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After a violent altercation with an infamous New York City drug lord, Patrick Sullivan believed his career in law enforcement was over. Yet, not even a year after his resignation, he finds himself back on the job. This time, a detective in the homicide unit.

While battling the ghosts of his past, Patrick and his new partner, veteran detective Jonathan Hawkins, find themselves chasing a killer who is constantly one step ahead of them.

As the body count increases and no substantial leads are discovered, tension between the two cops threatens to boil over. They attempt to coexist as they hunt down a sadistic serial killer who does more than just take his victims' lives.

The Replacement Details

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From Reader Review The Replacement for online ebook

Nick says

You can find the full review and more about this book on my blog!

First, when I found out this book, though my best friend here Maria, I was really intrigued by the cover. It is simple but it's awesome. I really dig the draw-type of picture and the way the blood drops. It's so cool and it prepares you for what the book will be. And believe me the book was as great as the cover!

The Replacement is a thriller, detective and murders kind of thriller. A novel worth the read. It is everything a book should be. It has action (which was the best part of the book), it has crime drama, smart talks, friendship, emotions and some pretty crazy murder scenes.

Things I enjoyed:

1. The main character. Patrick Sullivan is a very realistic characters. And I liked him because of that. He was not the nowdays MC, perfect in every kind of way, he had flaws and dealt with them, and he really developed, and that's what I really like to read in a book.

2. The murder scenes. The Surgeon was a sick killer but it really made the book way more interesting. The scenes were the parts I always looked forward to read more.

3. The dialogues. Conversations between Sullivan and Hawkins were smart and enjoyable.

4. The ending (But I will not spoil anything, don't worry)

Things that bothered me:

1. The pointless description. This book is very long for its plot. I was good, but I really think it would have been even better if it was shorter, and some parts were cut, because sometimes it felt like the story was going nowhere and it was boring.

2. It was predictable. I knew who was the killer like half way of the book and even that I still liked the ending I already knew somehow how it was going to end.

I highly recommend this book to every reader out there, it is awesome crime drama, and if you like that you should pick this up:)

Meigan says

Oftentimes violent with plenty of gore, author Jason Pellegrini weaves a harrowing tale about a man both searching for a killer and trying to escape his past.

Patrick Sullivan left the NYPD after a violent case that continues to haunt him. Having left the city and relocated to the 'burbs, he once again finds himself working as a cop. As a newly minted detective, Patrick has been assigned to a murder case, the likes of which he's never seen despite working amidst the crime of the city for so long. As the investigation unfolds, it seems the initial murder isn't quite done with. Many more murders are taking place, each one more disturbing than the last, and it's up to Patrick and his new partner to solve the case(s). Once again working as a cop, Patrick starts experiencing more and more flashbacks of the incident that haunts him. No matter how far away he moves, no matter how much time passes, Patrick can't seem to outrun the demons from his past. Patrick's mind is a fragile thing, the demons won't let him be and with such an all-consuming case laid before him, things aren't looking so good for Patrick Sullivan.

As I've stated before, *The Replacement* is a violent and gory tale about murder, but there's also a bit of a human element with Patrick struggling with his mental state. His past haunts him, unpredictably of course, and it was quite sad to see him plagued on a daily basis and fighting for clarity. That's not to say the entire story was bleak and depressing. Pellegrini managed to infuse a bit of brightness into his story with Patrick's relationship with his family, particularly his wife. Their love and support of one another was quite realistic, and it was nice to have that little bit of brightness in such a dark tale.

As far as the storytelling goes, this is one of those instances where a little editing goes a long way. There's no doubt that Pellegrini can weave a good yarn, but for me, much of what should have been a fast-paced and

suspenseful narrative was bogged down with punctuation. Semicolons, parentheses, commas galore all served to slow down the story. With a bit of polish, a bit of reconfiguring and chopping of excess punctuation and repetition, there's no doubt in my mind that *The Replacement* would rate a solid 4+ in the star-rating system. As a debut author, Jason Pellegrini shows such great potential to deliver everything I expect in a thriller and I'm certainly looking forward to any additional books he publishes to see how he grows as an author.

