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A cheap hooker named Missy Moonbeam takes a fatal dive from the roof of a sleazy hotel. But what's a Caltech phone number doing in her trick book? And how does that connect to a dead private eye and a useless credit card? And what does all that have to do with a Whisky-class Russian sub and the Nobel Prize?

The Delta Star Details

Date : Published January 1st 1984 by Bantam (first published February 1st 1983)

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Author : Joseph Wambaugh

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From Reader Review The Delta Star for online ebook

Ruthe Collins says

didn't care for this one. Too much of the story was between the lines.

Robert Sterling says

Okay but not great.

Most of the book was about several police officers on the lapd, somewhat of a story but nothing to get excited about, still, Wambaugh does write good novels.

Peter Swanson says

I hadn't read this in about 30 years when I plucked it from my shelf a couple of days ago. It's just as good as it was in the eighties. Joseph Wambaugh captures better than any other author the stress, angst, depression, and humor of life as a cop, especially in the LAPD.

Fredrick Danysh says

In this police novel a dead prostitute's trick book contains a number for Caltech and a policeman somehow comes in possession of a dead man's credit card. In world events a soviet submarine with nuclear torpedoes runs aground in Sweden. Is any of this related?

Debra Pawlak says

The Delta Star is one of Joseph Wambaugh's earlier books. Dead private eyes and murdered hookers are the center of this entertaining crime novel. His humor is raw and gritty, but the characters (who are all flawed in some way or another) are the best part. There is never a dull moment, or shall I say page, in a Wambaugh book. I have so enjoyed reading these books that I might just do something I rarely do--reread his first three novels. It's been a long time and I think I will enjoy them all over again.

John says

Not my kind of book and was so unhappy when i first found what kind of a book it was going to be. I never read the dust cover info on a book as i like to be suprised. Well it was a cops and bad guys ,loco guys, and so

on. LA in modern times 1980s I think. Any thing after the 1930s does not interest me unless it is military stuff. But just because of the unusual characters in this story , it was worth reading. Everything was told between the lines.

Ed says

Author Wambaugh continues his string of LAPD based best sellers with his sixth novel, this time featuring the cops of Rampart Station.

Police Novels - A cheap hooker named Missy Moonbeam takes a fatal dive from the roof of a sleazy hotel. But what's a Caltech phone number doing in her trick book? And how does that connect to a dead private eye and a useless credit card? And what does all that have to do with a Whisky-class Russian sub and the Nobel Prize? The cops of Rampart Station follow a trail of corruption from the world of pimps and crazies to the think-tank labs of the country's top chemistry wizards—where genius and greed mix to create an award-winning case of murder.

Robert2481 says

I first read this book when it came out thirty-something years ago. I had forgotten how much I appreciated Wambaugh's work. It is my intention to revisit all his books, because I thoroughly enjoyed this one.

Cws says

M Wam

Ken says

Meandering, less than a compelling plot. Overall characters development is disappointing.

Scott Breslove says

I really don't know how to describe this book...it started out seemingly trying to be the most crude and offensive book it could possibly be. Either that, or that was really how the LAPD was back when this book was written. It also started out as a mish mosh of characters and introductions and randomness, then, it feels like, the actual true plot of the book came through halfway to three quarters of the way through the book. But, luckily for me, I embrace the crude and enjoy it, so this book was an interesting trip through the wild and wacky world of Wambaugh for me. If you are easily offended, this one isn't for you, but if you enjoy it, this could be a definitely interesting one for you.

d thompson says

Ludwig jizzed on the new pool table.

Never run over a Mexican on a bicycle because its probably your bicycle. Learn more helpful hints on racial interaction and quantum physics with the master of cop stories.

Colin Keenan says

Colorful satisfying mystery

At first the racist characters got in the way of my enjoyment of this well written novel, but I recognized their banter as in good fun for bonding between cops. I don't like drunks spouting racist viewpoints jokingly in real life, but it's a good way for the author to quickly introduce the characters. I like the use of colorful nick names and repeating distinguishing characteristics that help to keep everything clear. I live in Kansas City, but happened to be visiting my mother in Pasadena. I have also attended some Caltech lectures that were open to the public, so I was pleasantly surprised this was the setting for this mystery. It's a good mystery too, with a very satisfying conclusion. Interesting from the beginning and not at all easy to solve, but makes sense.

Terry Zamzow says

Oldie but goodie.

Don says

Having only read one other Joseph Wambaugh novel, I thought to give this one a try.

Odd assortment of characters within quite a dysfunctional, drunken Police Division.

Slightly enjoyable, but...

Very much unlike any Police novel I have previously read.

Not exactly good and not exactly bad. It's also quite sexist and racist.

If looking to read more good adventure, mystery and fast paced — this isn't it.

I was expecting a serious Police drama, but got a comedy.

