

# la confidential analysis

## La Confidential Analysis: A Deep Dive into Curtis Hanson's Neo-Noir Masterpiece

### Introduction:

Have you ever felt the simmering tension of a city shrouded in secrets? The chilling allure of a world where appearances deceive and morality is fluid? Then you've likely experienced the captivating world of Curtis Hanson's *L.A. Confidential*. This blog post isn't just another film review; it's a comprehensive *L.A. Confidential* analysis, delving deep into the narrative structure, character development, thematic resonance, and cinematic techniques that elevate this neo-noir masterpiece to legendary status. We'll explore the intricate plot, dissect the morally ambiguous characters, analyze the social commentary, and examine the film's enduring legacy. Prepare to unravel the secrets of 1950s Los Angeles and gain a newfound appreciation for this cinematic gem.

### I. Unraveling the Intricate Plot: A Web of Corruption and Deception

*L.A. Confidential* isn't your typical crime thriller. Its narrative unfolds like a complex puzzle, weaving together multiple storylines that gradually intertwine, revealing a sprawling network of corruption within the LAPD and beyond. The film masterfully employs a non-linear structure, jumping between perspectives and timelines, initially presenting seemingly disparate cases that slowly converge to expose a larger conspiracy. This structure keeps the audience engaged, forcing them to piece together the puzzle alongside the protagonists, heightening the suspense and intrigue. The meticulous plotting, with its carefully laid clues and red herrings, is a testament to the film's sophistication. The seemingly unrelated murders of a seemingly innocent prostitute and a seemingly powerful gangster lead to a much larger conspiracy involving corrupt police officers, powerful figures, and a surprisingly insidious plot that threatens to destabilize the entire city. The climax, a masterclass in suspenseful storytelling, reveals the shocking truth, leaving the audience reeling from the revelation of the interconnectedness of everything and the immense scope of the conspiracy.

### II. Character Deep Dive: Exploring the Moral Ambiguity

The film's brilliance lies not only in its intricate plot but also in its compelling characters. Instead of simple heroes and villains, *L.A. Confidential* presents a cast of morally ambiguous individuals, each driven by their own ambitions and desires. Jack Vincennes, the ambitious, self-serving Hollywood liaison officer, embodies the seductive allure of fame and fortune. Ed Exley, the by-the-book cop driven by a thirst for justice, becomes increasingly conflicted as he navigates the morally grey area of his profession. Bud White, the brutally violent but ultimately honourable detective, provides a visceral counterpoint to Exley's calculated approach. These richly developed characters, each with their own flaws and motivations, drive the narrative forward and force the audience to question their own perceptions of good and evil. The film's success lies in its ability to create empathy even for its morally flawed characters, making their eventual fates all the more impactful.

### III. Social Commentary: Exposing the Underbelly of 1950s America

Beyond its thrilling plot and compelling characters, *L.A. Confidential* offers a sharp critique of 1950s American society. The film exposes the hypocrisy and corruption that festered beneath the surface of the era's idealized image. The rampant police brutality, institutionalized racism, and pervasive sexism are all subtly but powerfully depicted, challenging the viewer to confront the uncomfortable realities of the time. The film's portrayal of the media's role in shaping public perception also deserves attention; Jack Vincennes's cynical manipulation of the press highlights the power of media spin and the fragility of truth in the face of sensationalism. By exposing the dark underbelly of 1950s Los Angeles, *L.A. Confidential* transcends its genre, offering a timeless commentary on power, corruption, and the deceptive nature of appearances.

### IV. Cinematic Techniques: Masterful Storytelling Through Visuals

Curtis Hanson's directorial prowess is evident in the film's masterful use of cinematic techniques. The film's visual style, with its sharp contrast, evocative lighting, and stunning cinematography, perfectly captures the noir atmosphere. The use of voiceover narration, while initially jarring, becomes an integral part of the storytelling, providing insights into the characters' thoughts and motivations. The editing is precise and deliberate, building suspense and tension with carefully chosen shots and transitions. The soundtrack, a blend of jazz and orchestral scores, further enhances the film's mood, creating a sense of unease and foreboding. The combination of these techniques creates a truly immersive cinematic experience, enhancing the film's impact and leaving a lasting impression on the viewer.

### V. Enduring Legacy: A Film That Continues to Resonate

*L.A. Confidential* is more than just a great film; it's a cultural touchstone that continues to influence filmmakers and audiences alike. Its intricate plot, complex characters, and powerful social commentary resonate deeply with viewers even today, proving its timeless appeal. The film's influence can be seen in numerous subsequent films and television shows, showcasing its enduring legacy as a significant contribution to the neo-noir genre. Its exploration of moral ambiguity and societal corruption remains relevant, prompting ongoing discussion and analysis, ensuring its place as a cinematic masterpiece that stands the test of time.

### A Detailed Outline of an *L.A. Confidential* Analysis Essay:

Name: Deconstructing the Neo-Noir: A Critical Analysis of *L.A. Confidential*

#### Contents:

Introduction: Briefly introduce *L.A. Confidential*, its director, and its critical acclaim. State the essay's thesis: The film's success lies in its intricate plot, morally ambiguous characters, sharp social commentary, and masterful use of cinematic techniques.

Chapter 1: Narrative Structure and Plot Complexity: Analyze the film's non-linear narrative, the interconnectedness of storylines, and the use of foreshadowing and red herrings.

Chapter 2: Character Development and Moral Ambiguity: Examine the key characters – Exley, Vincennes, White – focusing on their motivations, flaws, and moral complexities. Discuss the impact of

their choices on the plot.

Chapter 3: Social and Political Commentary: Explore the film's critique of 1950s society, including police corruption, racism, sexism, and the role of the media.

Chapter 4: Cinematic Techniques and Style: Analyze the use of lighting, cinematography, editing, music, and voiceover narration in creating the film's neo-noir atmosphere.