3.5 stars. Recommended for thriller readers who like a heavy dose of gore and murder, which *The Replacement* delivered in spades :)

**Many thanks to the author for providing a review copy in exchange for my honest opinion.

Donna says

In *The Replacement* we follow homicide detectives Patrick Sullivan and his partner Jonathan Hawkins, on a hunt for a sadistic serial killer, who we will come to know as "The Surgeon."

This was a very suspenseful and intriguing ride to say the least. There were quite a few emotional scenes. Some happy...others that will make you cringe. Many ghosts from the past to be dealt with and many new ones to be had by the time you're done.

This is not one for all. There are very graphic, gory scenes and is intended for adults only. Don't want to give away to much, so no more spoilers from me.

All in all, this was very detailed and well written. Great characters and amazing story line. Thanks again to Jason Pellegrini, for sending me an ARC in exchange for an honest review. It was indeed a privilege and I sincerely wish you all the best on your debut.

Sherri F. says

NOTE TO SELF-PUBLISHERS (new or old): If you do NOT want to put \$ out for copyeditor or prof. proofreader, PLEASE ask a few "Eagle-eyed" friends/acquaintances/fans to thoroughly review for excessive typos, extra inserted or omitted words, incorrectly added or missing endings (usually -S or -ed, etc.), etc. Unless, of course, it's an ARC.

OK, off my PSA/soapbox...I'm rating a 3 b/c author is new, self-published & donating 1/2 proceeds (of ed. I purchased) to charity PLUS I can see he is talented & some parts were really good & made me want to keep reading to find out where it was going or what happened, beyond the fact that I paid for it. Also, early I sensed & by 1/2 convinced I knew killer until 3/4 when I thought it was a red herring, but I was right AND author is from & book is set in my sister-town/neighbors state--which not being big city or small quaint town, we rarely if ever get the pleasure! Having said all that, the beginning over 1/3 through was very slowly paced (which some may prefer, just not my pref.) & for at least the main character, Patrick Sullivan, he was described & developed, and described & developed some more & then some more (so for all those ppl that like to complain a book lacks character development, this book is for YOU!). At first I was more tolerable

b/c I was thinking it must be b/c it's being set up for a series or at least a trilogy, HOWEVER, by the way it ended, it doesn't seem like that is the case. So a little frustrating esp. since at the end a lot of it is repeated & even taken further (& yes some of it was nec.) BUT if you are going to such detail at end, then much of beginning 1/4 to 1/3 could have been condensed. Also, I get frustrated when authors assume readers aren't very intelligent or aren't paying attention and repeat various things over & over & over but I need to get over it right. I look forward to future work as this author grows & fine tunes his craft.

A yr after Patrick has a violent altercation w/a "major NYC drug lord" (no need to remember b/c u will be beat over the head w/it frequently) and Patrick is unexpectedly, returning as an active duty homicide detective in a neighboring district in order to replace a 35+ yr legend (Jonathan Hawkins) forced to retire due to health issues & temporarily partner w/him and his long time partner (Carl Murphy) for his last two months in service. Day 1 for Patrick begins w/the murder of an elderly couple then leads into a serial killer situation. Since I just read Tess Gerritsen's The Surgeon a little over a month ago, it had similarities to that from new detective & immediate murder-turned-serial situation by a killer using surgical tools (although different victims & murder style) and ultimately dubbed by law enforcement/media The Surgeon/Long Island Surgeon, then only connection b/w victims where recent admissions to a local hospital SO docs & staff are investigated only to learn that's the wrong road. However, the background, the actual killer and reason for the serial killings AND how caught are NOT similar and are good in both cases.

