



Thieves' Paradise

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The sensational **New York Times** bestselling author of **Between Lovers**, **Liar's Game**, and **Cheaters** returns with an irresistible novel about grifters and con artists, brothers and sisters, looking for love and making ends meet—on the wrong side of the law.

Thieves' Paradise Details

Date : Published April 6th 2004 by Dutton (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780451211453

Author : Eric Jerome Dickey

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Genre : Cultural, African American, Fiction, Urban

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From Reader Review Thieves' Paradise for online ebook

Brittanie says

*spoiler alert (for newer books)

I always knew there was a reason I needed to go back and read this book again. Scamz's story always moves me because he's such a forgiving character. It seems, his son (in future references) does not hold the same aura as he did. Mind you, I'm still waiting for that explanation, and maybe some more play for Dante because re-reading this reminded me how good of a character EJD started with Thieves' Paradise. It also helped me out a bit with Arizona, her relationship with Scamz had grown foggy to me and I fully get why she won't be with Gideon. It was hard enough losing a man she loved the way she did the first time, I'm almost positive she doesn't want to have to go through that again with Gideon. The only difference is, Gideon actually cares about Arizona, probably a lot more than Scamz did, and I'm sure it's the same vice versa.

Anyway, This book was a nice trip down memory lane.

Erline. says

I've been meaning to read this book for quite some time.

I first got into Eric Jerome Dickey books as a teenager in secondary school. I loved the drama, the scandals and how the characters were all generally a huge mess.

I haven't read an EJD book for at least 7 years since I grew out of them. But I decided to give one more book a try before I write off EJD books as a thing of the past.

Anyway, Thieves' Paradise is a story of regular people trying to survive. The story follows the life of protagonist Dante.

A young man who just turned 25 and has already lived quite an unfortunate life which included doing time in prison when he tried to save his mother from his violently abusive father.

Impacted by the burst of the dot com bubble, Dante is out of work and finds himself in a desperate situation along with one of his closest friends Jackson whose life is equally tragic.

Long story short, Dante and Jackson get involved again with their friend 'Scamz' to try and make some quick money to tide them over but get sucked into a world of trouble which almost costs Dante his life.

To start with, I found it overwhelming at just how much was crammed into only 3 days of Dante's life. Each situation happened so quickly it took me much longer to read this book than most as there was quite a bit to digest. Drama outside of the day to day scams was typical, baby mama drama, cheating spouses, trouble with the law.

It became very apparent that I've outgrown EJD's writing as I cringed reading the 'intimate' moments and actually skimmed over them completely. I found the writing in some places to be a bit repetitive and there was a bit of filler which I found to be unnecessary to the plot.

I was only able to get into the book half way through and I did like the ending. Out of all the pain and drama, it was nice that there was a ray of sunshine to end the book on a high note.

If you like books full of urban drama then you might enjoy this. There are fights, arson, adultery, scams and even murder! All packed tightly into one little book.

Lila Johnson says

This book moves well and the characters seem so real. Tearful toward the end. I read this at a time I was trying out new authors.

Lindsay says

I have read so many of EJD's books and love them all. The characters are so rich and vibrant and I get attached to them personally. I loved hearing about Scamz and Arizona. Their characters pop up so often that I feel like I should read all the books again in order to relearn things about them, but by the end left me with more questions. That being said, this was not my favorite book by him. It just never grabbed me and had that "can't put it down" feeling. I think one of the problems was that I felt sorry for so many of the characters and didn't want to hear about how bad things were for them. Dante and Big Slim were my favorites. What great characters that really came to life. Their heart to heart in the bed room was truly emotional and I felt like they were really connecting. The ending was also unexpected and left you feeling gratified without the sappy happily ever after that can ruin a book.

LaRhonda says

I thought it was slow in the beginning even though it pulled me into the story but I kept waiting for that moment that takes control and you can't put the book down. It's not one of my favorites, however it does explain a few of the characters that come into play in Sleeping with the enemy, Waking with strangers and Dying for Revenge...so the advice that I received to go back and read Thieves' Paradise was a good one. I would share that sentiments to get the introduction of some of the characters.

Lala Estrella says

FIRST READ OF 2014 !!!

"Wilshire Boulevard was filled with billboards for Judge Judy, Judge Joe Brown, and a few others who pimped people's misery for entertainment" - page 23.