Chapter 5: Conclusion: Reiterate the thesis, summarizing the key points of analysis and concluding with a statement on the film's lasting impact and influence.

(Detailed explanation of each point in the outline would follow here, expanding on each chapter and providing specific examples from the film to support the analysis. This would comprise a substantial portion of the essay.)

#### FAQs:

1. What makes L.A. Confidential a neo-noir film? It utilizes the conventions of classic film noir – morally ambiguous characters, a cynical worldview, a focus on corruption – but updates them for a 1950s setting, incorporating elements of social realism and political commentary.
1. How does the film's non-linear narrative contribute to its overall impact? The non-linear structure builds suspense, gradually revealing the interconnectedness of events and surprising the audience with unexpected connections.
1. What are the major themes explored in L.A. Confidential? Corruption, moral ambiguity, the nature of justice, the seductive allure of power, and the hypocrisy of societal ideals.
1. How does the film portray the role of women? Women are depicted as complex characters, caught in the web of corruption and forced to make difficult choices in a patriarchal society.
1. What is the significance of the ending? The ending leaves a lingering sense of unease and reflects the enduring nature of corruption and the difficulty of achieving true justice.
1. How does the film's cinematography contribute to its atmosphere? The use of sharp contrasts, low-key lighting, and evocative visuals creates a sense of mystery and suspense.

1. What is the significance of the characters' names? The names are often symbolic, reflecting the characters' personalities and fates.

1. How does the film compare to other neo-noir films? It stands out for its complex plot, richly developed characters, and sharp social commentary.

1. What is the legacy of L.A. Confidential? It's considered a neo-noir masterpiece, influencing countless films and television shows and continuing to resonate with audiences today.

#### Related Articles:

1. The Evolution of Film Noir: From Classic to Neo-Noir: A historical overview of the film noir genre and its transformation into the neo-noir style.

1. Curtis Hanson's Directorial Style: A Case Study of L.A. Confidential: An in-depth examination of Hanson's filmmaking techniques and their impact on the film's success.

1. Moral Ambiguity in Cinema: Examining the Characters of L.A. Confidential: A character-focused analysis exploring the moral complexities of the main characters.

1. The Social Commentary of L.A. Confidential: A Reflection on 1950s America: A deep dive into the social and political themes depicted in the film.

1. The Power of Cinematography in L.A. Confidential: An analysis of the film's visual style and its contribution to the overall narrative.

1. The Soundtrack of L.A. Confidential: A Blend of Jazz and Orchestral Scores: An examination of the film's music and its contribution to the atmosphere.

1. Comparing L.A. Confidential to other Neo-Noir Masterpieces: A comparative analysis of L.A. Confidential with similar films.

1. The Narrative Structure of L.A. Confidential: A Puzzle Box of Intrigue: A focus on the non-linear narrative and its effect on the viewer.

1. The Enduring Legacy of L.A. Confidential: A Film That Continues to Inspire: An examination of the film's impact on subsequent films and its continued relevance.

**la confidential analysis: L.A. Confidential** James Ellroy, 2013-01-01 L.A. Confidential is epic noir, a crime novel of astonishing detail and scope written by the bestselling author of *The Black Dahlia*. A horrific mass murder invades the lives of victims and victimizers on both sides of the law. And three lawmen are caught in a deadly spiral, a nightmare that tests loyalty and courage, and offers no mercy, grants no survivors. (124,000 words)

**la confidential analysis: *Perfidia*** James Ellroy, 2015-07-07 NATIONAL BESTSELLER AN NPR BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR Los Angeles. December, 1941. America stands at the brink of World War II. War fever and racial hatred grip the city. The hellish murder of a Japanese family summons three men and one woman. LAPD captain William H. Parker is superbly gifted, corrosively ambitious, liquored-up, and consumed by dubious ideology. He is bitterly at odds with Sergeant Dudley Smith—Irish émigré, ex-IRA killer, fledgling war profiteer. Hideo Ashida is a police chemist and the only Japanese on the L.A. cop payroll. Kay Lake is a twenty-one-year-old dilettante looking for adventure. The investigation throws them together and rips them apart. The crime becomes a political storm center that brilliantly illuminates these four driven souls—comrades, rivals, lovers, history's pawns. Here, Ellroy gives us the party at the edge of the abyss and the precipice of America's ascendance. *Perfidia* is that moment, spellbindingly captured.

**la confidential analysis: *The Big Nowhere*** James Ellroy, 2013-01-01 The D. A.'s brass, a sheriff's deputy, and a rough-and-tumble bagman are unknowingly chasing a nightmare in this thrilling novel from the author of some of the most powerful crime novels ever written (New York Times). Los Angeles, 1950 Red crosscurrents: the Commie Scare and a string of brutal mutilation killings. Gangland intrigue and Hollywood sleaze. Three cops caught in a hellish web of ambition, perversion, and deceit. Danny Upshaw is a Sheriff's deputy stuck with a bunch of snuffs nobody cares about; they're his chance to make his name as a cop...and to sate his darkest curiosities. Mal Considine is D.A.'s Bureau brass. He's climbing on the Red Scare bandwagon to advance his career and to gain custody of his adopted son, a child he saved from the horror of postwar Europe. Buzz Meeks-bagman, ex-Narco goon, and pimp for Howard Hughes-is fighting communism for the money. All three men have purchased tickets to a nightmare.

**la confidential analysis: *The Hilliker Curse*** James Ellroy, 2010-09-09 A raw, explicit memoir as high-intensity and riveting as any of Ellroy's novels. The theme: the author's obsessive pursuit of women. America's greatest living crime writer gives us a raw, brutally candid memoir-as high intensity and as riveting as any of his novels-about his obsessive search for atonement in women.