Biggest pet peeve that IMHO opinion is impt esp. b/c of impt & stressful job Patrick has, deadly situation incurred on & off the job AND our culture toward counseling, therapy & anything mental health related AND author even set up possibilities by saying in Epilogue...(para.) "...happily ever after...is a pleasant concept for stories.." so (spoilerish) (view spoiler)

Kevin Schnurr says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Jason Pellegrini's debut brings to mind one of my favorite authors: Stephen King. I'm not just referring to the graphic murder material (of which there is plenty) but more so the intelligent writing and incredibly strong character growth. I also truly enjoyed Pellegrini's ability to make this story highly plausible, unlike the "over-the-top" murder/mystery novels which unfortunately plague the genre. Lastly, Jason Pellegrini is a man of great detail which plays a crucial role when writing a story with this complexity. Having the location set in Long Island, NY, also gave the novel a vibe similar to Nelson DeMille's 'Plum Island.' Overall a stellar debut and I'm looking forward to more from this emerging author.

Thomas Edmund says

This book marks the beginning of a new era for me. Normally I have had a pretty bad closure problem when it came to books, so it was a rare occurrence that I would ever put down a book before it was finished. I also had a perverse sense of loyalty that even if I posted a negative I could at least do the author the service of reading the entirety of their work.

But no more! The new me will post brief notes on why I decided to move on, then I will move on.

So what happened with The Replacement?

1. Started with a dream sequence, which demonstrated all the reasons a novel should not open this way. The dream established the main character as a grizzled, bad-coffee drinking, short-fused cop working the mean streets of New York. When he awoke he was a personable trainee detective living in the burbs, with a perfect house, wife and child. Then we were subjected to a gratuitous exposition about the MC's sex life. No thanks.
2. The author handled a homosexual suspect (no pun intended) incredibly poorly, both from an open-minded and writerly perspective. The suspect was described around 3 times as "having that look that many homosexuals do" leaving me wondering a. what the look actually was and b. whether there was some look out there that was common knowledge and this wasn't offensive.
3. Numerous police procedural cliche/errors like lab results being available overnight, the detectives making leaps of logical that would make no sense (unless they knew they were in a novel) like connecting murders with no evidence other than they are both brutal
4. The last straws where finding out the MC had around 3 traumatic past issues bubbling under the surface, and I was starting to loose track/interest

Pellegrini made a good effort with this novel, and I appreciate the giveaway allowing me the opportunity to read and review, but unfortunately the final piece is strong evidence that many self-published works need less aggressive marketing and more aggressive editing

Lisi says

Synopsis

After a violent altercation with an infamous New York City drug lord, Patrick Sullivan believed his career in law enforcement was over. Yet, not even a year after his resignation, he finds himself back on the job. This time, a detective in the homicide unit.

While battling the ghosts of his past, Patrick and his new partner, veteran detective Jonathan Hawkins, find themselves chasing a killer who is constantly one step ahead of them.

As the body count increases and no substantial leads are discovered, tension between the two cops threatens to boil over. They attempt to coexist as they hunt down a sadistic serial killer who does more than just take his victim's lives.

My opinion

I have to admit, that I liked the book early on. I loved the characterisations of Patrick and his wife, the descriptions of his family life, especially his son were just adorable. I also remember that I was curiouos, how this story would develop which made me read the book in every free minute. The collegues of Patrick were very well developed, the had interesting back stories and character, I couldn't help but like them.

I didn't like Hawkins, because I think the author didn't want the reader to like this person. It took me some time to get to the first murder scence, which was just gruesome for me. I had to stop reading because I was actually feeling sick to my stomach while reading the detailed description of the murder victims. And this was also the time where I first considered to stop reading Patrick's Story. I came back though because I

wanted to know more about this case, I wanted to see the killer caught and brought to justice. Needless to say, that there are more murders, more incompetence by the law enforcement, because one person just couldn't get over himself and listen to a younger co-worker. I really wanted to punch this guy!

