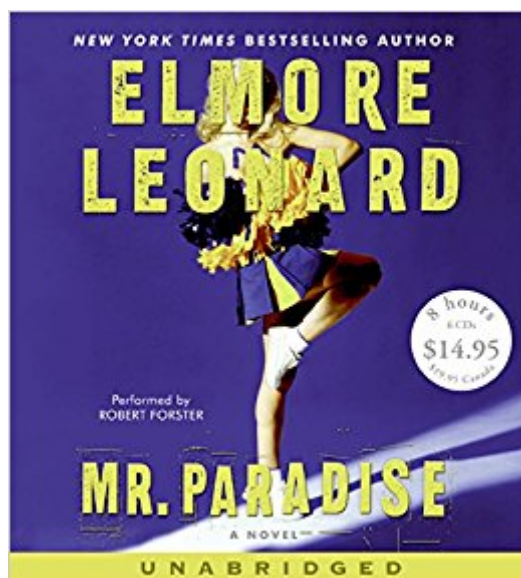


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Mr. Paradise



Synopsis

“Sharp as an ice pick.” You will love this excellent book. •New York Times Book Review Elmore Leonard is the undisputed master, the “King Daddy of crime writers” (Seattle Times), in the august company of the all-time greats of mystery/noir/crime fiction genre: John D. MacDonald, Dashiell Hammett, James M. Cain, et al. The creator of such unforgettable classics as *Stick*, *Out of Sight*, and *Get Shorty*—not to mention the character of U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens, lately of TV’s hit series *Justified*—Leonard is in fine form with *Mr. Paradise*. A riveting Detroit-based thriller enlivened by Leonard’s trademark razor-sharp dialogue, *Mr. Paradise* follows a smart Victoria’s Secret model’s attempt to score big after surviving a double murder in a millionaire’s mansion with a lonely cop acting as spoiler.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It’s a dubious proposition from the outset, destined to lead to trouble: Chloe Robinette, a high-end former Detroit call girl, asks her lingerie model roommate, Kelly Barr, to help her entertain a wealthy octogenarian trial lawyer named Anthony Paradiso. By “entertain,” she means donning a cheerleader’s skimpy skirt, but going topless, and doing rah-rah routines beside a TV set while Paradiso—“Mr. Paradise”—watches videotaped football games. A bit kinky for Kelly’s taste, but she finally goes along—only to be caught in the middle of a contract hit on Paradiso and Chloe. Rather than tell what little she knows of these crimes, Kelly buys into a scheme, concocted by Paradiso’s right-hand man, Montez Taylor, that could lead to a huge payoff from the lawyer’s estate. But only if

the 27-year-old Kelly can convincingly assume Chloe's identity ... Elmore Leonard, who's made his career writing about not-too-bright bad guys, fills Mr. Paradise with several memorable specimens of that breed. In addition to Montez, who'd resented his politically incorrect boss for cutting him out of his will, there's also a bottom-feeding defense attorney, Avern Cohn, who runs a murder-for-hire operation on the side, and his well-armed employees of the month, "tough monkeys" Carl Fontana and Arthur Krupa. Less credibly and entertainingly crafted is Frank Delsa, the widowed homicide detective whose hunt for Paradiso's killers is complicated by his attraction to the curvilinear Kelly. This romantic subplot is overly predictable and deflates early expectations that the cunning young model is playing some deeper game here, working an angle that neither Delsa nor Montez anticipates. After penning a string of character-propelled novels set in Florida (including *Glitz*, *Out of Sight*, and the particularly winning *La Brava*), it's good to see Leonard exploiting the Detroit backdrop again, as he did so expertly in a few of his earlier successes (*City Primeval* and *Killshot*, for instance). Yet while Mr. Paradise is rich with comic dialogue and cop-shop color, it never goes beyond the expectations of a Leonard work. This author is too good not to take more chances. --J. Kingston Pierce --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Leonard (*Tishomingo Blues*, etc.) has long been the master of sparse, precise language. Consequently, his prose and dialogue have evolved over the years to the point of having a rhythm and style unique unto themselves. Fortunately, Forster falls neatly into sync with the author. His clear, matter-of-fact recitation is perfectly suited to drawing the listener into a world where violence, deception and death are simply a practical side of doing business and delivered with as much passion as a Detroit police report. The story follows the investigation sparked by the death of an 84-year-old millionaire-the Mr. Paradise of the title. Leonard brings together an eclectic mixture of pragmatic cops, working-class hit men, crooked lawyers, con men and gangbangers, all brought to life through Forster's smooth, understated delivery. If there is any flaw in the performance, it is that by keeping his reading so low-key and laconic, there are a few sections of dialogue where the listener may be confused as to which character is speaking. But it is this same delivery that enhances the humor in the book, often with laugh-out-loud results. So, even though it would have been nice if Forster gave the characters' voices a bit more inflection, this is a small criticism of an overall fine production. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Elmore Leonard has always been a favorite of mine. A reviewer once commented Leonard's novels