The year was 1958. Jean Hilliker had divorced her fast-buck hustler husband and resurrected her maiden name. Her son, James, was ten years old. He hated and lusted for his mother and summoned her dead. She was murdered three months later. The Hilliker Curse is a predator's confession, a treatise on guilt and the power of malediction, and above all a *cri de cœur*. Ellroy unsparingly describes his shattered childhood, his delinquent teens, his writing life, his love affairs and marriages, his nervous breakdown and the beginning of a relationship with an extraordinary woman who may just be the long-sought Her. A layered narrative of time and place, emotion and insight, sexuality and spiritual quest, *The Hilliker Curse* is a brilliant, soul-baring revelation of self. It is unlike any memoir you have ever read.

**la confidential analysis: The Black Dahlia** James Ellroy, 2008-08-01 The highly acclaimed novel based on America's most infamous unsolved murder case. Dive into 1940s Los Angeles as two cops spiral out of control in their hunt for *The Black Dahlia's* killer in this powerful thriller that is brutal and at the same time believable (*New York Times*). On January 15, 1947, the torture-ravished body of a beautiful young woman is found in a Los Angeles vacant lot. The victim makes headlines as the Black Dahlia -- and so begins the greatest manhunt in California history. Caught up in the investigation are Bucky Bleichert and Lee Blanchard: Warrants Squad cops, friends, and rivals in love with the same woman. But both are obsessed with the Dahlia -- driven by dark needs to know everything about her past, to capture her killer, to possess the woman even in death. Their quest will take them on a hellish journey through the underbelly of postwar Hollywood, to the core of the dead girl's twisted life, past the extremes of their own psyches -- into a region of total madness.

**la confidential analysis: Widespread Panic** James Ellroy, 2022-07-26 From the modern master of noir comes a novel based on the real-life Hollywood fixer Freddy Otash, the malevolent monarch of the 1950s L.A. underground, and his Tinseltown tabloid *Confidential* magazine. Freddy Otash was the man in the know and the man to know in '50s L.A. He was a rogue cop, a sleazoid private eye, a shakedown artist, a pimp—and, most notably, the head strong-arm goon for *Confidential* magazine. *Confidential* presaged the idiot internet—and delivered the dirt, the dish, the insidious ink, and the scurrilous skank. It mauled misanthropic movie stars, sex-soiled socialites, and putzo politicians. Mattress Jack Kennedy, James Dean, Montgomery Clift, Burt Lancaster, Liz Taylor, Rock Hudson—Frantic Freddy outed them all. He was the Tattle Tyrant who held Hollywood hostage, and now he's here to CONFESS. "I'm consumed with candor and wracked with recollection. I'm revitalized and resurgent. My meshugenah march down memory lane begins NOW." In Freddy's viciously entertaining voice, *Widespread Panic* torches 1950s Hollywood to the ground. It's a blazing revelation of coruscating corruption, pervasive paranoia, and of sin and redemption with nothing in between. Here is James Ellroy in savage quintessence. Freddy Otash confesses—and you are here to read and succumb.

**la confidential analysis: American Tabloid** James Ellroy, 2001-04-24 The internationally acclaimed author of the L.A. Quartet and *The Underworld USA* Trilogy, James Ellroy, presents another literary noir masterpiece of historical paranoia. We are behind, and below, the scenes of JFK's presidential election, the Bay of Pigs, the assassination--in the underworld that connects Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago, D.C. . . . Where the CIA, the Mob, J. Edgar Hoover, Howard Hughes, Jimmy Hoffa, Cuban political exiles, and various loose cannons conspire in a covert anarchy . . . Where the right drugs, the right amount of cash, the right murder, buys a moment of a man's loyalty . . . Where three renegade law-enforcement officers--a former L.A. cop and two FBI agents--are shaping events with the virulence of their greed and hatred, riding full-blast shotgun into history. . . . James Ellroy's trademark nothing-spared rendering of reality, blistering language, and relentless narrative pace are here in electrifying abundance, put to work in a novel as shocking and daring as anything he's written: a secret history that zeroes in on a time still shrouded in secrets and blows it wide open.

**la confidential analysis: Russell Crowe: The Unauthorized Biography** James L. Dickerson, 2011-08-01 Winner of the Academy Award in 2001 for his performance in *Gladiator* and the Golden Globe in 2002 for his starring role in *A Beautiful Mind*, Russell Crowe is the hottest actor in movies

today. This biography traces his career from rock 'n' roller (he still sings and plays guitar with his band, Thirty Odd Foot Of Grunts) to Australian stage, film and TV actor to Hollywood star in movies such as L.A. Confidential and The Insider.

**la confidential analysis: From Tinseltown to Bordertown** Celestino Deleyto, 2017-04-03  
Close readings that look for the real Los Angeles in a selection of contemporary movies. Los Angeles is a global metropolis whose history and social narrative is linked to one of its top exports: cinema. L.A. appears on screen more than almost any city since Hollywood and is home to the American film industry. Historically, conversations of social and racial homogeneity have dominated the construction of Los Angeles as a cosmopolitan city, with Hollywood films largely contributing to this image. At the same time, the city is also known for its steady immigration, social inequalities, and exclusionary urban practices, not dissimilar to any other borderland in the world. The Spanish names and sounds within the city are paradoxical in relation to the striking invisibility of its Hispanic residents at many economic, social, and political levels, given their vast numbers. Additionally, the impact of the 1992 Los Angeles riots left the city raw, yet brought about changing discourses and provided Hollywood with the opportunity to rebrand its hometown by projecting to the world a new image in which social uniformity is challenged by diversity. It is for this reason that author Celestino Deleyto decided to take a closer look at how the quintessential cinematic city contributes to the ongoing creation of its own representation on the screen. *From Tinseltown to Bordertown: Los Angeles on Film* starts from the theoretical premise that place matters. Deleyto sees film as predominantly a spatial system and argues that the space of film and the space of reality are closely intertwined in complex ways and that we should acknowledge the potential of cinema to intervene in the historical process of the construction of urban space, as well as its ability to record place. The author asks to what extent this is also the city that is being constructed by contemporary movies. *From Tinseltown to Bordertown* offers a unique combination of urban, cultural, and border theory, as well as the author's direct observation and experience of the city's social and human geography with close readings of a selection of films such as *Falling Down*, *White Men Can't Jump*, and *Collateral*. Through these textual analyses, Deleyto tries to situate filmic narratives of Los Angeles within the city itself and find a sense of the real place in their fictional fabrications. While in a certain sense, Los Angeles movies continue to exist within the rather exclusive boundaries of Tinseltown, the special borderliness of the city is becoming more and more evident in cinematic stories. Deleyto's monograph is a fascinating case study on one of the United States' most enigmatic cities. Film scholars with an interest in history and place will appreciate this book.

