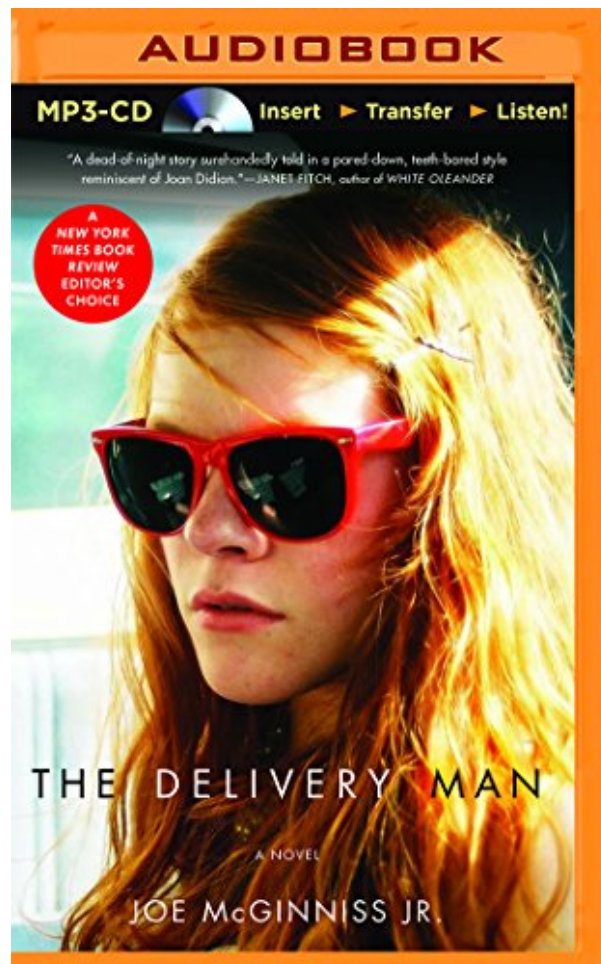
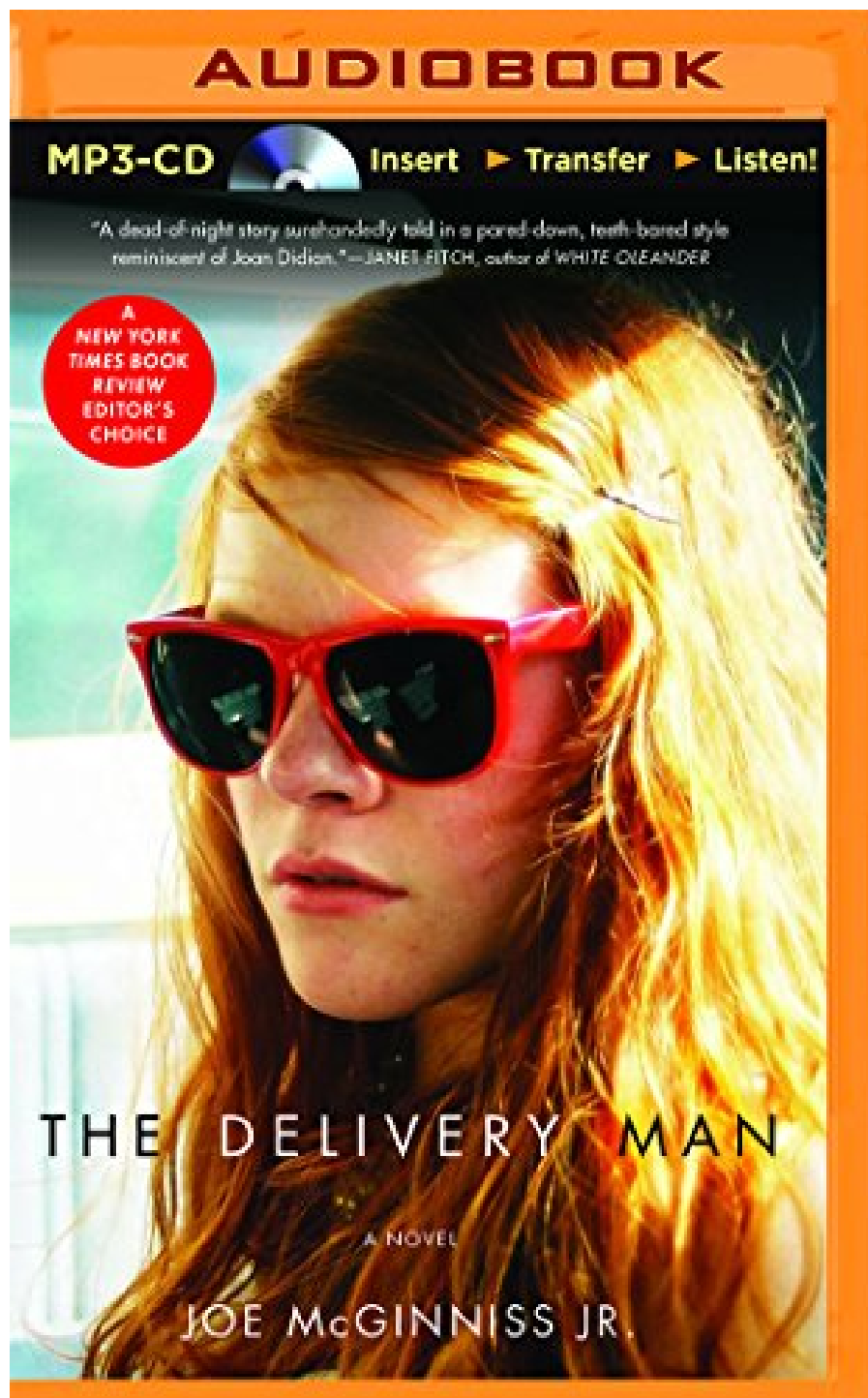


