

american psycho by brett easton ellis

American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis: A Deep Dive into the Dark Heart of 1980s Consumerism

american psycho by brett easton ellis is a novel that has sparked intense debate, fascination, and controversy since its publication in 1991. It's not just a story about a wealthy New York investment banker with a penchant for violence; it's a razor-sharp critique of the excess, superficiality, and moral decay of the 1980s yuppie culture. If you've ever wondered why this book continues to provoke strong reactions decades later, read on as we explore its themes, characters, and cultural impact.

The Story Behind American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis

At its core, *American Psycho* chronicles the life of Patrick Bateman, a successful but deeply disturbed Wall Street professional. Ellis crafts Bateman as a symbol of the era's obsession with status, appearance, and material wealth. Beneath his polished exterior lies a psychopathic killer who blurs the lines between reality and delusion, sanity and madness.

The narrative unfolds through Bateman's increasingly erratic and violent perspective, providing readers with an unsettling glimpse into his fractured mind. The novel's graphic and explicit content stirred controversy upon release, prompting debates about censorship, artistic freedom, and the portrayal of violence in literature.

Why the Novel Sparked Controversy

American Psycho's raw depiction of brutality, especially its scenes involving sexual violence, challenged societal limits on acceptable content. Many found Ellis's portrayal excessively disturbing, accusing the author of glorifying or trivializing violence against women. However, others argue that the novel's extremity is a deliberate tool to reflect the soullessness of the consumer-driven culture it critiques.

Ellis himself has stated that the shock value is part of the book's method to confront readers with uncomfortable truths about capitalism's dark underbelly. This duality makes *American Psycho* more than just a thriller—it's a cultural mirror forcing us to question what lurks beneath polished surfaces.

Exploring Key Themes in American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis

Ellis's novel is rich with themes that resonate beyond its violent plot. Understanding these layers helps readers appreciate its enduring significance.

The Critique of 1980s Consumerism and Materialism

One of the most prominent aspects of American Psycho is its scathing commentary on consumer culture. The 1980s, often remembered for economic boom and luxury excess, serve as the backdrop for Bateman's world. Throughout the novel, Ellis meticulously catalogs designer brands, trendy restaurants, and exclusive nightclubs, emphasizing an obsession with surface-level achievements.

This fixation on appearances extends to Bateman's identity crisis. He frequently confuses himself with others, suggesting that in a society where image is everything, individuality becomes lost. The novel suggests that this shallow pursuit of material wealth can lead to a dehumanizing emptiness, symbolized by Bateman's growing detachment from reality.

Mental Illness and the Fragmented Self

American Psycho delves deeply into the psyche of a man who is both a product and a victim of his environment. Bateman's dissociative experiences blur the line between his violent fantasies and actual events, creating an ambiguous narrative that leaves readers questioning what is real.

This ambiguity serves as a metaphor for the fractured identities people can experience in a society obsessed with perfection. Bateman's inability to connect meaningfully with others and his escalating violence highlight the dangers of repressing inner turmoil beneath a socially acceptable façade.

The Impact and Legacy of American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis

Despite—or perhaps because of—its controversial nature, American Psycho has cemented itself as a significant work in contemporary literature. Its influence extends beyond the printed page into film, fashion, and popular culture.

The 2000 Film Adaptation

Directed by Mary Harron and starring Christian Bale, the film adaptation of *American Psycho* brought Ellis's story to a wider audience. The movie maintained the novel's satirical edge while toning down some of its graphic content. Bale's portrayal of Patrick Bateman received critical acclaim for capturing both the character's charm and menace.

The film's stylized violence and dark humor helped cement *American Psycho*'s place as a cult classic, sparking renewed interest in the book and its themes. It also contributed to discussions about the portrayal of psychopathy and consumer culture in media.

American Psycho in Contemporary Culture

Beyond literature and film, *American Psycho*'s influence can be seen in fashion, music, and art. The character of Patrick Bateman has become an icon representing the dangerous allure of wealth and superficiality. References to the novel appear in everything from music videos to advertising campaigns, often as a critique of excess or a nod to dark humor.

Ellis's work continues to be analyzed in academic circles, especially in studies of postmodernism, capitalism, and identity. Its complex narrative and layered symbolism invite readers to revisit it multiple times, uncovering new meanings with each read.