**la confidential analysis: An Army of Phantoms** J. Hoberman, 2013-01-29 The film critic's sweeping analysis of American cinema in the Cold War era is both "utterly compulsive reading [and] majestic" in its "breadth and rigor" (Film Comment). *An Army of Phantoms* is a major work of film history and cultural criticism by leading film critic J. Hoberman. Tracing the dynamic interplay between politics and popular culture, Hoberman offers "the most detailed year-by-year look at Hollywood during the first decade of the Cold War ever published, one that takes film analysis beyond the screen and sets it in its larger political context" (Los Angeles Review of Books). By "tell[ing] the story not just of what's on the screen but of what played out behind it," Hoberman demonstrates how the nation's deep-seated fears and wishes were projected onto the big screen. In this far-reaching work of historical synthesis, Cecil B. DeMille rubs shoulders with Douglas MacArthur, atomic tests are shown on live TV, God talks on the radio, and Joe McCarthy is bracketed with Marilyn Monroe (The American Scholar). From cavalry Westerns to apocalyptic sci-fi flicks, and biblical spectacles; from movies to media events, congressional hearings and political campaigns, *An Army of Phantoms* "remind[s] you what criticism is supposed to be: revelatory, reflective and as rapturous as the artwork itself" (Time Out New York). "An epic . . . alternately fevered and measured account of what might be called the primal scene of American cinema." —Cineaste "There's something majestic about the reach of Hoberman's ambitions, the breadth and rigor of his research, and especially the curatorial vision brought to historical data." —Film Comment

**la confidential analysis: The Curious Case of the Clockwork Man** Mark Hodder,

2011-03-22 Mark Hodder's second Burton & Swinburne steampunk adventure, following the acclaimed *The Strange Affair of Spring Heeled Jack*, is filled with eccentric steam-driven technology, grotesque characters, and a deepening mystery. When a clockwork-powered man of brass is found abandoned in Trafalgar Square, Burton and his assistant, the wayward poet Algernon Swinburne, find themselves on the trail of the stolen Garnier Collection--black diamonds rumored to be fragments of the Lemurian Eye of Naga, a meteorite that fell to Earth in prehistoric times. From a haunted mansion to the Bedlam madhouse, from South America to Australia, from séances to a secret labyrinth, Burton struggles with shadowy opponents and his own inner demons. Can the king's agent expose a plot that threatens to rip the British Empire apart, leading to an international conflict the like of which the world has never seen? And what part does the clockwork man have to play? From the Trade Paperback edition.

**la confidential analysis: My Dark Places** James Ellroy, 2011-11-30 America's greatest crime writer investigates his mother's murder. On 21 June 1958, Geneva Hilliker Ellroy left her home in California. She was found strangled the next day. Her ten year-old son James had been with her estranged husband all weekend and was informed of her death on his return. Her murderer was never found, but her death had an enduring effect on her son - he spent his teens and early adult years as a wino, petty burglar and derelict. Only later, through his obsession with crime fiction, triggered by his mother's murder, did Ellroy begin to delve into his past. Shortly after the publication of his groundbreaking novel *WHITE JAZZ*, he determined to return to Los Angeles and, with the help of veteran detective Bill Stoner, attempt to solve the 38-year-old killing. The result is one of the few classics of crime non-fiction and autobiography to appear in the last few decades; a hypnotic trip to America's underbelly and one man's tortured soul.

**la confidential analysis: Dolce Vita Confidential** Shawn Levy, 2017-11-28 "A brisk, frothy narrative . . . informative and fun." —The Wall Street Journal In the dizzying wake of World War II, Rome skyrocketed to prominence as an epicenter of film, fashion, photography, and boldfaced libertinism. Artists, exiles, and a dazzling array of movie talent rushed to Rome for a chance to thrive in this hotbed of excitement. From the photographers who tailed the stars to the legends who secured their place in cinematic fame, *Dolce Vita Confidential* resurrects the drama that permeated the streets and screens of Rome.

**la confidential analysis: Out of the Shadows** Gene D. Phillips, 2012 Film noir was a cycle in American cinema which first came into prominence during World War II, peaked in the 1950s, and began to taper off as a definable trend by 1960. Over the years, a group of films from the period emerged as noir standards, beginning with *Stranger on the Third Floor* in 1940. However, since film noir is too wide-ranging, it cannot be kept within the narrow limits of the official canon that has been established by film historians. Consequently, several neglected movies made during the classic noir period need to be re-evaluated as noir films. In *Out of the Shadows: Expanding the Canon of Classic Film Noir*, Gene Phillips provides an in-depth examination of several key noir films, including acknowledged masterpieces like *Laura*, *The Maltese Falcon*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and *Touch of Evil*, as well as films not often associated with film noir like *Spellbound*, *A Double Life*, and *Anatomy of a Murder*. Phillips also examines overlooked or underappreciated films such as *Song of the Thin Man*, *The Glass Key*, *Ministry of Fear*, and *Act of Violence*. Also considered in this reevaluation are significant neo-noir films, among them *Chinatown*, *Hammett*, *L.A. Confidential*, and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. In his analyses, Phillips draws upon a number of sources, including personal interviews with directors and others connected with their productions, screenplays, and evaluations of other commentators. *Out of the Shadows* explores not only the most celebrated noir films but offers new insight into underrated films that deserve reconsideration. Of interest to film historians and scholars, this volume will also appeal to anyone who wants a better understanding of the works that represent this unique cycle in American filmmaking.

