dan may have been a pawn in a much larger, dangerous game; a high stakes game of money laundering, drugs, and corruption at the highest level of government. Jay will do anything to avenge his friend's death though, even if it requires his own. His pursuit of justice will take him from his old New Jersey neighbourhood to the coast of Florida, and the streets of Mexico.

Jay is a fully rounded, three dimensional character. His background has been hardship after hardship. When his parents died in a plane crash he retreated into himself, and it was only Dan who was able to bring him back to life again. Dan has been everything to Jay, a friend, confidant, and protector. When he is brutally murdered, Jay is horrified. His case is still open, but no one is working on it, and so Jay takes it upon himself to uncover Dan's last moments and avenge him. Jay is emotionally distraught, and *Blood of My Brother* shows just what lengths a man, or anyone, will go to, to avenge the death of a loved one. The mystery deepens further though as Jay finds out the FBI is involved, but he is only given the runaround. When more deaths start piling up, Jay can only assume that he'll be next. His voice, his emotions, and his being are all indicative of someone who will do anything to avenge his beloved friend. However, everything is not black and white, and there are many varying shades of gray. Those who work for the police department, or in other positions of power may be corrupt as well, and this book shows the nuances between those characters who have crossed the line, and those who are holding their ground. With a full cast of characters it is easy to become lost not knowing who is who; however, LePore juggles all of his characters and the various threads of his plot with skill, leaving the reader appreciative of the journey they are taking alongside the main characters.

Isabel Perez is another character who garners attention, and it is only a matter of time before her destiny becomes entangled with Jay's. They are a well-matched pair, both reeling from the loss of someone close to them, and the bond they forge while on the run is strong. They will need help from various friends, and each other, if they are to achieve their ultimate goals.

All in all, this is a fast-paced, enthralling, and thrilling read. Definitive characters, and an action-packed plot make this an enjoyable and fast read. The addition of Jay's past memories throughout only strengthens the book and shows the magnitude of the bond he had with Dan, making his decisions all the more credible and heartfelt. Fans of James Patterson's Alex Cross series will enjoy this read, though it is a bit heavier than Patterson's work. LePore is definitely one to look out for in the future.

Bookworm says

Jay Cassio and Dan Del Colliano grew up together in the mean streets of Newark New Jersey. The two boys were best friends. Jay grew up to be a lawyer, while Danny who was more of a 'bad boy' grew up to become a private eye. Danny however has debts and owes money to a local shark.

Jay's female client turns up dead and her husband is the prime suspect. The husband however, soon turns up dead himself. While Jay is trying to put together pieces of the puzzle, Danny's body is found brutally murdered in Miami.

Isabel Perez is a beautiful woman who has lived the hard knock life. As an orphan living in a nunnery in Mexico, she was adopted by a man who called himself Senor Hermano and who sold her into prostitution at a young age. Isabel lived this life for many years, not knowing anything else.

Isabel last 'assignment' involved Danny. The people she is working for know she knows too much and plan to kill her off after this final mission.

On the quest to find Danny's killers, Jay tracks down Isabel. After getting to know the truth about her, he slowly begins to fall for this dark beauty. When she meets Jay, Isabel develops genuine feelings for him also. Soon enough, the two work together. Isabel wants to free herself from Hermano's clutches once and for all. Jay wants to avenge Danny's murder.

Blood of My Brother is a suspenseful read and I did enjoy it. There is passion and drama within these pages, and I enjoyed reading about Isabel and Jay as their relationship develops. Being a sucker for romance, that was my favorite aspect to this story, this crazy, on-the-run, dangerous love affair.

Books with a plot twist that can truly shock me are few and far between. There is a shocking revelation in this book that had me saying 'no way!' Secrets are revealed, truths come to light and the plot takes twists and turns as the suspense builds.

I do want to mention that there are flashbacks throughout the book, the story goes from past to present and vice-versa. I know some readers would want to know that. Personally, I don't mind flashbacks and they didn't deter me from enjoying the book nor did I find them confusing.

I do recommend Blood of My Brother to those who enjoy a good crime thriller with plenty of suspense and plot twists. The book was unputdownable toward the end.

read my full review here

<http://thebookworm07.blogspot.com/201...>

Sarah says

Okay so I won this book here on Goodreads I was super excited to read the book. When I received it in the mail I immediately started to read it. It was extremely boring to me plus it swore quite frequently. So there it went on my book shelf to collect dust. Well one boring summer day i decided to give it another chance so I dusted off the cover and began to read. I had no emotion to the book.

Okay so this book is not Young Adult just saying... this is why....

Sex & Nudity

Two men are talking about a women at the end of the conversation one man said "don't worry, I'll wear a

condom."

A Women removes her nightgown and presses her breasts against her husband (no further detail, honestly there was no point to this scene)

A man would rape virgins

A man tells a young women that she will have sex with many men under his command.