Tips for Reading and Understanding *American Psycho* by Brett Easton Ellis

Given its challenging content and ambiguous storytelling, approaching *American Psycho* requires some preparation:

- **Be ready for discomfort:** The novel contains explicit scenes that can be disturbing. It's important to approach it with an understanding of its purpose as social critique rather than gratuitous violence.
- **Pay attention to detail:** The meticulous descriptions of brands, restaurants, and social interactions are not mere filler; they build the novel's atmosphere and underscore its themes.
- **Embrace ambiguity:** Don't expect a straightforward narrative. The blurred lines between reality and fantasy are central to the story's impact and meaning.

- **Consider the historical context:** Understanding the economic and cultural landscape of the 1980s enhances appreciation of the novel's critique.

How to Discuss American Psycho Thoughtfully

When talking about *American Psycho* by Brett Easton Ellis, it's helpful to acknowledge its complexity. Instead of focusing solely on its shocking content, consider its commentary on identity, consumerism, and mental health. Engaging with different interpretations can lead to richer discussions that go beyond surface reactions.

Whether in book clubs, academic settings, or casual conversations, framing the novel within its cultural critique allows for a more nuanced appreciation of Ellis's work.

American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis remains a provocative and challenging piece of literature. Its portrayal of a morally bankrupt society through the eyes of a chilling protagonist forces readers to confront uncomfortable truths about modern life. As long as issues of identity, consumerism, and mental health remain relevant, this novel will continue to inspire debate and analysis.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'American Psycho' by Bret Easton Ellis?

'American Psycho' explores themes of consumerism, superficiality, and the dark underbelly of 1980s yuppie culture, focusing on the emptiness and moral decay of its protagonist.

Who is the protagonist of 'American Psycho' and what is his character like?

The protagonist is Patrick Bateman, a wealthy and successful investment banker in Manhattan who leads a double life as a psychopathic serial killer.

Why was 'American Psycho' considered controversial upon its release?

The novel was controversial due to its graphic depictions of violence, particularly sexual violence, and its critique of materialistic culture, leading to bans and censorship in some countries.

How does Bret Easton Ellis use satire in 'American Psycho'?

Ellis uses satire to mock the superficiality and excess of 1980s corporate culture, highlighting the emptiness beneath the glamorous lifestyle through exaggerated characters and scenarios.

What role does consumerism play in 'American Psycho'?

Consumerism is central to the novel, symbolizing the obsession with status, appearance, and material possessions that define the characters' shallow lives.

Is 'American Psycho' based on a true story?

No, 'American Psycho' is a work of fiction created by Bret Easton Ellis, though it draws on real cultural and social elements from the 1980s.

How has 'American Psycho' influenced popular culture?

'American Psycho' has influenced popular culture through its portrayal of the dark side of wealth and success, inspiring films, music, and discussions about consumerism and identity.

What narrative style is used in 'American Psycho'?

The novel is written in the first person from Patrick Bateman's perspective, providing an unreliable and disturbing insight into his mind.

Has 'American Psycho' been adapted into other media?

Yes, 'American Psycho' was adapted into a successful 2000 film starring Christian Bale, and it has also been adapted into a stage musical.

Additional Resources

American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis: A Dark Examination of 1980s Excess and Identity

american psycho by brett easton ellis stands as one of the most provocative and controversial novels of the late 20th century. Published in 1991, this psychological thriller delves deep into the mind of Patrick Bateman, a wealthy New York investment banker whose life masks a gruesome double existence as a serial killer. Ellis's work challenges readers to confront the intersections of consumerism, identity, and psychopathy amidst the backdrop

of the capitalist excesses of the 1980s.

In-depth Analysis of American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis

American Psycho is not merely a horror novel or a crime thriller; it is a layered narrative that critiques the superficiality and moral vacuity of yuppie culture during the Reagan era. Ellis uses Patrick Bateman's character as a vessel to explore themes of alienation, dehumanization, and the obsession with material wealth. The novel's tone oscillates between cold detachment and visceral brutality, creating a dissonance that unsettles readers and forces an examination of societal values.

