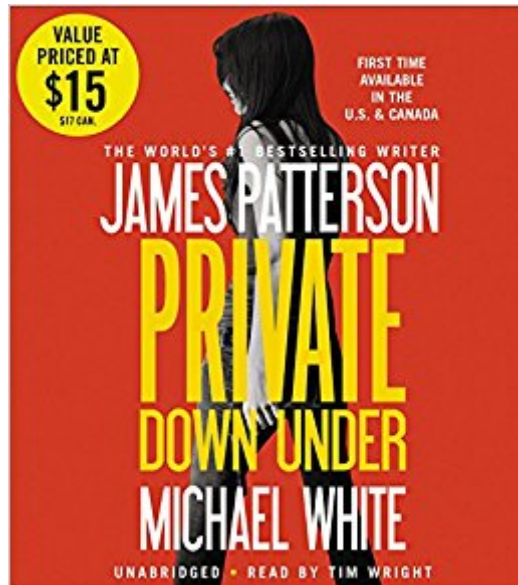




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# Private Down Under (Jack Morgan Series)



## Synopsis

The world's most exclusive detective agency opens a new office - in Australia! With the best detectives in the business, cutting edge technology and offices around the globe, there is no investigation company quite like Private. Now, at a glittering launch party overlooking the iconic Opera House, Private Sydney throws open its doors . . . Craig Gisto and his newly formed team have barely raised their glasses, however, when a young Asian man, blood-soaked and bullet-ridden, staggers into the party, and what looks like a botched kidnapping turns out to be a whole lot more. Within days the agency's caseload is full. But it is a horrific murder in the wealthy Eastern Suburbs and the desperate search for a motive that stretches the team to the limit. Stacy Friel, friend of the Deputy Commissioner of NSW Police, isn't the killer's first victim - and as the bodies mount up she's clearly not the last . . .

## 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.

Eversince James Patterson started putting his name on the writing of one if his apparently slew of writing people, you really never know what you are going to get.. I wish he would either write as he used to, or retire.. but I guess when you have a name, you can market it..So this book for me was mediocre at best.. The first 50-60 pages were so discombobulated that I almost stopped reading.. Decided to finish because I had nothing better to read..Sad really, since Patterson was one of my absolute favorite murder mystery writers.. For me he is following a path of Daniel Steel, once they start popping a book avery two monte it seems, its time to just stop buying and reading..

PRIVATE DOWN UNDER, a novel by James Patterson and Michael White.I have read all of the Private books with titles bearing names of many of the world's great cities and have generally enjoyed them and rated them highly. However, this Aussie Private is far below Patterson standards. My guess is that it was written by Michael White with little oversight by Patterson. The writing is disjointed in structure, lacks a coherent plot, and quite boring with the exception a few chapters toward the end. His characters were left dangling, and most were never fully developed. Suppose my disappointment stems from the notion that I expected more from James Patterson. At the 75 percent point the story did take on some semblance of a structured novel, but it was too little, too late. I am being generous to give this book a rating of 2. I do not recommend it.

For those of you Patterson readers who are familiar with his many thrillers with co-authors, this is a good story in the Private series. It introduces new characters. Naturally, the women are stunningly attractive, slender and independently wealthy. The men are tall, handsome, lean and charming...and of course, wealthy as well. Even the IT nerds are charming and cute. The story revolves around a serial killer of wealthy socialites in OZ, who have been left lonely by their successful husbands. Did the husband(s) or lover(s) or someone else kill them? The tale becomes somewhat disjointed and evolves into another story. The reader then must figure out that the two stories are connected. Sloppy editing. Overall, a satisfying read for those who have come to expect less from Patterson since his early solo works with the Alex Cross series and other well written thrillers done solely by Patterson.

While having an office in Australia may be good for Private, it isn't all that good for the reader. I have no objections to swearing, cussing, if you prefer, but there was too much in the early chapters in the book. Much of it was unnecessary and forced. This usually indicates that the author cannot get its blarney-blank together and write. It isn't any different than authors who include a paragraph or two of over-described sex. The story could be good, but there was too much bouncing between scenes. Some parts were really stretched. Some of the writing sounded like the author found a beginner's book on writing descriptive sentences. Too much! What happened to the Thorogood kids after the run in with Julie's playing around with makeup? The whole Julie/Greta thing just jerked the reader around. The whole book did. Maybe 3 stars is more appropriate.

I have read a LOT of James Patterson's books. This one seems like a first draft or outline. I want to know more in depth about the personalities. I want to know the followup to the babysitter episode, e.g. a) why would any couple leave children without vetting a temporary sitter, b) did anyone notice the cosmetics were used?. I wonder if the neighborhood watch warned women to change their routines and go out with partners. I want to know what crime solving was done by the beautiful co-owner from Private LA - other than to open the Australia office. I would like to see a time line that would authenticate how so many people could be in such a variety of spaces in just a week or so. I would like to know how someone comes straight to the office after surgery and expecting to use a colostomy for two months. Too many pieces and missing connections. At least the bad guys and gals were stopped.

Having read Private Oz, I thought this badly written novel was probably authored mostly by the co-writer from Perth, in which case I probably would not have purchased the book; it was not the standard expected of James Patterson. The storyline was bitty, the characters wooden and the dialogue corny. Worst parts were the cramming in of as many Sydney places as possible - and the language boo-boos. On reflection, I guess I can understand why the book was written in 'Americanese', nevertheless, from an Australian point of view it was annoying - and constant. I would think that if a story was set in Paris, the writer would refer to the boulevards and the metro, so why couldn't we read about the footpaths, etc, etc? Furthermore, we don't have drugstores in this country, but surely the word pharmacy would be understood by American readers? We're all supposed to be worldly and widely read these days, so let us at least have the natives speaking Australian, rather than American English. The average Aussie does not say ass, cell or the myriad other Americanisms quoted in the book. Not good enough, James!

here we go again with another "Private" mystery. Yes, they are formula books, but I do enjoy the ride. Somehow these guys always come out on top, so that I know the ending is good. it is just sooooo much fun to take the ride. I am not a critic, I do not write pointed reviews, but I will tell you that this one is a cliffhanger.

James Patterson has always been one of my Dad's favorite authors. So yeah, I had to check him out. I have read several of Patterson's books now. They are all filled with action and keep you on the edge of your seat. This book takes place in the wealthy suburbs of Australia. The investigation team of Private must solve the case of an Asian man who stumbles into a party ridden with bullets. Expect twists and turns on every page. I really enjoyed this book alot.

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