I loved Claire, Patrick's wife. She was always so understanding and trying to help her husband whenever she was able to. But I have to admit, as much as I loved the story and the characters, the whole description of violence was too graphic for me. The writing style was great, I got sucked into the story before I knew it, but I always had a strange feeling and was dreading the next victim because I feared that the detailed description would make me sick. This is the reason why I give this book only three out of five stars, because I loved the characters, I loved the writing style and I am pretty sure, that I am going to read the next book this author will write.

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review: THE REPLACEMENT by Jason Pellegrini

I totally loved the reader's hook, which immediately pulled me in and kept me captive, wondering constantly "Reality? Dream? Reality?" and truly, that slippery perception continues throughout the book with "this is too bad to be true" alternating with "I know this is too good to be true!" I love to find a mystery-within-a-mystery (I'm not a born conspiracy theorist for nothing) so THE REPLACEMENT kept my motor humming right along. Great going in a first-time novel.

Quentin Wallace says

First off, let me start by saying this one is good, really good. What a great debut novel. The MC was very human and believable, with all the flaws that go along with being human. He was also a little nuts, as shown by how he's haunted by the ghosts of his past, but I digress. The supporting characters were great as well. The murders were gruesome. It was just a really good crime drama. One thing of note, the author used a bit of foreshadowing that reminded me of Stephen King, which is a big plus.

I do think it was a bit lengthy. I think it could be edited down and made even better, but some people love hyper-detailed writing, so that's just my opinion. I also have to admit I saw the big revelation coming, although the novel isn't what I'd call predictable. I also thought the ending was a bit dismaying, but understandable and sadly realistic.

Overall, I would recommend this to anyone who likes crime dramas or suspense novels. Fans of Thomas Harris and the Hannibal novels would probably especially enjoy this one. Even though it was a bit lengthy, it reads pretty quickly, so it doesn't drag much. I'm interested to see what Jason Pellegrini writes next!

Lynda Dickson says

Patrick Sullivan is a cop with a haunted past who is making a comeback to the police force after a forced hiatus. He begins work as a homicide detective as the replacement for retiring detective Jonathan Hawkins

and is thrown into the investigation of the gruesome murder of an old married couple. When the detectives catch another murder case with some similar features, they realize they are now on the hunt for a serial killer, dubbed "the Surgeon". Patrick and Jonathan clash during the investigation, as Patrick tries to live up to expectations and the fact that "he was replacing the person who just so happened to be a messiah to these men."

Bits of Patrick's past are slowly revealed throughout the narrative, giving us a glimpse into his motivations. The book is more a character study than an action thriller. Unfortunately, I found Patrick to be an unlikable character, with no redeeming qualities and prone to introspection. His relationship with wife Claire and son Connor is practically non-existent, made even more unbelievable after we find out how Patrick and Claire first met.

While the story itself is interesting, there are many editing errors, especially with punctuation (apostrophes, commas, semicolons). The prose is flowery and full of rhetoric and clichéd similes and metaphors. The narrative needs more dialogue, as we are more often told what has been said, rather than hearing it for ourselves. The story also needs to be edited for length - it is overly long, with too much repetition and unnecessary passages. In addition, I guessed the identity of the Surgeon early on in the story, so even the suspense aspect was lost on me.

Nevertheless, this is a good read if you can see past these shortcomings.

Warnings: coarse language, sex scenes, graphic violence.

I received this book in return for an honest review.

Full blog post: <http://booksdirectonline.blogspot.com...>

Maria says

I must say that sometimes I come across a story that touches me deeply and stays with me for a long time, which is the case with this book.

The Replacement took me on an exciting & emotional journey! Having felt like I had lived this story and been with the characters, I find myself at a loss when I was done reading.

Kudos to Jason Pellegrini for a well written, original & powerful debut novel!!
I look forward to reading his next book.

5 unsettling stars!

Amber says

"Patrick was viciously ripped from his safe haven; dragged back to harsh reality, like an angel being expelled from heaven and thrown back to the plain of humanity, where it would be forced to walk among

such ugliness after knowing such divine beauty."