One of the most striking features of American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis is its meticulous attention to detail regarding consumer goods, fashion, and lifestyle. Bateman's monologues about business cards, restaurant reservations, and fitness routines serve as a satirical commentary on the era's obsession with appearance and status. This hyper-focus on surface-level details juxtaposed with graphic depictions of violence highlights the duality of Bateman's existence and, by extension, the duplicity of the society he inhabits.

Characterization of Patrick Bateman

Patrick Bateman epitomizes the archetype of the cold, detached antihero. His narration is marked by a clinical, almost robotic tone that reflects his emotional emptiness. Ellis crafts Bateman as both a product and a victim of his environment—a man who is defined by what he owns and consumes rather than any intrinsic human qualities.

Bateman's psychopathy is not portrayed through typical horror tropes but through his banal observations about daily life, which starkly contrast with his horrific acts. This narrative technique forces readers to question the reliability of the narrator, blurring the lines between reality and delusion. The ambiguity surrounding Bateman's crimes—whether they are real or figments of his imagination—adds a psychological complexity that elevates the novel beyond simple gore or shock value.

Thematic Exploration: Consumerism and Identity

At its core, American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis is a scathing critique of consumer culture and its impact on human identity. The novel reflects how individuals in the 1980s, particularly in urban centers like New York City, often equated self-worth with material possessions and social status.

Bateman's obsession with brand names, designer labels, and exclusive venues underscores the era's fixation on outward appearances.

This thematic concern resonates with broader discussions about capitalism's role in shaping identity. Bateman's character embodies a society where human connection is superficial, and empathy is replaced by self-interest. The novel's portrayal of violence can be interpreted metaphorically as a manifestation of the destructive nature of unchecked materialism and moral decay.

Controversy and Censorship

American Psycho sparked significant controversy upon its release due to its explicit content and graphic depictions of violence, particularly against women. The novel was banned in several countries and faced criticism from various advocacy groups. This backlash highlights the tension between artistic freedom and societal norms regarding violence and morality.

Despite—or perhaps because of—its contentious nature, the novel has become a seminal work in contemporary American literature. Its unflinching portrayal of darkness beneath a polished surface has inspired critical discourse in literary circles, psychology, and cultural studies. The controversy also contributed to its cult status, with readers drawn to its provocative exploration of taboo subjects.

Comparisons and Cultural Impact

When placed alongside other works of its time, American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis breaks conventional boundaries. Unlike traditional thrillers that focus predominantly on plot progression, Ellis emphasizes atmosphere and psychological depth. Comparisons are often drawn between this novel and Bret Easton Ellis's earlier work, Less Than Zero, which also explores themes of disaffection among privileged youth.

Moreover, American Psycho's influence extends into film and popular culture. The 2000 film adaptation, starring Christian Bale, brought Bateman's chilling persona to a broader audience and further cemented the story's place in cultural consciousness. The film's dark humor and satirical elements echo the novel's tone, demonstrating the versatility and enduring relevance of the source material.

Pros and Cons of the Novel's Approach

- **Pros:** The novel's detailed critique of 1980s consumerism offers valuable

social commentary. Its psychological depth and unreliable narration challenge readers intellectually. The stylistic juxtaposition of banality and horror creates a unique narrative tension.

- **Cons:** The graphic violence and misogynistic content can be disturbing and alienating for some readers. The ambiguity of the narrative may frustrate those seeking clear resolution or traditional storytelling. Some critics argue that the novel risks glamorizing its protagonist's violent tendencies.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Ellis employs a minimalist, repetitive prose style that mirrors the monotony and emptiness of Bateman's life. The frequent use of lists—detailing everything from music playlists to skincare routines—immerses readers in the obsessive consumer culture while reinforcing Bateman's fragmented psyche. The novel's non-linear timeline and ambiguous events further disorient readers, compelling them to actively interpret the text.

This innovative narrative approach aligns American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis with postmodern literature, characterized by its skepticism of objective truth and its exploration of identity's fluidity. By withholding clear answers about Bateman's reality, Ellis invites readers to question the nature of violence, madness, and societal complicity.

American Psycho by Brett Easton Ellis remains a polarizing yet indispensable work that exposes the dark underbelly of materialistic culture and the complexities of human identity. Its unrelenting examination of excess and moral ambiguity invites ongoing discussion and analysis, securing its place as a landmark novel in contemporary literature.