**la confidential analysis: Bolshoi Confidential: Secrets of the Russian Ballet from the Rule of the Tsars to Today** Simon Morrison, 2016-10-11 In this "incredibly rich" (New York Times) definitive history of the Bolshoi Ballet, visionary performances onstage compete with political

machinations backstage. A critical triumph, Simon Morrison's "sweeping and authoritative" (Guardian) work, *Bolshoi Confidential*, details the Bolshoi Ballet's magnificent history from its earliest tumults to recent scandals. On January 17, 2013, a hooded assailant hurled acid into the face of the artistic director, making international headlines. A lead soloist, enraged by institutional power struggles, later confessed to masterminding the crime. Morrison gives the shocking violence context, describing the ballet as a crucible of art and politics beginning with the disreputable inception of the theater in 1776, through the era of imperial rule, the chaos of revolution, the oppressive Soviet years, and the Bolshoi's recent \$680 million renovation. With vibrant detail including "sex scandals, double-suicide pacts, bribery, arson, executions, prostitution rings, embezzlement, starving orphans, [and] dead cats in lieu of flowers" (New Republic), Morrison makes clear that the history of the Bolshoi Ballet mirrors that of Russia itself.

**la confidential analysis:** *Dead to Me* Mary McCoy, 2015-03-03 Don't believe anything they say. Those were the last words Alice's older sister, Annie, said to her before she turned her back on their parents and left home forever. Alice spent four years waiting and wondering when the impossibly glamorous sister she idolized would return to her--and what her Hollywood-insider parents had done to drive her away. Now it's 1948 and Alice isn't a kid anymore. When she gets the phone call from the hospital, she knows it's up to her to help Annie, in a coma after being beaten and left for dead in MacArthur Park. The search for Annie's attacker leads Alice into a dark and dangerous world of tough-talking private eyes, psychopathic movie stars, and troubled starlets--and onto the trail of a young runaway who is the sole witness to an unspeakable crime. What this girl knows could shut down a criminal syndicate and put Annie's attacker behind bars--if Alice can find her first. And she isn't the only one looking. Debut novelist Mary McCoy evokes the dangerous glamour of Hollywood's Golden Age, a corrupt world where the people who live in the nicest houses have the dirtiest secrets and no drive into the sunset can erase the crimes of past.

**la confidential analysis:** *The Cinematic City* David Clarke, 2005-08-19 Illustrated throughout with movie stills, a diverse selection of films, genres, cities and historical periods are examined by leading names in the field to offer an innovative insight into the interconnection of city and screenscapes.

**la confidential analysis:** *The Education of Little Tree* Forrest Carter, 2001-08-31 The Education of Little Tree has been embedded in controversy since the revelation that the autobiographical story told by Forrest Carter was a complete fabrication. The touching novel, which has entranced readers since it was first published in 1976, has since raised questions, many unanswered, about how this quaint and engaging tale of a young, orphaned boy could have been written by a man whose life was so overtly rooted in hatred. How can this story, now discovered to be fictitious, fill our hearts with so much emotion as we champion Little Tree's childhood lessons and future successes? The Education of Little Tree tells with poignant grace the story of a boy who is adopted by his Cherokee grandmother and half-Cherokee grandfather in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee during the Great Depression. "Little Tree," as his grandparents call him, is shown how to hunt and survive in the mountains and taught to respect nature in the Cherokee Way--taking only what is needed, leaving the rest for nature to run its course. Little Tree also learns the often callous ways of white businessmen, sharecroppers, Christians, and politicians. Each vignette, whether frightening, funny, heartwarming, or sad, teaches our protagonist about life, love, nature, work, friendship, and family. A classic of its era and an enduring book for all ages, The Education of Little Tree continues to share important lessons. Little Tree's story allows us to reflect on the past and look toward the future. It offers us an opportunity to ask ourselves what we have learned and where it will take us.

**la confidential analysis:** *White Jazz* James Ellroy, 2011-11-30 Best-selling crime fiction author James Ellroy returns with the fourth in his LA Quartet. Los Angeles, 1958: a city on the make. A boom town at the edge of a new era ripe for plunder. Lieutenant Dave Klein: in turn a lawyer, bagman, slum landlord, mob killer. Klein stands at the centre of a complex web of plots where violence and death will intersect. He's a slumlord, a bagman, an enforcer--a power in his own small

corner of hell. Then the Feds announce a full-out investigation into local police corruption, and everything goes haywire. Klein's been hung out as bait, a bad cop to draw the heat, and the heat's coming from all sides: from local politicians, from LAPD brass, from racketeers and drug kingpins—all of them hell-bent on keeping their own secrets hidden. For Klein, forty-two and going on dead, it's dues time...

**la confidential analysis: Blood on the Moon** James Ellroy, 2021-02-16 Detective Sergeant Lloyd Hopkins can't stand music, or any loud sounds. He's got a beautiful wife, but he can't get enough of other women. And instead of bedtime stories, he regales his daughters with bloody crime stories. He's a thinking man's cop with a dark past and an obsessive drive to hunt down monsters who prey on the innocent. Now, there's something haunting him. He sees a connection in a series of increasingly gruesome murders of women committed over a period of twenty years. To solve the case, Hopkins will dump all the rules and risk his career to make the final link and get the killer.

