

[Following is an official OnlineBookClub.org review of "Inside" by J. C. De Ladurantey.]

5 out of 5 stars

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Inside: A Howard Hamilton Ride-Along, by J.C. De Ladurantey, is a crime fiction novel that follows Detective Howard Hamilton of the Orchard Hill Police Department. Through Hamilton, the book explores the complexities of police bureaucracy, the personal dynamics among officers and their loved ones, and high-stakes investigations showcasing the value of their jobs to their community. Hamilton and his fellow officers confront dangerous criminals, navigate internal politics, and deal with unethical behavior within the force. The author delivers an insightful look at the hectic and multifaceted world of law enforcement.

This book was not exactly what I expected, but I enjoyed it nonetheless. I was anticipating a fast-paced, action-packed story typical of crime fiction books, where most of the story involves the main characters chasing down the bad guys across the country. However, this book leaned more towards realism, which I appreciated. I gained a lot of insight into the inner workings of a police department, how they build cases, and how they collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to take down criminals. I also appreciated that the book focused on Hamilton and his colleagues handling various cases rather than a single major case. In the police world, problems can range from minor, low-key internal issues to expansive, multi-agency collaborations.

I liked how the book integrated technology into solving cases. While most crime fiction books focus on the ingenuity of the main characters in piecing together clues, this book takes a unique approach by highlighting Hamilton's computer skills and demonstrating the use of software and technology in solving cases. Although I can't confirm the accuracy of the technical details, it was still fun to read.

While I thoroughly enjoyed the book, I found it challenging to fully connect with the exploration of Hamilton's romantic and family life, as well as that of the other officers. It was perhaps the least captivating part of the book for me because I struggled to relate to the characters' lives. However, I want to clarify that I'm not suggesting that these storylines were poorly written. I appreciated that the author wrote about both healthy and complicated family relationships, as well as the challenges of building and sustaining romantic relationships, even those with more complex or questionable aspects.

The book's editing is very well done. Despite the many characters and intricate details, the book keeps a clear and intriguing story. I noticed only a few minor errors, which is impressive considering the book's complexity.

After considering everything mentioned above, I give this book a perfect **5 out of 5 stars**. I cannot think of any reason to deduct a star from the rating. However, I don't think this book is appropriate for younger teenagers due to the significant profanity and explicit sexual content. I recommend this book to fans of crime fiction novels who are interested in a seemingly realistic depiction of life in a police department.

Inside

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