[American Psycho By Brett Easton Ellis](#)

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american psycho by brett easton ellis: American Psycho Bret Easton Ellis, 2000 An international bestseller and true modern classic Patrick Bateman is twenty-six and works on Wall Street; he is handsome, sophisticated, charming and intelligent. He is also a psychopath. Taking us to a head-on collision with America's greatest dream – and its worst nightmare – American Psycho is a bleak, bitter, black comedy about a world we all recognize but do not wish to confront. Celebrating

40 years of outstanding international writing, this is one of the essential Picador novels reissued in a beautiful new series style.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: American Psycho Bret Easton Ellis, 2014-12-15 Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* is one of the most controversial and talked-about novels of all time. A multi-million-copy bestseller hailed as a modern classic, it is a violent and outrageous black comedy about the darkest side of human nature. With an introduction by Irvine Welsh, author of *Trainspotting*. I like to dissect girls. Did you know I'm utterly insane? Patrick Bateman has it all: good looks, youth, charm, a job on Wall Street, and reservations at every new restaurant in town. He is also a psychopath. A man addicted to his superficial, perfect life, he pulls us into a dark underworld where the American Dream becomes a nightmare . . . Part of the Picador Collection, a series showcasing the best of modern literature.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: Bret Easton Ellis Naomi Mandel, 2010-11-18 This collection of critical essays on the American novelist Bret Easton Ellis examines the novels of his mature period: *American Psycho* (1991), *Glamorama* (1999), and *Lunar Park* (2005). Taking as its starting-point *American Psycho*'s seismic impact on contemporary literature and culture, the volume establishes Ellis' centrality to the scholarship and teaching of contemporary American literature in the U.S. and in Europe. Contributors examine the alchemy of acclaim and disdain that accrues to this controversial writer, provide an overview of growing critical material on Ellis and review the literary and artistic significance of his recent work. Exploring key issues including violence, literature, reality, reading, identity, genre, and gender, the contributors together provide a critical re-evaluation of Ellis, exploring how he has impacted, challenged, and transformed contemporary literature in the U.S. and abroad.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: American Psycho Jason Huff, Mimi Cabell, 2012

american psycho by brett easton ellis: Bret Easton Ellis's American Psycho Julian Murphet, 2002-01-11 This is part of a new series of guides to contemporary novels. The aim of the series is to give readers accessible and informative introductions to some of the most popular, most acclaimed and most influential novels of recent years - from 'The Remains of the Day' to 'White Teeth'. A team of contemporary fiction scholars from both sides of the Atlantic has been assembled to provide a thorough and readable analysis of each of the novels in question.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: *American Psycho* , 2011

american psycho by brett easton ellis: "Abandon All Hope" - consumerism and loss of identity in Bret Easton Ellis's "American Psycho" as an example of blank fiction Anja Schiel, 2008-04-23 Thesis (M.A.) from the year 2005 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,5, University of Hamburg (Sprach-, Literatur- und Medienwissenschaft), language: English, abstract: Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* has been labeled many things from "Brat Pack Fiction" to "Generation X" to "Minimal Realism". While the classification of the novel might be difficult and it has often been misunderstood for its extremely violent scenes, what is clear to the attentive reader is its critique of consumer culture. Critics have acknowledged an emergence of a large number of writings dealing with this topic in contemporary American literature in the recent past. These novels focus on the relationship of American youth with consumer culture with a seemingly non-elaborate content and style. Attempts of explaining this kind of writing, which has also been called "fiction of insurgency", "new narrative", "downtown writing" and "punk fiction", range from millennial angst to the classification of this literary movement as part of the postmodern culture. What seems clear is that these narrations are closely related to the society they have been created in. The way these texts incorporate products of their time as a constant accompanying element places them very clearly in a specific time period. The apparent non-existence of complexity concerning the style, which at times reminds the reader of a movie script or a sequence of an MTV video, has, in the case of *American Psycho*, caused many critics to classify the novel as boring and deny the author the status of an artist. Exactly this seeming meaninglessness of these novels argues in favor of a term introduced by critics James Annesley and Elizabeth Young: Blank fiction, or Blank Generation Fiction. The term Blank fiction seems to capture perfectly the emptiness created by consumer culture that has found