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After attending college in New York, Chase returns to Vegas and is drawn into the lucrative but dangerous world of a teenage call-girl service with his childhood friend Michele, a beautiful Salvadoran immigrant with whom he shares a tragic past. Over the course of one extraordinary summer they will confront the violence and emptiness at the heart of the city and their generation.

At once stark and electrically atmospheric, horrifying and hopeful, *The Delivery Man* is an ambitious literary novel and a powerful indictment of a society in which personal responsibility has been abandoned, lust is increasingly mistaken for love, and innocence is an anachronism.

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- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 6.75" h x .50" w x 5.25" l,
- Running time: 7 Hours
- Binding: MP3 CD

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Does not deliver

By J. Grattan

Just as Chase, twenty-five year old stymied artist and now teacher at a Las Vegas high school, tells his class, "None of you are going anywhere," so is the case with this book. With his childhood friends, Michele, a sultry Latino, and rich kid Bailey, trying to run a prostitution service out a Las Vegas hotel, even involving high school girls, one would expect an edgy, exotic novel. Or perhaps a highly thoughtful examination of

Las Vegas-like culture.

The book has a matter-of-factness feel throughout. Nothing is important. Chase's artistic trials and his failing relationship with his black, MBA girlfriend are not compelling. A high school kid starts a fight with Chase and gets him fired. That barely gets a rise. It the characters don't care, why should the reader.

The book does not flow well; it is more an assemblage of scenes. It is not gritty reality as some would have it. It's more formula than anything. Las Vegas sex - wow - and teenagers, too. The characters are bored and boring.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

The Addictions of the Vegas Sex World

By Doug

This is a gritty and realistic novel about what it must be like to be young and hooked on the "easy" money of the Vegas sex worker's world of young girls and their male pimp partners. The main character has moved into a more legitimate world of education, art and business, classy future wife, etc., but is pulled into the shallow lifestyle of some of his previous high school girlfriends and friends, to temporarily get by and have somewhere to hang out. But like people who get hooked on drugs, he is pulled into this world gradually, fighting it, and yet it is always clear that he will be unable to pull out of his descent into this hellish world. The sex and drugs are never glamorized. It is clear that they all fall gradually into the pit and then can't get out because the money is good, their lives are clouded by drugs and alcohol and it is the world that they are given.

It would have been a better book if we were left with any hope for any of the characters. Perhaps he's telling us it's like having hope for heroin addicts. Once addicted, it's pretty hard to get out.

The book is pretty compelling, it moved well, had interesting characters and painted a realistic world. In the end, it was a bit too lugubrious for me.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Everyone loves watching the downward spiral

By Lost High Guey

First of all, this book is filthy, pulpy, trashy, voyeuristic, morally ambiguous, violent, and sleazy. The characters are ruthless, unscrupulous, sex-addicted, drug popping, money hungry, reprehensible, irresponsible, dangerous and unpredictable. Yet, we love them because they have the two characteristics that make all sin eminently forgivable. They have youth. They have beauty.

And not one thing else matters. Oh yeah, except for the money.

Add in a character who is supposed to be the moral center of the book's universe and you can just see where this is going to go. But getting there with him is half the fun. Like watching Nicholas Cage drink himself to death, we get to see a talented artist who is in love with a beautiful prostitute try unsuccessfully to get past a tragedy in his life. We get to bear witness to the swath of destruction that he hacks across multiple lives by agreeing to be a part of her savage plans to make big money fast. It doesn't matter that his intentions are good, the fact that he can't quit this poisonous girl will be his destruction. That he is supposed to be the moral center means that his downfall will be swift and terrible.

