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—Time

american tabloid

by James Ellroy

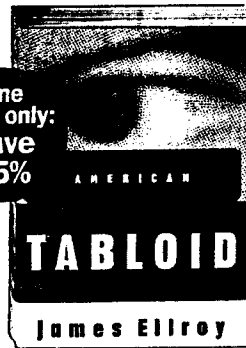
With novels like *The Black Dahlia* and the best-selling *White Jazz*, James Ellroy has made the lurid underworld of 1950s and '60s America his uncontested terrain. In his twelfth and latest book, *American Tabloid*, he brings to life an astonishing array of historical and fictional characters to offer his supremely twisted and compelling version of that era's defining event—the JFK assassination. Achieving what he calls "a reckless verisimilitude," Ellroy conjures up everyone from the womanizing president to Howard Hughes (a drug-addicted hypochondriac who is secretly financing the Nixon presidential campaign) to J. Edgar Hoover (the book's Moriarty, unseen but never absent). Set loose among these larger-than-life characters are three of Ellroy's own creations—Kemper Boyd, a Southern FBI agent who has infiltrated the Kennedy family; Ward Littell, an idealistic, Jesuit-trained G-man; and Pete Bondurant, a hit man and

former Hughes operative who falls in with the CIA. Touching on Castro, Marilyn Monroe, and the Ku Klux Klan, Ellroy's version of Dallas 1963 is impeccable and infinitely disturbing. The *New York Times Book Review* calls *American Tabloid* "a supremely controlled work of art . . .

the plot thickens and thickens." 576 pages.



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