its way into these narratives not simply in its context but also by means of its language, incorporating consumer goods into the narrative as secondary characters, in the case of American Psycho ascribing more character to these objects than to the protagonists.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: *American Psycho* Bret Easton Ellis, 1993 Een seriemoordenaar vertelt gedetailleerd over de moorden die hij pleegt en over zijn leven.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: Mary Harron's movie adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis's "American Psycho". A feminist movie Tobias Utz, 2013-08-28 Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, language: English, abstract: "I'm always shocked when people want to make movies out of my books. [...] They have cinematic scenes, they have a lot of dialogue, but often they don't have that narrative momentum a movie needs" (Shulman, par. 12), said Bret Easton Ellis, the author of the novel American Psycho, in an interview about movie adaptations of his books. Ellis wrote a total of seven novels and became one of the most famous authors of postmodern American literature. His third novel American Psycho was published in 1991 and turned into a movie in 2000 by Mary Harron. Yet, the missing narrative momentum Ellis mentioned was not Harron's only problem while adapting the novel. When American Psycho was published in 1991, it was not well received. Because of its extremely graphic scenes of violence and pornography the novel caused a chorus of outrage among critics. Female activist groups complained that it was "a how-to novel on the torture and dismemberment of women" (McDowell, par. 1). Ellis even received death threats and had to face furious outcries from women... Ellis was surprised that the novel provoked such reactions because he intended the novel to be a black comedy and a critique of the capitalist society in New York City in the 1980s. His intention was to decry the greed, envy and the urge for conformity present at Wall Street at that time. However, the satiric elements of his novel were almost completely overshadowed by the violent and pornographic passages which led many people to misinterpret the novel's message. The reactions to Mary Harron's movie adaptation of American Psycho were much friendlier: Watching American Psycho is like witnessing a bravura sleight-of-hand feat. In adapting Bret Easton Ellis's turgid, gory 1991 novel to the screen, the director Mary Harron has boiled a bloated stew of brand names and butchery into a lean and mean horror comedy classic. (Holden, par. 1) In view of this change of opinion from the novel to the movie adaptation, it is justified to take a closer look at how Harron adapted Ellis's novel. In the framework of the seminar Literature and Media: A Kaleidoscope, this paper analyzes the rehabilitation of the novel focusing on internal changes and the resulting changes in the effect on the audience. Mary Harron rehabilitated American Psycho by turning it into a feminist movie.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: *American Psycho* Bret Easton Ellis, 2023-01-17 Der schockierende Kultroman über einen Serienmörder in der glitzernden Welt der Wall Street. Patrick Bateman ist gut aussehend, gut erzogen und intelligent. Tagsüber sitzt er in seinem Büro an der Wall Street und vermehrt seinen Reichtum. Doch seine Nächte verbringt er auf unfassbare Weise – als brutaler Serienmörder, der seinen ganz eigenen amerikanischen Traum lebt. »American Psycho« läuft drohend, grollend wie ein Unwetter an, und plötzlich schlägt der grausame Blitz ein: Die Banalität des Schrecklichen, die wir verdrängen wollen, trifft uns und zwingt uns, das Unerträgliche wahrzunehmen: die Oberflächlichkeit, die Brutalität, mit der wir uns abfinden.« Elke Heidenreich Bret Easton Ellis' schonungsloser Roman ist eine verstörende Erkundung der dunklen Seite des modernen Lebens. In einer Welt aus Konsum, Drogen und Gewalt führt er uns die Abgründe der menschlichen Seele vor Augen. »American Psycho« ist ein literarischer Schock, der unter die Haut geht.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: *Consuming and Consumed People. Violence in American Psycho* Florian Burkhardt, 2005-11-04 Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 2,0, University of Stuttgart, language: English, abstract: Bret Easton Ellis' American psycho has been a highly controversial book. Many critics condemned this novel before it had been published so Ellis even had to search for a new publishing company. The indignation at American psycho had been so fierce, it verged on hysteria and

some interest groups (feminist and religious groups for instance) agitated against the author and his work¹. The main reason why critics reacted that outraged was the explicit and detailed description of violence in this book². In this paper I will discuss the appearance of violence in American psycho. But first I want to create a picture of social phenomena in the USA of the 80's as they are described in the novel, in order to provide the setting, the atmosphere in which the violence takes place. This will help to give an opinion of this violence and to interpret it. Then I will discuss how violence is presented in the text. In the fourth

