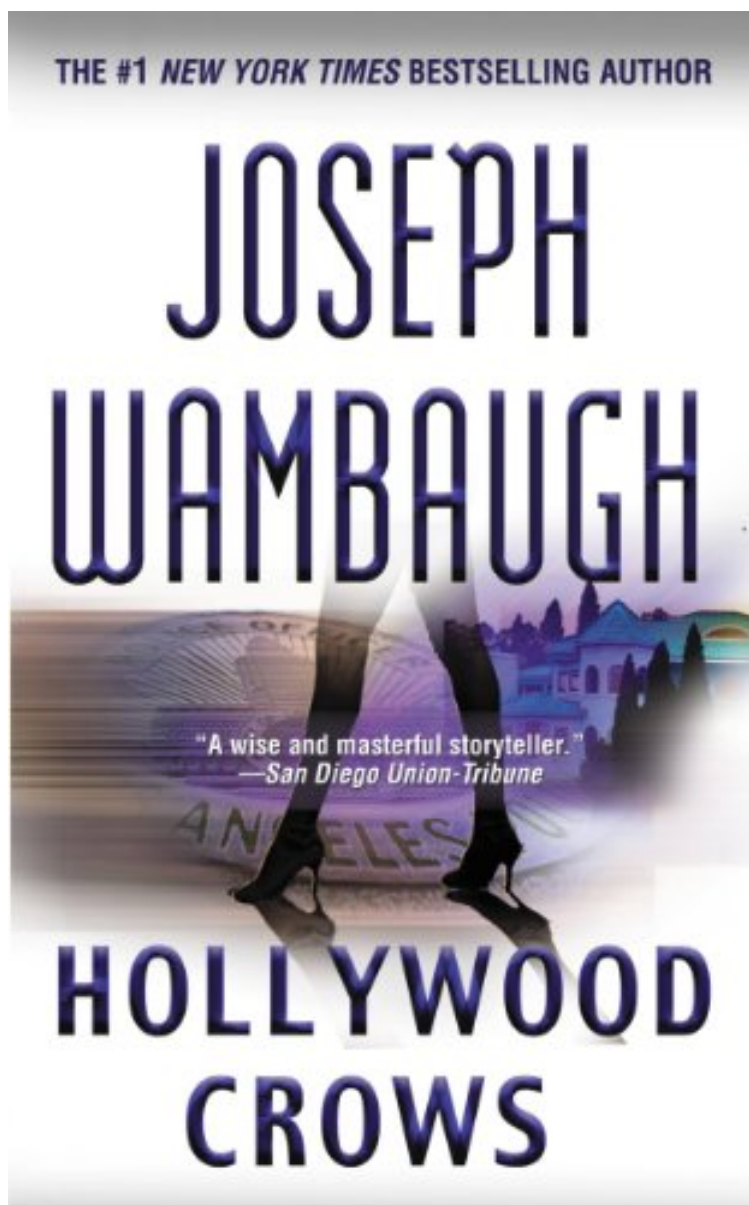


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## Hollywood Crows: A Novel (English Edition)



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### Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurA super follow-up to Hollywood Station, Wambaugh returns to the beat he knows best, taking readers on a darkly funny ride-along with a cast of flawed LAPD cops and eccentric lowlifes you won't forget. When LAPD cops Hollywood Nate and Bix Rumstead find themselves caught up with bombshell Margot Aziz, they think they're just having some fun. But in Hollywood, nothing is ever what it seems. To them, Margot is a harmless socialite, stuck in the middle of an ugly divorce from the nefarious nightclub-owner Ali Aziz. What Nate and Bix don't know is that Margot's no helpless victim: the femme fatale is setting them both up. But Ms. Aziz isn't the only one with a deadly plan. .co.ukIts all very well

being a legend, but if people think you're no longer doing the thing that made your name celebrated, you run the risk of being yesterday's news. Joseph Wambaugh's esteem among crime readers couldn't be higher, with such books as *The Onion Field* and *The Choirboys* assuring him of Olympian status. But those classics were written many years ago so it was a cause for considerable celebration when Wambaugh stormed back into the field after a period of silence with the much-acclaimed *Hollywood Station*, in which the author demonstrated that all his old skills were firmly in place. And now here's *Hollywood Crows* to demonstrate that this was no flash-in-the-pan comeback. *Hollywood Crows* is Wambaugh once again back in the groove, delivering the kind of effortlessly entertaining, sardonically funny crime tale at which he has few equals. We are back with the policemen of *Hollywood Station*, still up against it with unrealistic workloads, the irritating demands of political correctness and (worst of all) the myriad assortment of sleazy crime and criminals that they have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. Sergeant Jason Chickenlips Treacle is the new and destabilising element in the force, a man who believes very much in going by the book -- and in not upsetting the delicate sensibilities of his superiors. Nate Hollywood Weiss is stuck with the unrewarding job of community relations, and neither man is taken seriously by their colleagues, who believe that this they are not involved in real police work. But then Hollywood Nate becomes involved with the seductive Margot Aziz, in the throes of an acrimonious divorce from a strip club proprietor. And things become very complicated indeed when Margot decides to frame Nate and his colleague Bix as part of a scheme involving a perfect murder. This is delicious stuff -- not quite vintage Wambaugh, perhaps (it's broader than his earlier books), but sharp, funny and deliriously plotted. Wambaugh admirers will feel that they have certainly got their money's worth. --Barry Forshaw. From *Publishers Weekly*. Gallows humor and the grim realities of street police work coexist uneasily in this less than stellar follow-up to *Hollywood Station* (2006) from MWA Grand Master Wambaugh. Nathan Weiss, known as Hollywood Nate for his acting ambitions, and his friend Bix Ramstead are now assigned to the LAPD's Community Relations Office, which handles quality-of-life issues and whose members are referred to as Crows. Weiss and Ramstead both become ensnared by a stunning femme fatale, Margot Aziz, who's in the middle of a contentious divorce. Aziz is trying to gain the upper hand over her husband, who operates a seedy nightclub but stays on the good side of law enforcement with well-timed donations to police charities. Aziz's scheming follows a fairly predictable path, and there's not much suspense about the outcome. Through the eyes of an eccentric collection of beat cops, Wambaugh gives a compelling picture of what policing is like under the federal monitor appointed to oversee the real LAPD after the Rampart corruption scandal, but characterizations are on the thin side and some readers may find the callous cruelty off-putting. (Mar. 25) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.