This is essentially how I'm feeling sitting here trying to dissect how I feel after reading this novel. It was both beautiful and ugly. I feel angry, devastated, relieved, yet excited. I'm excited because I've had such a hard time finding a novel of this genre to feel intensely about. Most books of this genre feel flat to me (Hell yes I'm looking at you, James Patterson - sorry not sorry).

For a debut novel I found it to be disturbingly stunning.

Terri says

Introducing Jason Pellegrini & his debut novel: "The Replacement". At first glance you might think this book fits quite comfortably on the Psychological Thriller bookshelf, & it does. But its much more deeper than that. It's a story about a man who wages a battle between his inner sense of fairness & justice vs. an almost uncontrolled desire for revenge that drove him to the brink of his own survival once before. All of this takes place as Patrick Sullivan joins Jonathan Hawkins (the deputy who is being forced to retire from a career that is his life & who Patrick will be replacing) in a race to catch a Serial Killer that grips a town in terror w/ his ever deepening depth of sadistic cruelty.

But while Patrick & Hawkins hunt "the Surgeon" & the body count keeps growing, Patrick himself is being hunted. He's hunted by the demons from his past mistakes who haunt him in his sleep, by a growing & lethal rage that threatens to destroy the two most important people in his life & a crippling suspicion of his "new" partner which only feeds his rage.

I could not put this book down. Pellegrini wove four stories seamlessly into one breathtaking story w/ no loose ends & I can't wait to see what he writes next!

Christine says

This is the first crime novel by Jason Pellegrini and it is really rather good.

'The Replacement' is the story of a hunt for a serial killer called the 'Surgeon'. Patrick Sullivan moves from New York to Nassau County Police Department, after some rather traumatic events. He is to be the replacement detective, as Jonathan Hawkins is about to retire. Patrick goes from his training to a crime scene out of his nightmares. The two officers Hawkins and Patrick are soon on the hunt for a serial killer with some nasty tricks up his sleeve.

The highlight for me was Patrick and his ambiguous sense of morality. I like a cop who is not afraid to take the law into his own hands. I enjoyed the tension between Hawkins and Patrick, as they sought to make sense of the crimes and to establish a working relationship. Patrick's nightmares and delusions were fascinating, and increasingly they made more sense. He seemed to be going through PTSD and had not come to terms with any of the violence or death he had encountered in his career. The crime scenes were lovely in a gory

'Hannibal' kind of way.

The weaker part of the story came from Patrick's wife. I thought Patrick's wife was a little too nice and understanding. A little too perfect. She must be the only police officer's wife never to complain about the unsocial hours or appear concerned about the effect of terrible crime scenes on an unstable man. And Patrick clearly seemed to me to have issues that could not entirely be hidden from his spouse.

This is a promising debut and a very readable serial killer drama.

Hannah says

Ace On The River

Well, well, well, what can I say about this book. Now, if you follow my reviews I'm a fan of horror and female private investigators (don't judge) So when Jason Pellegrini reached out to me to read his debut novel I can honestly say that it wasn't a book I would have read normally. (however, I'd like to point out that being in communication with the Author didn't, in any way, effect my review)

Well! This book is amazing! It has everything you'd need. Love, horror, thriller, murder, revenge. A broken man is our hero, a disgraced cop looking to start his life again. Starting again in the homicide department, he is immediately thrown into the deep end with a horrific murder scene, he is faced with ending this gruesome and seemingly endless storm of inventively violent murders, while establishing himself in his new position.

Each character is very unique and three dimensional, even background characters are developed, and the events are so well described your almost there with them. I use the motto

' A good story teller isn't always a good writer, and I good writer isn't always a good story teller'

Jason Pellegrini is definitely both. If this is really a debut novel then this author is definitely one to watch, and this book is definitely my best read of 2015 so far. Kept me guessing right up until the end. This isn't an Ace of the River, you don't need to wait with hope that the book will ' get good', you'll be hooked almost immediately. So, rush to amazon and buy this book, you won't regret it.