**la confidential analysis: Confidential Confidential** Samantha Barbas, 2018-09-04 In the 1950s, Confidential magazine, America's first celebrity scandal magazine, revealed Hollywood stars' secrets, misdeeds, and transgressions in gritty, unvarnished detail. Deploying a vast network of tipsters to root out scandalous facts about the stars, including sexual affairs, drug use, and sexual orientation, publisher Robert Harrison destroyed celebrities' carefully constructed images and built a media empire. Confidential became the bestselling magazine on American newsstands in the 1950s, surpassing Time, Life, and the Saturday Evening Post. Eventually the stars fought back, filing multimillion-dollar libel suits against the magazine. The state of California, prodded by the film studios, prosecuted Harrison for obscenity and criminal libel, culminating in a famous, star-studded Los Angeles trial. This is Confidential's story, detailing how the magazine revolutionized celebrity culture and American society in the 1950s and beyond. With its bold red-yellow-and-blue covers, screaming headlines, and tawdry stories, Confidential exploded the candy-coated image of movie stars that Hollywood and the press had sold to the public. It transformed Americas from innocents to more sophisticated, worldly people, wise to the phony and constructed nature of celebrity. It shifted reporting on celebrities from an enterprise of concealment and make-believe to one that was more frank, bawdy, and true. Confidential's success marked the end of an era of hush-hush—of secrets, closets, and sexual taboos—and the beginning of our age of tell-all exposure.

**la confidential analysis: Cockpit Confidential** Patrick Smith, 2018-06-05 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A fascinating fear of flying book from a commercial airline pilot and author of the popular website askthepilot.com. For millions of people, travel by air is a confounding, uncomfortable, and even frightening experience. When you go behind the scenes, however, you can see that the grand theater of air travel is actually fascinating. From the intricate design of airport architecture to the logistics of inflight service, here is everything you need to know about flying. Commercial airlines like to hide the truth from customers and do nothing to comfort nervous fliers. And what's scarier than the unknown? In this aviation book, pilot Patrick Smith breaks down that barrier and tells you everything you need to know about flying, including: How planes fly, and a revealing look at the men and women who fly them Straight talk on turbulence, pilot training, and safety The real story on delays, congestion, and the dysfunction of the modern airport The myths and misconceptions of cabin air and cockpit automation Terrorism in perspective, and a provocative look at security Airfare, seating woes, and the pitfalls of airline customer service The true colors and cultures of the airlines we love to hate Cockpit Confidential is a thoughtful, funny, and at times deeply personal look into the strange and misunderstood world of commercial flying. If you liked other books about airplanes for adults, including Soar by Tom Bunn or Skyfaring, you'll find reassurance, humor, and guidance in Cockpit Confidential. Anyone remotely afraid of flying should read this book, as should anyone who appreciates good writing and great information. —The New York Times, on ASK THE PILOT Patrick Smith is extraordinarily knowledgeable about modern aviation...the ideal seatmate, a companion, writer and explorer. —Boston Globe

**la confidential analysis: The Last Stone** Mark Bowden, 2019-04-02 The true story of a cold case, a compulsive liar, and five determined detectives, from the #1 New York Times–bestselling

author and “master journalist” (The Wall Street Journal). On March 29, 1975, sisters Katherine and Sheila Lyons, ages ten and twelve, vanished from a shopping mall in suburban Washington, DC. As shock spread, then grief, a massive police effort found nothing. The investigation was shelved, and the mystery endured. Then, in 2013, a cold case squad detective found something he and a generation of detectives had missed. It pointed them toward a man named Lloyd Welch, then serving time for child molestation in Delaware. The acclaimed author of *Black Hawk Down* and *Hue 1968* had been a cub reporter for a Baltimore newspaper at the time of the original disappearance, and covered the frantic first weeks of the story. In *The Last Stone*, he returns to write its ending. Over months of intense questioning and extensive investigation of Welch’s sprawling, sinister Appalachian clan, five skilled detectives learned to sift truth from determined lies. How do you get a compulsive liar with every reason in the world to lie to tell the truth? *The Last Stone* recounts a masterpiece of criminal interrogation, and delivers a chilling and unprecedented look inside a disturbing criminal mind. “One of our best writers of muscular nonfiction.” —The Denver Post “Deeply unsettling . . . Bowden displays his tenacity as a reporter in his meticulous documentation of the case. But in the story of an unimaginably horrific crime, it’s the detectives’ unwavering determination to bring Welch to justice that offers a glimmer of hope on a long, dark journey.” —Time

**la confidential analysis: The Trust Revolution** M.Todd Henderson, Salen Churi, 2019-08-15  
Traces the history of innovation and trust, demonstrating how the Internet offers new ways to rehabilitate and strengthen trust.

**la confidential analysis: The CIA in Hollywood** Tricia Jenkins, 2016-03-08  
Jenkins's book raises serious ethical and legal questions about the relationship between the CIA and Hollywood and the extent to which we consume propaganda from one through the other. . . . Should the CIA be authorized to target American public opinion? If our artists don't confront [the question] more directly, and soon, the Agency will only continue to infiltrate our vulnerable film and television screens—and our minds. —Tom Hayden, Los Angeles Review of Books  
The book makes a strong case that the CIA should not be in Hollywood at all, but that if it is, it cannot pick and choose which movies it wishes to support. Well written and researched, this study examines a subject that has not received enough scholarly or critical attention. Highly recommended. —Choice  
A fascinating, highly readable, and original new work. . . . Incorporating effective, illustrative case studies, *The CIA in Hollywood* is definitely recommended to students of film, media relations, the CIA, and U.S. interagency relations. —H-Net Reviews

**la confidential analysis: Kitchen Confidential** Anthony Bourdain, 2013-05-01  
After twenty-five years of 'sex, drugs, bad behaviour and haute cuisine', chef and novelist Anthony Bourdain has decided to tell all. From his first oyster in the Gironde to his lowly position as a dishwasher in a honky-tonk fish restaurant in Provincetown; from the kitchen of the Rainbow Room atop the Rockefeller Center to drug dealers in the East Village, from Tokyo to Paris and back to New York again, Bourdain's tales of the kitchen are as passionate as they are unpredictable, as shocking as they are funny.