"I'm a man. I appreciate beauty. I'm a black man. I appreciate booty." - page 29

"He had called me Alfalfa. Alfalfa had been killed over a fifty-dollar debt." - page 49

When I read this, I did not understand what he meant. I grew up in the time when Little Rascals was in color

so this was the only Alfalfa that I knew. I actually went and Google'd what he was referring to. This completely broadened my horizons and I learned something new. Which I was not expecting. I thought ... well hoped that Dante and Pam would last, but there's a part of me that is glad that they didn't. It would have seemed like a fantasy and not realistic. Dante is a man of true form and I don't think Pamela was necessarily ready for that. She did not love him and that was something that he was, but was not searching for.

LaTonya says

This was a great read. This book is completely different from the previous EJD novels that I've read, and was filled with tons of action and steamy scenes. This is the 11th novel I've read by EJD and he just keeps getting better, and I just love how he weaves characters from previous books into his new novels. Keep up the good work EJD and I can't wait to read the next one!

Jhani Garner says

Name :Jhani Garner
Date :October 14, 2011
Class :English CP-1
Teacher: Mr. Williams

Twenty-five-year-old Dante Brown is down and out in L.A. After doing a stretch of hard time in juvenile jail, he cleaned up his act as a computer techie-only to be laid off when the economy went south. Now he's facing a mountain of unpaid bills, a car on its last legs, imminent eviction, and a snowball's chance in hell with Pam, a sexy waitress/actress on the hunt for a man with means.

Enter Scamz, a slick brother from Dante's checkered past whose successful, illegal business associations keep him in custom-tailored suits, a Benz CL600, and a lavish Hollywood mansion with his pick of gorgeous women. Dante is determined to stay straight...after one last con that could put him back on top. But he gets pulled in deeper when his old friend Jackson, who's \$16,000 behind in child support, becomes part of the sting. The icing on the cake is Pam who, seduced by the easy money, suddenly finds Dante irresistible...until everything goes wrong.

A provocative and seductive story of contemporary men and women on the move and on the make, living large-and small-in L.A., Thieves' Paradise is this phenomenally gifted author "at the top of his game"

Theresa (bookbliss925) says

Haven't read a EJD book in years. Had this in my collection and decided to finally read it. It was okkkk....the relationship between Dante and Pam was nice; action was the type I could have done without, especially the repetitive action/beefs; the low self esteem issues of Arizona and Sierra sickened me; Scamz was a typical grifter/pimp style dude who wouldn't get the time of day from me; the ending was a surprise, but played out like a movie.

J says

(FROM JACKET) Twenty-five-year-old Dante Black is down and out in L.A. After doing a stretch of hard time in juvenile jail, he cleaned up his act as a computer techie-only to be laid off when the economy went south. Now he's facing a mountain of unpaid bills, a car on its last legs, imminent eviction, and a snowball's chance in hell with Pam, a sexy waitress/actress on the hunt for a man with means.

Enter Scamz, a slick brother from Dante's checkered past whose successful, illegal business associations keep him in custom-tailored suits, a Benz CL600, and a lavish Hollywood mansion with his pick of gorgeous women. Dante is determined to stay straight...after one last con that could put him back on top. But he gets pulled in deeper when his old friend Jackson, who's \$16,000 behind in child support, becomes part of the sting....

Jennifer says

Currently reading this book and it's different from the books that I've read from this author. I am used to reading love stories with drama and this one has a love interest but it also has the characters involved in organized crime. I'm curious to see how the story escalates and/or turns for the worst.. At least that's the direction it seems like it's going in but it's intriguing and I can't wait to find out what is going to happen next.

Bobbie Wines says

Loved it!!!

Key says

This book right here...where do I begin. First, he really digs deep into the characters struggles. For instance, he magnifies the issues surrounding black men not being able to find work so easily. Part of it being due to the economy. Second, the lack of work for black women in Hollywood. It's "interesting" how this is still an issue now in Hollywood but I digress. Lastly, "The absence of knowledge creates the image of perfection." It's a great read!

Leesa Dee says

I love the way that Dickey develops a character. In the beginning of the book, Dickey's main character Dante' could have easily been a typical African American guy, bad family life, going through the system, involved in typical scenarios. Dickey was able to take that young guy give him emotions, a conscious, strength and at the end of the book make me the reader his number one fan. I loved the story and the way each supporting character never took away from the focus on Dante'.

Aj says

Amazing, great read!
