



Privileged Lives

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Uptown, in a private hospital suite, Babe Vanderwalk Devens, the exquisite socialite, just woke up from a seven-year coma.

Across town, in a luxurious high rise, a handsome young man has just been found dead and mutilated.

Now Vince Cardozo, a dedicated New York cop, wants to expose the truth about Babe's coma and the murdered love-slave. It means entering the world of America's wealthiest men and women and finding out just how the rich and famous live - and die.....

Privileged Lives Details

Date : Published February 1st 1989 by Dell (first published February 1st 1988)

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Author : Edward Stewart

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From Reader Review Privileged Lives for online ebook

Epicreader says

Decent story, but so dated it was distracting. Or, maybe it was that the characters were not well-rounded enough to suspend disbelief. I don't know if I would read other books by this author.

Karen says

A "who dun it" about rich people and their kinky lives.

Ira Therebel says

It sure is a good book for it's genre, which is a thriller novel.

A cop is investigating two separate cases that are coming closer and closer together through the book. There are a lot of plot twists and witty dialogues

Another thing I liked was that the book was written in the 80's when AIDS was pretty new and it was very interesting to have the attitude towards it from that time shown in that book. Just as it was interesting to see the different attitudes to homosexuality in this book reflecting that time

My main problem was that there were so many characters I had trouble to keep up with all of them in the beginning. Also I didn't get very interested in one of the cases from the start, but it did get better with time.

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to read an exciting mystery detective story

Meagan says

Interesting plot but lacking character depth

Overall, this had the gritty dirty feeling I like about these kinds of mysteries, but the treatment of the women characters specifically was dismal. Its handling of marginalized communities was also abhorrent. Someone might want to excuse the lack of sensitivity by citing the year and time in which the story takes place, but there's better ways to convey that kind of prejudice without crapping all over every character. The character development (or lack thereof) was just weak writing. It was interesting enough though to keep me reading to the end.

Duncan says

The book begins as a fictional rehash of the Sunny Von Bulow "murder", and introduces us to Vincent Cardozo, Lieutenant in the NYPD. It takes us into the lives of New York's glitterati of the 1980s, from the fashion scene through the real estate world, to the nouveau riche, even blistering the bastions of religion of the time. I would call this a classic of American Literature, if that were not a cliche. Stewart was a STRONG, amazing, storyteller, and spared us nothing when writing this book. It is not a happy book, but it IS a fantastic one.

Carmen says

An electrifying novel. Hot, spicy thriller.

Joni says

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Jay Sprenkle says

Gritty and detailed

I wasn't sure who dunnit until the end. Good detailed police procedure for conflict to resolve. The transitions were rough in places so I was occasionally confused. Satisfying ending. Enjoy!

Teresa says

Couldn't get interested after 10 chapters so I gave it up

Kim Hamilton says

One of my very favorite books I read in college. A fantastic murder mystery/thriller. A complex story with well-developed characters focusing on the lives of the NYC rich and famous. A socialite who wakes up from a 7-year coma and has to piece back together her life. Good detailed police procedure. Some graphic, very disturbing content. I couldn't put it down. Great ending that I didn't see coming.

Elaine Brennan says

Awful

How do I write twenty words about why I have no idea why I read this thing to the end?

Danya Bakbakhi says

This one had its ups and downs, the story was lovely and interesting but at some point it seemed to be unnecessarily too *LONG!* Felt like it could use some more editing or something.

I liked the mother/daughter drama but the investigations were soo boring and slow and there were too many characters involved that I stopped giving any attention to the way they looked like and in the last 200 pages names got mixed up in my head and I just gave up on keeping track of them. And even though this book was meant to express the glamorous life of the wealthy and famous people.. it just didn't feel right. Maybe life was different in the 80s but these people's life had the impression of an old/punk/addict/former-rock-star's life.

Also the romance was super duper *dull*, I mean there was too much porn and drugs especially at the end but real love was such a *BLAH!!* And you know that sensation you're supposed to feel at the last page of a book? Like you don't want to put it down, or that the end was worth it after all, or even that anger that hits you when the book takes an unwanted course? None of it happened, the end was quiet. Totally wanted but that's it, so classic and expected.

It's just gonna be a long time before I pick up another old book.

Char says

This book kept me glued to the pages... I couldn't put it down. But, it has some graphic, very disturbing content... murder mystery that involves mother/daughter/S&M/drugs and a lot of cover ups to protect the rich and famous.

Michele bookloverforever says

sordid. confusing. unhappy people living cruel lives . torture, drugs, sadism, false friendship. and at the end, true love. murder and police procedural.

Eric_W says

I ran across Edward Stewart's Lt. Vincent Cardozo series in an Amazon Kindle special promotion. They

have been resurrected by Open Road Media, and I'm glad I found them. Stewart, who died at age 58, in 1996, had been a relatively unknown author, but this series promised to perhaps change that. It consists of four books, the last, *Jury Double*, having been published after his death. One reviewer suggested had he lived the series might have evolved into something like Ed McBain's 87th Precinct series; high praise, indeed. This one is the first.

The book begins with the vignette of a woman awaking after lying in a coma for almost 100 months following an accident. The scene then shifts to Cordozo on the beach being called to the homicide of a man in a mask whose leg had been amputated.

Well written with some nice phrases, e.g.: “The air in the stairwell pressed like a blanket soaked in hot water.” and “a man who moved with the ease of a stone wall learning to walk.” Dobbs, the gossip columnist reminds me of Alice Longworth who said, “If you have nothing good to say come sit here by me.” He had some wickedly funny comments during his interview with the cops.

Another telling quote that hit home: “No matter what else happens,” he said, “no matter what else you discover has happened, hold on to work. Work is the last, the most important, the only frontier. Everything else comes and goes—but work stays. The one friend, the one parent, the one child, the one lover. It’s the only thread we’ve got to guide us through this labyrinth we call a life.”

On the other hand, this is not a book for the squeamish. There are some descriptions of sexual depravities that would, I’m sure, disturb the fearful and puritanical. I knocked off a star for what I thought were coincidences beyond belief, but generally still a good police procedural.