american psycho by brett easton ellis: The Spaces of Violence James Giles, 2006-04-09 Probes the interrelationship of violence and space in 10 contemporary American novels. James R. Giles examines 10 novels for the unique ways they explore violence and space as interrelated phenomena. These texts are Russell Banks's *Affliction*, Cormac McCarthy's *Outer Dark* and *Child of God*, Lewis Nordan's *Wolf Whistle*, Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina*, Don DeLillo's *End Zone*, Denis Johnson's *Angels*, Sherman Alexie's *Indian Killer*, Robert Stone's *Dog Soldiers*, and Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho*. These stories take place in settings as diverse as small towns, college campuses, suburbs, the brokerage houses and luxury apartments of Wall Street, football stadiums, Appalachian hills, and America's no-man's-land of Greyhound bus stations and highways. Violence, Giles finds, is mythological and ritual in many of these novels, whereas it is treated as systemic and naturalistic in others. Giles locates each of the novels he studies on a continuum from the mythological to the naturalistic and argues that they represent a fourthspace at the margins of physical, social, and psychological space, a territory at the cultural borders of the mainstream. These textual spaces are so saturated with violence that they suggest little or no potential for change and affirmation and are as degraded as the physical, social, and mental spaces out of which they emerge. A concluding chapter extends the focus of *The Spaces of Violence* to texts by Jane Smiley, Toni Morrison, Edwidge Danticat, and Chuck Palahniuk, who treat the destructive effects of violence on family structures.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: Violence and Consumerism in Bret Easton Ellis's American Psycho and Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club Michael Frank, 2009-11-10 Examination Thesis from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,5, University of Heidelberg, language: English, abstract: Art has always reflected society. [...] *Fight Club* examines violence and the roots of frustration that are causing people to reach out for such radical solutions. And that's exactly the sort of discussion we should be having about our culture. Because a culture that doesn't examine its violence is a culture in denial, which is much more dangerous. This assessment of *Fight Club* by Edward Norton, who plays the narrator in the novel's movie adaptation, explains the reasoning behind this thesis, which examines the basic principles of today's consumer culture, its connection to aggression and violence, and the way these topics are presented in two contemporary novels: Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* and Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club*. In these books, the respective protagonists face similar deadlocks connected to life in the consumerist world of the 1980s and 1990s. Despite, evidently, having everything a person could ask for, both main characters' lives remain unfulfilled, leaving them frustrated and dissatisfied. As it turns out, acts of violence become the only thing that lets them get away from the boredom of their daily routine and gives them a sense of satisfaction.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: White Bret Easton Ellis, 2020-04-30

american psycho by brett easton ellis: The Shards Bret Easton Ellis, 2023-01-17 The Sunday Times Bestseller 'A full-spectrum triumph' Guardian A sensational new novel from the bestselling author of *Less Than Zero* and *American Psycho* that tracks a group of privileged Los Angeles high school friends as a serial killer strikes across the city. His first novel in 13 years, *The Shards* is Bret Easton Ellis at his inimitable best. LA, 1981. Buckley College in heat. 17-year-old Bret is a senior at the exclusive Buckley prep school when a new student arrives with a mysterious past. Robert Mallory is bright, handsome, charismatic, and shielding a secret from Bret and his friends, even as he becomes a part of their tightly knit circle. Bret's obsession with Mallory is equalled only by his increasingly unsettling preoccupation with The Trawler, a serial killer on the loose who seems to be