Only at the end do you see a glimmer of hope, of recreation in the name of hate and revenge. He is finally transformed into something else, a monster with an eye for payback, his youth and his beauty gone but maybe a lesson learned and a hint of the coming revenge...but now I'm getting too close to writing a spoiler,

so I'd better stop.

The plot is fast and the book isn't a towering force of literature. It is however a provocative read that will get you through a couple of airport stops or a boring vacation back home. It has good twists and insight into a world that we all hear about but that most of us won't ever really know. It promises Nabokov but delivers Tarantino, which isn't so bad.

I will say this though, the book had one scene that I thought was amazing, the insult (read also truth) game! That Chase essentially gets one chance to tell Michelle how he feels about her and what he ACTUALLY tells her...WOW! I almost dropped the book. That kind of honesty will get Joe McGinniss somewhere and soon. The book is shallow, gritty and compelling which begs the question, who do you get to play Chase in the movie? Who do you get to play Bailey, Michelle, Julia and Carly? Personally, I can't wait for one of my friends to read this book so I can have this discussion with them.

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“Poor Chase: he feels like God’s Lonely Man, all longing and disillusionment, and no one disappoints him more than he disappoints himself. He’s part of a longstanding American tradition of hard guys with soft centers, guys with an exquisitely calibrated sense of their own self-degradation, like one of Bret Easton Ellis’s heroes refracted through Raymond Chandler. *The Delivery Man* is arresting on the way, in the face of our undoing, we’re inadequate but still culpable, and idealistic but still paralyzed.” —Jim Shepard, author of *Love and Hydrogen* and *Project X*

“This is a thrilling debut—a novel about youth wasting itself knowingly against the laid-back, glossy, trademark amorality of Las Vegas, told in a voice that sounds like that of a slightly older, hipper Holden Caulfield, coming of age in a place which has no past or future—only the cool, gleaming, terrifying present. Sexy, touching, always shrewdly observed, and with a killer ending, *The Delivery Man* is the *Less Than Zero* of the early 2000s—and the first step in what I am sure will be a remarkable career.” —Michael Korda, author of *Another Life* and *Charmed Lives*

“McGinniss never wavers from his ruthless portrayal of the morally bankrupt . . . this atmospheric page-turner gains increasing depth as it barrels toward a gut-wrenching conclusion.” —*Booklist*

“Impressive . . . What is most striking about this novel is McGinniss’s sense of place. He captures the bright bleakness of the Las Vegas beyond the Strip—the Las Vegas people actually have to live in—with an un pitying eye, a Las Vegas most of the characters loathe but seem incapable of leaving, like chips that can’t be cashed in.” —Robert Cremins, *Houston Chronicle*

From the Publisher

"At first glance, this debut novel looks like a good, short read for the next time you're waiting at the airport.

It's an insider's guide to the dark underbelly of twenty-first-century Las Vegas, brimming with brand names, hard bodies, hard drugs, and heavy doses of sex and violence. If that's all you're looking for, *The Delivery Man* won't disappoint. . . . But once you finish it, you won't be able to get it out of your mind--McGinniss uses his fast-paced, B-movie plotline to explore how the flip side of the American dream can often be an inescapable nightmare, much like F. Scott Fitzgerald manipulated the melodrama of *The Great Gatsby*. In fact, *The Delivery Man*, like *Gatsby*, is the story of a lost generation. While Fitzgerald's flappers danced as fast as they could before their world collapsed in Depression and war, McGinniss's losers are stranded in an empty landscape of dead sex, coked-out emotion, and pointless danger. To his credit, McGinniss refuses to take the easy, ironic way out favored by so many contemporary writers who distance the reader from the characters. You see these doomed, wretched people for what they are, and then McGinniss allows them to break your heart. *The Delivery Man* is that rare first novel that could well become a classic." --Peter Bloch, *Penthouse*

"This debut novel from the son of the famed true-crime reporter is a searing portrait of young wastrels adrift in a vacuous Las Vegas. Chase couldn't cut it as an NYU art student and now finds himself mired in old, self-destructive patterns. Fired from his high-school teaching job following a fistfight with one of his students, he falls into a job chauffeuring a ring of teenage call girls to clients' homes. The ring is run by an old friend, an acquisitive Salvadoran immigrant who longs to buy a home in one of the ubiquitous new housing developments springing up in the desert. Although Chase is engaged to an ambitious business grad student and is himself struggling to finish a group of paintings for a gallery opening, he finds his sense of purpose draining away. Unsavory business partners and old vendettas soon come into fast and furious play. McGinniss never wavers from his ruthless portrayal of the morally bankrupt, and some readers may be put off by the unlikable characters, but this atmospheric page-turner gains increasing depth as it barrels toward a gut-wrenching conclusion." --Joanne Wilkinson, *Booklist*

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