A man and women were swimming they begin to make out which quickly led to sex

Violence and Gore

Police found someones head in a bag floating in water

A man was shot 2 times in the head there was also multiple burn wounds found on his hands and feet his testicles were also swollen

A young boy was beaten pretty bad

A women's headless body was found in her bed, with her husband sitting on a chair killed as well

Profanity

38 uses of the "f" word

11 uses of the "s" word

14 uses of the "a" word

5 uses of the "h" word

2 uses of the "b" word

12 uses of God's name in vain

Alcohol/Drugs/Smoking

A man OD on heroin

drinking throughout

drugs are a main topic throughout

Well there you have it. Now it is your choice to read this book or not... but dont say i warned you :D

kent says

I would have given the book two stars if it hadn't been for the ending. The brooding lawyer with the looks of Adonis. The emotionally scarred blue eyed Mexican heroine. It was all too much until the ending when the

nun blows away the bad guy. No pontificating, no last minute eulogies, no spilling the beans on how it all went down. She just whips the gun out of her robe and pops a cap in the guys chest. Saved the whole book from itself.

Matt Schiariti says

I had downloading this during a kindle promotion several months back and finally got around to reading it. I've never read Lepore before so I honestly didn't know what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised to find a very good thriller involving some familiar locations and thriving characters.

Jay and Danny grew up in Newark, NJ during the time of the riots. Jay was younger and more responsible, Danny was older and more streetwise, more on the fringe of the law. What they were as kids they became larger versions of in adulthood. Jay became a successful lawyer while Danny became a private investigator, but he never truly left his criminal past behind.

Jay is representing a powerful real estate magnate during a sketchy divorce when both his client and his clients soon to be ex wife are both found brutally murdered. Not too long after, Danny professes lust for an exotic bombshell who claims to have ties to Jay's deceased client. Danny's involvement with the bombshell gets him brutally murdered. What follows is a decades old web of crime and Jay's sole mission in life is to mete out justice for his fallen, and flawed, best friend.

A good portion of this novel takes place in Newark, NJ and the surrounding areas. Kearny, Bloomfield, the Iron Bound district. As it happens I went to college up that way for several years so I recognized many of the places and images Lepore was describing. He definitely got the feel of the area correct, so for me, the novel portrayed a great sense of place.

The mystery itself is complex. This is not a book that one can just cruise through, only paying half attention. And it's not so much that it has several flashbacks and goes from NJ, to Miami to Mexico City or the fact that the clues are well hidden, which they are for the most part. I found that the most difficult thing for me while reading this book was to keep track of the sheer number of characters. There are cops, detectives, ex cops, friends, ex partners, drug lords, their hitmen, ex cops from NJ that are now in Miami, their spouses, the person who runs the motel, the person who's a friend of a friend of a...well, you get the idea. While there is a smallish group of main core characters to pay attention to (Jay, Isabela, Markey) there are varying degrees of relevance for the other characters. Some are supporting, some are very minor with minimal page time and many have similar last names or only pop up on occasion. The massive number of players at work makes a well written and already smart and complex combination of plot and subplot a little too cumbersome at times.

Another knock was the romantic aspect of the novel. I won't put in any spoilers but I just wasn't buying it, at least now how it actually transpired as written by the author. I think it was set up fine but it was executed a little sparingly.

There, those are my gripes. Still, a very good page turner with a very sick twist thrown in for good measure. I will be checking out Mr. Lapore again in the future without a doubt.

Michael says

This is a novel that deals with the important issues of loyalty, friendship, integrity and justice.

Attorney Jay Cassio's best friend and the person who protected him when he was a boy, is killed and it appears that it's a professional job. Jay decides that he owes it to his friend, Dan, to find Dan's killer and punish him.

Dan had told Jay that a woman named Donna Kelly was holding some money for one of Jay's clients, Bryce Powers. She was referred to Dan from Bryce. Now Bryce and Bryce's wife were dead in what police say is a murder-suicide. Donna told Dan that she was told by Bryce that if anything happened to him (Bryce) she should call Dan. She tells him that she would pay him if he brought the \$500,000 to her in Florida.

There is a parallel story in Mexico City where a beautiful girl named Isabel is placed in a convent in 1977. In 1991 the man who visited her and she thought of as Uncle Herman, sees that she has developed into a beautiful woman and removes her from the convent to work for him in ways that an innocent girl could not have imagined.

Jay is looking into Bryce Powers' death and is warned from continuing his inquiries by the FBI. Before that, he learned that one of the people that Bryce had dealt with in Mexico is named Lazaro Santaria who is now the attorney general in Mexico and that he has a brother named Herman.

After a confrontation with the FBI agent, Jay travels to Florida to look for Donna Kelly. He is accompanied by his friend, Frank Dunn, a retired police officer.

The tension mounts as two Mexican gunmen look for Isabel (Donna Kelly) and add Jay to their search and intended victims. Isabel is on her own in Florida but has enough information about Herman Santaria and his brother that they want her dead.

There is plenty of action in this story and the characters are well described and sympathetic. It is as if Jay and Isabel were two innocents and the reader is turning the pages to see if they will be able to evade the people attempting to kill them and then seeking revenge for Jay's friend, Dan.

Ishanie says

I won this book through Goodreads "First Reads" giveaway. I will update my review upon finishing it!

Update**

This book was good from the very first chapter to the very last. I zipped right through it. I'm looking forward to reading the other 2 books James LaPore has written so far!