drawing ever closer to Bret and his friends, taunting them with grotesque threats and horrific, sharply local acts of violence. Can he trust his friends – or his own mind – to make sense of the danger they appear to be in? Thwarted by the world and by his own innate desires, buffeted by unhealthy fixations, Bret spirals into paranoia and isolation as the relationship between The Trawler and Robert Mallory hurtles inexorably toward a collision. Gripping, sly, suspenseful, deeply haunting and often darkly funny, *The Shards* is a mesmerizing fusing of fact and fiction that brilliantly explores the emotional fabric of Bret's life at 17 – sex and jealousy, obsession and murderous rage.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: *American Psycho (Spanish Edition)* Bret Easton Ellis, 2021-03-23 La novela más infame de Bret Easton Ellis: un clásico contemporáneo que se ha convertido en símbolo de una generación. El sofisticado, inteligente y vanidoso Patrick Bateman trabaja en Wall Street, idolatra al joven magnate Donald Trump, cena en los restaurantes de moda de Nueva York y es capaz de distinguir un traje Armani a cincuenta metros de distancia. También le gusta violar, torturar, asesinar y desmembrar. *American Psycho*, la novela más polémica de Bret Easton Ellis, se ha convertido en el reflejo más descarnado de la sociedad hipermaterialista de finales de los 80 y en una de las obras maestras de finales del siglo xx. Bret Easton Ellis lanza una crítica corrosiva hacia el egoísmo y la depravación del capitalismo exacerbado: un retrato desolador, irónico y rabiosamente vigente de un mundo al borde del colapso en el que todavía vivimos. La novela más infame de Bret Easton Ellis: un clásico contemporáneo que se ha convertido en símbolo de una generación. «*American Psycho* sigue siendo la exégesis literaria más indispensable y salvaje sobre la sociedad que hemos construido.» Irvine Welsh. ENGLISH DESCRIPTION The modern classic, the basis of a Broadway musical, and major motion picture from Lion's Gate Films starring Christian Bale, Chloe Sevigny, Jared Leto, and Reese Witherspoon, and directed by Mary Harron. In *American Psycho*, Bret Easton Ellis imaginatively explores the incomprehensible depths of madness and captures the insanity of violence in our time or any other. Patrick Bateman moves among the young and trendy in 1980s Manhattan. Young, handsome, and well educated, Bateman earns his fortune on Wall Street by day while spending his nights in ways we cannot begin to fathom. Expressing his true self through torture and murder, Bateman prefigures an apocalyptic horror that no society could bear to confront.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: *Phenomenological Approaches to Popular Culture* Michael Thomas Carroll, Eddie Tafoya, 2000 Within popular culture studies, one finds discussions about quantitative sociology, Marxism, psychoanalysis, myth criticism, feminism, and semiotics, but hardly a word on the usefulness of phenomenology, the branch of philosophy concerned with human experience. In spite of this omission, there is a close relationship between the aims of phenomenology and the aims of popular culture studies, for both movements have attempted to redirect academic study toward everyday lived experience. The fifteen essays in this volume demonstrate the way in which phenomenological approaches can illuminate popular culture studies, and in so doing they take on the entire range of popular culture.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: Violence and Consumerism in Bret Easton Ellis's "American Psycho" and Chuck Palahniuk's "Fight Club" Michael Frank, 2009-11-08 Examination Thesis from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,5, University of Heidelberg, language: English, abstract: Art has always reflected society. [...] *Fight Club* examines violence and the roots of frustration that are causing people to reach out for such radical solutions. And that's exactly the sort of discussion we should be having about our culture. Because a culture that doesn't examine its violence is a culture in denial, which is much more dangerous. This assessment of *Fight Club* by Edward Norton, who plays the narrator in the novel's movie adaptation, explains the reasoning behind this thesis, which examines the basic principles of today's consumer culture, its connection to aggression and violence, and the way these topics are presented in two contemporary novels: Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* and Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club*. In these books, the respective protagonists face similar deadlocks connected to life in the consumerist world of the 1980s and 1990s. Despite, evidently, having everything a person could ask for, both main characters' lives remain unfulfilled, leaving them frustrated and

dissatisfied. As it turns out, acts of violence become the only thing that lets them get away from the boredom of their daily routine and gives them a sense of satisfaction.

american psycho by brett easton ellis: *Lunar Park* Bret Easton Ellis, 2010-01-01 The author of American Psycho rips into his most frightening subject yet: himself. He became a bestselling novelist while still in college, immediately famous and wealthy. He watched his insufferable father reduced to a bag of ashes in a safety-deposit box. He was lost in a haze of booze, drugs and vilification. Then he was given a second chance. This is the life of Bret Easton Ellis, the author and subject of this remarkable novel. Confounding one expectation after another, *Lunar Park* is equally hilarious, horrifying and heartbreaking. It's the most original novel of an extraordinary career - and best of all: it all happened, every word is true.

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