**la confidential analysis: Set the Night on Fire** Mike Davis, Jon Wiener, 2020-04-14  
Histories of the US sixties invariably focus on New York City, but Los Angeles was an epicenter of that decade's political and social earthquake. L.A. was a launchpad for Black Power—where Malcolm X and Angela Davis first came to prominence and the Watts uprising shook the nation—and home to the Chicano walkouts and Moratorium, as well as birthplace of 'Asian America' as a political identity, base of the antiwar movement, and of course, centre of California counterculture. Mike Davis and Jon Wiener provide the first comprehensive movement history of L.A. in the sixties, drawing on extensive archival research, scores of interviews with principal figures of the 1960s movements, and personal histories (both Davis and Wiener are native Los Angelenos). Following on from Davis's award-winning L.A. history, *City of Quartz*, *Set the Night on Fire* is a fascinating historical corrective, delivered in scintillating and fiercely elegant prose.

**la confidential analysis: More Than Night** James Naremore, 2008-01-14  
Supplies the first study of film noir that achieves the sort of intellectual seriousness, depth of research, degree of

critical insight, and level of writing that this group of films deserves.—Tom Gunning, *Modernism and Modernity*

**la confidential analysis:** Movie Wars Jonathan Rosenbaum, 2002-07-01 Is the cinema, as writers from David Denby to Susan Sontag have claimed, really dead? Contrary to what we have been led to believe, films are better than ever—we just can't see the good ones. *Movie Wars* cogently explains how movies are packaged, distributed, and promoted, and how, at every stage of the process, the potential moviegoer is treated with contempt. Using examples ranging from the New York Times's coverage of the Cannes film festival to the anticommercial practices of Orson Welles, *Movie Wars* details the workings of the powerful forces that are in the process of ruining our precious cinematic culture and heritage, and the counterforces that have begun to fight back.

**la confidential analysis:** *Dolphin Confidential* Maddalena Bearzi, 2012-03-05 A “compelling” up-close memoir of a career spent among marine mammals and a portrait of the daily lives of dolphins (Publishers Weekly). Working among charismatic and clever dolphins in the wild is a unique thrill—and this book invites us shore-bound dreamers to join Maddalena Bearzi as she travels alongside them. In a fascinating account, she takes us inside the world of a marine scientist and offers a firsthand understanding of marine mammal behavior, as well as the frustrations and delights that make up dolphin research. Bearzi recounts her experiences at sea, tracing her own evolution as a woman and a scientist from her earliest travails to her transformation into an advocate for conservation and dolphin protection. These compelling, in-depth descriptions of her fieldwork also present a captivating look into dolphin social behavior and intelligence. Drawing on her extensive experience with the metropolitan bottlenose dolphins of California in particular, she offers insights into the daily lives of these creatures—as well as the difficulties involved in collecting the data that transforms hunches into hypotheses and eventually scientific facts. The book closes by addressing the critical environmental and conservation problems facing these magnificent, socially complex, highly intelligent, and emotional beings. “Pairing vivid images of bottlenose dolphins swimming together and caring for one another with descriptions of the meticulous scientific work required to record their behavior, Maddalena Bearzi sheds light on the life of a field biologist...A beautifully written account.”—Library Journal

**la confidential analysis:** *The Nasty Bits* Anthony Bourdain, 2008-12-10 New York Times Bestseller The good, the bad, and the ugly, served up Bourdain-style. Bestselling chef and *Parts Unknown* host Anthony Bourdain has never been one to pull punches. In *The Nasty Bits*, he serves up a well-seasoned hellbroth of candid, often outrageous stories from his worldwide misadventures. Whether scrounging for eel in the backstreets of Hanoi, revealing what you didn't want to know about the more unglamorous aspects of making television, calling for the head of raw food activist Woody Harrelson, or confessing to lobster-killing guilt, Bourdain is as entertaining as ever. Bringing together the best of his previously uncollected nonfiction--and including new, never-before-published material--*The Nasty Bits* is a rude, funny, brutal and passionate stew for fans and the uninitiated alike.

**la confidential analysis:** *Official and Confidential* Anthony Summers, 2012-01-17 A New York Times--bestselling author's revealing, “important” biography of the longtime FBI director (The Philadelphia Inquirer). No one exemplified paranoia and secrecy at the heart of American power better than J. Edgar Hoover, the original director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For this consummate biography, renowned investigative journalist Anthony Summers interviewed more than eight hundred witnesses and pored through thousands of documents to get at the truth about the man who headed the FBI for fifty years, persecuted political enemies, blackmailed politicians, and lived his own surprising secret life. Ultimately, Summers paints a portrait of a fatally flawed individual who should never have held such power, and for so long.

**la confidential analysis:** *The Cold Six Thousand* James Ellroy, 2011-12-31 DALLAS, NOVEMBER 22ND, 1963. Wayne Tedrow Jr has arrived to kill a man. The fee is \$6,000. He finds himself instead in the middle of the cover-up following JFK's assassination. There follows a hellish five-year ride through the sordid underbelly of public policy via Las Vegas, Howard Hughes,

Vietnam, CIA dope dealing, Cuba, sleazy showbiz, racism and the Klan. This is the 1960s under Ellroy's blistering lens, the icons of the era mingled with cops, killers, hoods, and provocateurs. The Cold Six Thousand is historical confluence as American nightmare. Fierce, epic fiction. A masterpiece.

**la confidential analysis:** Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States National Research Council, Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences, Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics, Policy and Global Affairs, Committee on Science, Technology, and Law, Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community, 2009-07-29 Scores of talented and dedicated people serve the forensic science community, performing vitally important work. However, they are often constrained by lack of adequate resources, sound policies, and national support. It is clear that change and advancements, both systematic and scientific, are needed in a number of forensic science disciplines to ensure the reliability of work, establish enforceable standards, and promote best practices with consistent application. Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward provides a detailed plan for addressing these needs and suggests the creation of a new government entity, the National Institute of Forensic Science, to establish and enforce standards within the forensic science community. The benefits of improving and regulating the forensic science disciplines are clear: assisting law enforcement officials, enhancing homeland security, and reducing the risk of wrongful conviction and exoneration. Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States gives a full account of what is needed to advance the forensic science disciplines, including upgrading of systems and organizational structures, better training, widespread adoption of uniform and enforceable best practices, and mandatory certification and accreditation programs. While this book provides an essential call-to-action for congress and policy makers, it also serves as a vital tool for law enforcement agencies, criminal prosecutors and attorneys, and forensic science educators.

