

K N O P F B I O



*A b o u t*

JAMES ELLROY

*author of*

BLOOD'S A ROVER

James Ellroy was born in Los Angeles in 1948. His L.A. Quartet novels—*The Black Dahlia*, *The Big Nowhere*, *L.A. Confidential*, and *White Jazz*—were international best sellers. His novel *American Tabloid* was *Time* magazine's Best Book (fiction) of 1995; his memoir, *My Dark Places*, was a *Time* Best Book of the Year and a *New York Times* Notable Book for 1996. His novel *The Cold Six Thousand* was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book for 2001.

As a young reader, Ellroy consumed crime novels and developed an obsessive fascination with homicide after his father bought him Jack Webb's *The Badge*. Therein he discovered the story of the ghastly murder and mutilation of Elizabeth Short, known after her death as the Black Dahlia. As a young man haunted by his mother's death—her murder in 1958 remains unsolved—Ellroy turned to alcohol, theft, drugs, became a peeping Tom, and even served time in jail. By 1985, he had turned his life around, and began writing *The Black Dahlia*.

As a novelist, screenwriter, essayist, and memoirist, James Ellroy is more closely identified with Los Angeles than any writer since Raymond Chandler. Nearly all of his writing is set in Los Angeles—in the rough, racist, pre-Miranda Los Angeles of the decade following the Second World War.

Curtis Hanson directed the blockbuster film adaptation of *L.A. Confidential* (1997) in which (as in the book), everything is suspect, everyone is for sale, and nothing is what it seems. A film adaptation of *The Black Dahlia*, directed by Brian De Palma, was released in 2006. Ellroy himself has been the subject of seven documentary films, including *Feast of Death*, by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Vikram Jayanti.

James Ellroy lives in Los Angeles.

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