



## The Glitter Dome

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Two LAPD detectives investigate the murder of a Hollywood studio boss.

## **The Glitter Dome Details**

Date : Published May 1st 1984 by Bantam (first published 1981)

ISBN : 9780553263022

Author : Joseph Wambaugh

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## From Reader Review The Glitter Dome for online ebook

### **Katherine says**

Wambaugh brings noir to the LAPD. The 6 detectives in this novel try to solve the murder of an important Hollywood studio boss, but they cannot determine who committed the crime among a number of possibilities. The tone is bleak as the detectives drink, cheat and lie their way through life.

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### **Ewyn Charles says**

Prior to this, I had only read 2 of Joseph Wambaugh's book--an early one "The Onion Field" and a recent one "Hollywood Station" and enjoyed both of them but did not truly appreciate his writing until "The Glitter Dome."

Lots of well-developed characters, humor, drama. If anything, there is almost too much content. Detectives cut creative corners in order to get rid of cases instead of actually solving them; others are total thugs or dimwits. Most are just humans trying to get through an insane job.

I am a big fan of Michael Connelly and Robert Crais; this fits somewhere in the same vein. I will be sure to catch up on Mr. Wambaugh's books!

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### **Ben Loory says**

I've been reading a lot of mysteries these days off this 100 best mysteries of all time list by H something something Keating. Some of them have been ok and some less than ok but this was the first one I hit where I was like, oh, maybe Keating and I just have really different taste in books? Because this was terrible. Just stupid and obvious and trying to be funny but not funny and no attention to language and really boring characters and just went on and on and on and on. like, there was nothing whatsoever good about this book. It sorta felt like a Thomas Pynchon novel, that kinda "wacky shenanigans" kinda thing, only written by a not very bright 7th grader who was neither inventive nor funny. Then I read about the guy and it turns out he was a cop. Well, case solved I guess. Not sure what's up w Keating

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### **Jim says**

Good stuff. I think I've been kicked out of that bar

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### **Jeff Benham says**

First of all, there are some very hilarious, albeit very crude situations in this book. Hero homicide investigator and his faith detective sidekick have one case, find out who murdered a movie mogul. We are 50% into the book before we get our first clue. In fact this main plot has been relegated to the back burner. A half dozen other plots pop up and you begin to wonder if anyone on the police force can solve anything

without tripping over it. Solve it they do in the end, and the murderer is a complete surprise.

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### **Rebekkila says**

This is my first Joseph Wambaugh novel and I loved it. At times I cringed and other times I laughed out loud. The crime at the heart of the novel takes a backseat to the characters that are trying to solve it. I will without a doubt read more of this author's books.

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### **Erik says**

Joe Wambaugh's version of the Hollywood revenge novel. The tone shifts from The Choirboys' bleakness to outright nihilism. Hardly a sympathetic character to be found.

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### **James H. Jaqua says**

A typical Wambaugh effort. I enjoyed it, laughed in a few places, and felt the pain of law enforcement officers in some passages as well. Some of the usual types of officers, which are hard to avoid. The site for the title is reminiscent of several places I have been. And the beat goes on.

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### **Rachel says**

The only Joseph Wambaugh novel that I happen to finish, plus I liked the way that it ended bittersweetly even if one of my favorite characters happened to die off at the end.

Not as offensive as the next book, The Delta Star, to anyone born within the past three decades but still will ruffle some feathers. Believe me, I almost flew it across the room (but was a library book, so I couldn't), because the actions of a certain character that I thought I could tolerate when yet, I forgot I was part of the generation that remembers the aftermath of the Rodney King beatings, so that affected my reading of that work somehow. Only read if the reader can tolerate the material in which during the time of when it was created that the views were seen as the norm and social mores were quite different in the late last century.

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### **Dennis says**

What lots of readers don't realize is that Wambaugh's books are very much non-fictional, and the dark events are disturbing to them. But, he uses the often times laugh out loud humor, which surgeons, medical examiners, and murder detectives use to stay sane. Unfortunately alcohol and drugs are also used for the same purpose, but citizens pretty much keep their heads in the sand about it.

I admire Wambaugh for it.

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### **Debra Pawlak says**

You just can't go wrong with Joseph Wambaugh. The book got off to a slow start, but with characters like Poor, Old Cal Greenberg, the Weasel, the Ferret, and Flameout Farrell, you can't help but laugh and soon get involved. The story centers around a murdered Hollywood producer and a mysterious production company, but fans out from there. From the Glitter Dome (a bar where the cops hang out) to the Hollywood precinct (where the cops work), it is a wild ride. Wambaugh can bring you to tears and on the next page make you laugh out loud. Never a dull moment with his well-developed characters that's for sure.

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### **Ed says**

Author Wambaugh continues his string of best sellers about the LAPD. This 1981 entry features a pair of homicide detectives.

Police Novels - It's the wildest bar in Chinatown, run by a proprietor named Wing who will steal your bar change every chance he gets. On payday the groupies mingle there with off-duty LAPD cops, including homicide detectives Martin Welborn and Al Mackey, who get assigned the case of a murdered Hollywood studio boss who may have been involved in some very strange and dangerous filmmaking.

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### **Graham P says**

Like a crude sitcom, Wambaugh plays 'The Glitter Dome' for laughs. One absurd situation after the other, and the tone is playful and at times endearing in a knee-jerk, ham-fisted way. But there is a savage streak under it all, and when it's present, the novel excels. Martin Welborn and Al Mackey make a great detective team. As the novel progresses, the more real they become. Everybody else is caricature.

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### **Toby says**

HRF Keating claims this as Wambaugh's finest work of fiction in his rundown of the best 100 works of crime and mystery; the former policeman turned author famed for his realistic portrait of the boys in blue as something less than heroic being something of a literary sensation in the 70s when coppers were still considered to be choirboys (which is infact one of Wambaugh's other titles) as opposed to flawed human beings sometimes incapable of resisting a bribe, of falsifying evidence to make their job easier and other reprehensible acts from such trusted public servants.

It's a little old hat now but that's not why I only found this to be an OK read. My major problem is that Wambaugh seems to be playing it for laughs, always ready to highlight the absurd behaviour or the humour of a situation. OK, I get it, cops are people too and we all like a joke every now and then at work, but every single second of the day?! Really? It's an episodic novel, following several different types of police in LA after the murder of a high powered movie executive and Wambaugh writes with the kind of bitterness and

unsubtle insights that can only come from a man who's witnessed the behaviour first hand and been screwed over by The Business.

The incessant jolly boys game playing is especially disappointing after a wonderfully, brutally bleak opening chapter of a cop drinking himself to oblivion plagued by his own insecurities and failings and seriously contemplating the taste of his gun barrel. If he could have kept that attitude throughout I might have been thoroughly depressed but boy would I have enjoyed myself immensely.

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### **Diana says**

I was far too young when I read this book. Sixteen year old girls should not necessarily dive into the hard, gritty, dysfunctional world Wambaugh's characters inhabit. My memories of the book, which I haven't picked up since I closed the cover on the last page almost 20 years ago, are of sharp, cold details, like the color of an old stain in a bare mattress and the acrid stench filling a small, derelict room. They are snapshots from a nightmare, rendered so crisply and vividly I still remember them today.

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