**la confidential analysis:** And the Best Screenplay Goes To... Linda Seger, 2008 This book provides a CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) approach to Academy Award-winning screenplays, giving you the nitty gritty details of how an Academy Award script was created.

**la confidential analysis:** West of Eden Jean Stein, 2016-02-04 West of Eden is the definitive story of Hollywood, told, in their own words, by the people on the inside: Lauren Bacall, Arthur Miller, Dennis Hopper, Frank Gehry, Ring Lardner, Joan Didion, Stephen Sondheim - all interviewed by Jean Stein, who grew up in the Forties in a fairytale mansion in the Hollywood Hills. The book takes us from the discovery of oil in the Twenties with the story of the tycoon Edward Doheny (There Will Be Blood) and traces the growth of corruption through the syndicates, the mob, and the movie studios - from the beginnings of the film industry to the end, with News Corp. and Rupert Murdoch (who bought the Stein mansion in 1985). West of Eden is about money, power, fame and terrible secrets: the doomed Hollywood of the late Fifties, early Sixties - 'the rotten heart of paradise'. Like her last book, the best-selling Edie, this is an oral history told through brilliantly edited interviews. As this is Hollywood, it's a book full of sex, drugs and celebrity glamour; but because it's built from the firsthand accounts of people who were actually there, many of them writers, actors and artists, it's also strangely claustrophobic, seductive, and completely compelling.

**la confidential analysis:** Talking Pictures Ann Hornaday, 2017-06-13 A veteran film critic offers a lively, opinionated guide to thinking and talking about movies -- from Casablanca to Clueless Whether we are trying to impress a date after an art house film screening or discussing Oscar nominations among friends, we all need ways to look at and talk about movies. But with so much variety between an Alfred Hitchcock thriller and a Nora Ephron romantic comedy, how can everyday viewers determine what makes a good movie? In Talking Pictures, veteran film critic Ann Hornaday walks us through the production of a typical movie -- from script and casting to final sound edit -- and explains how to evaluate each piece of the process. How do we know if a film has been well-written, above and beyond snappy dialogue? What constitutes a great screen performance? What goes into praiseworthy cinematography, editing, and sound design? And what does a director really do? In a new epilogue, Hornaday addresses important questions of representation in film and

the industry and how this can, and should, effect a movie-watching experience. Full of engaging anecdotes and interviews with actors and filmmakers, Talking Pictures will help us see movies in a whole new light—not just as fans, but as film critics in our own right.

**la confidential analysis: L.A. Story** Steve Martin, 1997 Steve Martin's hysterical antics and brilliant physical comedy have made him a star. But his credits also include work as a writer. He co-wrote and starred in *The Jerk*, *Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid*, and *Three Amigos*, and has been a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*. *L.A. Story* and *Roxanne*--which won the award for Best Screenplay from the Writers Guild of America--are both romantic comedies that demonstrate his original comic vision and talent for maintaining order in the zany worlds he creates. In *Roxanne*, his modernization of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, with its classic themes of unrequited love and mistaken identity, Martin asks whether looks outweigh charm and intellect in the game of love. *L.A. Story* is Steve Martin's West Coast answer to Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, a hilarious, insider's parody of Los Angeles that furnished Martin with one of his most original roles.

**la confidential analysis: The Great Movies III** Roger Ebert, 2010-10-15 Roger Ebert has been writing film reviews for the Chicago Sun-Times for over four decades now and his biweekly essays on great movies have been appearing there since 1996. As Ebert noted in the introduction to the first collection of those pieces, "They are not the greatest films of all time, because all lists of great movies are a foolish attempt to codify works which must stand alone. But it's fair to say: If you want to take a tour of the landmarks of the first century of cinema, start here. Enter *The Great Movies III*, Ebert's third collection of essays on the crème de la crème of the silver screen, each one a model of critical appreciation and a blend of love and analysis that will send readers back to the films with a fresh set of eyes and renewed enthusiasm—or maybe even lead to a first-time viewing. From *The Godfather: Part II* to *Groundhog Day*, from *The Last Picture Show* to *Last Tango in Paris*, the hundred pieces gathered here display a welcome balance between the familiar and the esoteric, spanning Hollywood blockbusters and hidden gems, independent works and foreign language films alike. Each essay draws on Ebert's vast knowledge of the cinema, its fascinating history, and its breadth of techniques, introducing newcomers to some of the most exceptional movies ever made, while revealing new insights to connoisseurs as well. Named the most powerful pundit in America by *Forbes* magazine, and a winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Roger Ebert is inarguably the most prominent and influential authority on the cinema today. *The Great Movies III* is sure to please his many fans and further enhance his reputation as America's most respected—and trusted—film critic.

**la confidential analysis: The Contemporary Femme Fatale** Katherine Farrimond, 2017-07-06 The femme fatale occupies a precarious yet highly visible space in contemporary cinema. From sci-fi alien women to teenage bad girls, filmmakers continue to draw on the notion of the sexy deadly woman in ways which traverse boundaries of genre and narrative. This book charts the articulations of the femme fatale in American cinema of the past twenty years, and contends that, despite her problematic relationship with feminism, she offers a vital means for reading the connections between mainstream cinema and representations of female agency. The films discussed raise questions about the limits and potential of positioning women who meet highly normative standards of beauty as powerful icons of female agency. They point towards the constant shifting between patriarchal appropriation and feminist recuperation that inevitably accompanies such representations within mainstream media contexts.

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