seem effortless. His stories flow and sweep along the reader. Leonard's best novels are set in his hometown of Detroit (Swag, Unknown Man #89, City Primeval, etc.). Therefore, I was thrilled when I saw that he had "returned" to Detroit with Mr. Paradise. The plot is pure Leonard. A rich old man hires two beauties to serve as topless cheerleaders while he watches old tapes of University of Michigan football games. While the women are entertaining him, gunmen burst into the old man's home. From there, things go very wrong. As usual, there are other colorful characters in this novel. The dialogue is superb. I don't know how Leonard does it, but he has an "ear" for the way we speak. The dialogue pushes the novel forward and makes it easy to read. Mr. Paradise is not perfect. It is unrealistic. The characters in Mr. Paradise live crazy, exciting lives that resemble what one sees on TV. For instance, there are two hit men who are just a little too stupid to believe. Finally, readers can guess the ending with ease. Leonard needed to throw us a curveball to heighten interest. While, I have some gripes, I'm surprised at the number of middling reviews on . This is a solid, entertaining novel that is easy to read. I finished its 360 pages in about 24 hours. This would be a perfect beach book in that it offers action, sex, and thrills without demanding a lot of effort.

Elmore Leonard is simply the best author I've ever read, it's hard to believe he could be so consistent writing one great book after another for so many years, but he did, not a dud in the bunch, everything he wrote was a great read. You want an example of how good he was. Years ago the Hollywood movie people purchased the rights to every book Mr. Leonard wrote and any book he might write in the future, he's the only one Hollywood ever did that with, that's how well written his books are. It's just a shame I can't look forward to his next book because there won't be any more. It was a sad day for me when Mr. Leonard passed away.

Leonard strikes again, returning to his home city of Detroit, with dull-witted thugs, scheming lawyers, hot babes and a hero cop. Which movie company has this one optioned? This book's language is amazingly visual, particularly the depiction of a tall, slender model shot dead for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Don't read it too fast - enjoy it like a rich, buttery dessert.

This is a review of the audio CD version of Mr. Paradise. Elmore Leonard at his spare, ironic best, and a perfect reader, to boot.

Being from Michigan Elmore Leonard's books always keep me in touch and Mr. Paradise keeps you

constantly entertained! Well worth your time and money!

Elmore Leonard's characters and plot lines are often a bit wierd and in this latest effort, wierdness rules. A contract murder by a couple of bungling hit men sets in motion a whole scenario of sub plots which are mildly entertaining, but never compelling. If you are an EL fan, wait for the summer and buy it in paperback for a beach read.

I've been a fan of Elmore Leonard for quite some time and I rate Mr. Paradise right up there with the best of his stuff.

A very weak entry from a guy who has been terrific for over 30 years. No interesting characters and weakly plotted. I live in Detroit area, as does Leonard, and felt the Detroit references forced and strained which surprises but the whole enterprise is rather stale. For vintage Leonard set in Detroit the following can be highly recommended: Swag, City Primeval, Unknown Man No. 89 and Fifty-Two Pickup. Every short story in the superb collection, When The Women Came Out To Dance, is superior to Mr. Paradise.

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