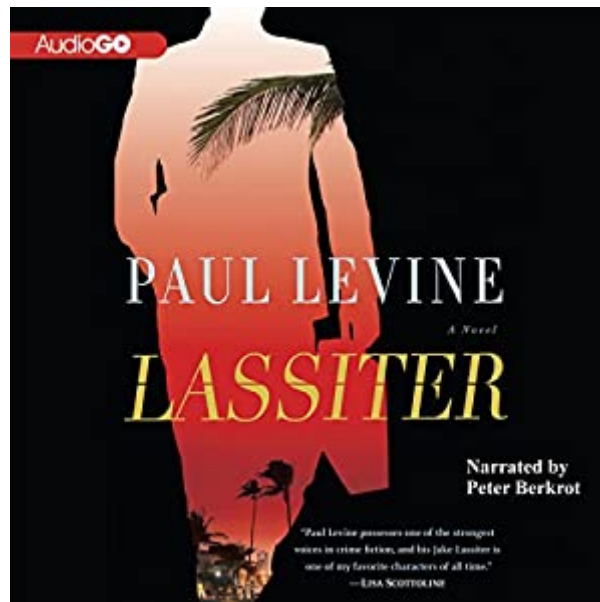


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Lassiter: A Novel



Synopsis

Last seen in 1997's *Flesh & Bones*, Jake Lassiter is a hero unlike any other in the courtroom. Booklist called him "one of the most entertaining series characters in contemporary crime fiction." The former Miami Dolphin is still swimming with sharks in his latest, boldest novel of suspense yet. Amy Larkin is in town, looking for her sister Krista, who vanished without a trace almost two decades earlier. She seeks out Lassiter because he's the last person to have seen her alive. Lassiter volunteers to investigate, and his search for Krista's fate will take him into the underworld of Miami's pornography industry, into the dangerous lives of his friends, and, of course, into the courtroom, where Lassiter's bareknuckle style makes him a formidable opponent.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Save your money. Graphic descriptions about porn. Way over the top and eventually boring. Plot was predictable. Knew the ending long before the closing scenes. Not an author I will buy again.

This was the book that brought the low-rent attorney Jake Lassiter back after a protracted absence. Part of that time, Levine was in California doing TV scripts and cranking out the Solomon vs. Lord novels, which were somewhat "watered down" and seemingly aimed at a more commercial market. He also wrote some very good stand-alone thrillers. But we missed Jake! Levine is back in Miami now, where he belongs. He seems to write best when he's in his hometown. Lassiter has all the elements fans have always expected from Levine: an incredibly fast-moving plot, with twists and

turns all the way to the conclusion; sleazy bad guys and questionable good guys; and loads of the Miami gonzo that made all the original Lassiter books so enjoyable. The erudite and lovable old coroner, Charlie Riggs, is missing from this story, but Jake's crusty old "Granny" and his sassy nephew Kip are here, although they don't play major roles. Jake Lassiter is, without doubt, Levine's greatest creation. Jake is truly EveryMan, neither a saint nor a sinner. He'll bend the rules beyond their legal boundaries whenever necessary to win a case, but he also has a moral code that is absolute and universal. We like Jake; we relate to him; we're with him all the way as he claws his way through the impenetrable jungle of the Miami legal system. We can sense that Levine was having fun as he wrote this book. I think he came back to Jake not just to please his fans, but because Jake is his biggest inspiration. As a long time reader of Miami Noir, I think Levine's Lassiter books are as good as it gets. Wherever he chooses to go in the future, I hope he will keep Jake in his repertoire.

I'm sure I would have liked this installment better if I had read it as a stand alone. But I've been reading the books in order over the past few weeks, just finished "Flesh and Bones", and found myself distracted during this book. Little things, like, what happened to the 442 he used to drive and when did the caddy come on the scene? When did he relocate? Did Rusty get rehabilitated from less than ideal reminiscent with questionable scruples into a concerned father/ friend?? When did he get the dog? When did granny move in? Sister in & out? Oh gawd, what happened to this character's life per, supporting cast per past books in series? Half through the book and had to write this cuz it keeps bothering me.

When Jake Lassiter was a football player, he'd failed to protect a young girl, Krista Larkin, who attended his birthday party, instead, sending her back to possible danger. Now, 18 years later, her younger sister, Amy, is in Miami trying to determine her sister's fate. Wracked by guilt, Jake, now a lawyer with a reputation for out-of-the-box legal maneuvers, is determined to punish the men who hurt Krista, even if he has to fight all the top dogs of Miami's elite society to do it. The eighth in the Jake Lassiter series by Paul Levine, Lassiter, follows football pro turned attorney Jake Lassiter as he deals with low-life thugs, crooked officials, and aged mobsters in his search to determine the fate of Krista. When one of the suspects, a geriatric mobster, is gunned down, and Amy is arrested for the murder, Jake finds the stakes have risen, maybe higher than he can cover •but, he's not one to quit. Gritty courtroom drama set in sunny Florida a la Elmore Leonard, you'll be

richly surprised at the outcome of Jake's quest for redemption.

You'll be rooting for the good guys, surprised when they turn out to be bad guys, and wondering if there is any difference. A breathtaking romp through the slimy underbelly of Florida politics.

I would have preferred assigning "Lassiter" three and a half stars because it was a good, entertaining book but held back a half star because of a bit more than necessary sexual language. The plot of the book involved the disappearance of an X-rated movie actress, model and "companion", and the subsequent search for answers by Jake Lassiter, he of the title. Jake was trying a minor case in court one day when he spied an attractive young woman sitting near the court railing, staring intently at him. When the daily session ended, she confronted Jake directly. "Do you remember my sister Krista? She vanished eight years ago and you were the last person to see her." Jake did remember Krista. A much younger, less responsible Jake (read third string pro football player Jake) was at a raucous party in a lounge where she worked as a lap dance performer and rescued her from an abusive patron. Krista stayed with Jake for an unforgettable night, after which he then her took her back to her boyfriend's house. Her boyfriend being the guy who was her employer in the film biz. Jake never saw her again. The sense of guilt he felt about using her and dumping her gnawed at Jake, so he agreed to look into the case. The employer had become respectable having made millions in the X-rated flic biz, but still had mob ties. Jake's investigation uncovers a mysterious sex, drugs and celebrities party where something happened to Krista, but what, and at whose hands? It made for an interesting story told in a breezy, fast-paced plot. Jake is a likable guy who is trying to make up for his callous disregard of Krista's welfare, although, admittedly, she was more than a bit of a hard case herself. She just looked so "girl next door"; but no matter how hard, she did not deserve a quick grave in the swamps. "Lassiter" was a good story, quite entertaining and well done. Some sexual language was to be expected, but IMHO, there was more than enough to depict the sleazy characters involved. Still, with that small trigger warning, the book is worth reading just to enjoy the double-twist ending.

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