



Palo Alto: Stories

By James Franco

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Palo Alto: Stories By James Franco

A fiercely vivid collection of stories about troubled California teenagers and misfits--violent and harrowing, from the astonishingly talented actor and artist James Franco.

Palo Alto is the debut of a surprising and powerful new literary voice. Written with an immediate sense of place--claustrophobic and ominous--James Franco's collection traces the lives of an extended group of teenagers as they experiment with vices of all kinds, struggle with their families and one another, and succumb to self-destructive, often heartless nihilism. In "Lockheed" a young woman's summer--spent working a dull internship--is suddenly upended by a spectacular incident of violence at a house party. In "American History" a high school freshman attempts to impress a girl during a classroom skit with a realistic portrayal of a slave owner—only to have his feigned bigotry avenged. In "I Could Kill Someone," a lonely teenager buys a gun with the aim of killing his high school tormentor, but begins to wonder about his bully's own inner life. These linked stories, stark, vivid, and disturbing, are a compelling portrait of lives on the rough fringes of youth.

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Palo Alto: Stories By James Franco Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #771030 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Scribner
- Published on: 2011-06-07
- Released on: 2011-06-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .60" w x 5.25" l, .40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Given that Franco could have opted to coast by on movie star mystique, the decision to write about the suburb of his upbringing is intriguing. But the author fails to find anything remotely insightful to say in these 11 amazingly underwhelming stories. The privileged, borderline sociopathic eighth-grade consciousness into which stories like "Killing Animals" and "Tar Baby" consign us is saturated in first-wave Nintendo games and an egregiously gleeful dosage of homophobia and puerile race-baiting that is exhausting, even in a collection where the average story is 10 pages long. Still, tales like "Camp" and the above-average "American History" manage to successfully construe bad-kid amorality as authenticity, which is more than can be said of "I Could Kill Someone," one of several stories that reads like Patrick Bateman from *American Psycho* fell into a *Catcher in the Rye* remix, or the colossal misfire that constitutes "Emily," written from the point of view of a teenage girl who performs carnal acts on every page. The overall failure of this collection has nothing to do with its side project status and everything to do with its inability to grasp the same lesson lost on its gallery of high school reprobates: there is more to life than this.

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From [Booklist](#)

A certain amount of skepticism accompanies the reading of a movie star's short story collection. Are they worthy of publication? Would I read them if written by someone else? The stories in *Palo Alto* depict the confused experiences of teenagers in Palo Alto, California. The characters surprise with their maturity then devolve into moments of violent stupidity. Their beautiful lack of self-awareness drives the stories. In *Killing Animals*, Franco deftly addresses race as some wannabe delinquents find themselves in over their heads. Infatuations, drunkenness, and boredom find space throughout the collection. Each story's simplicity belies complexity of emotion and maturation. Franco conveys something we all know but enjoy hearing again: growing up is painful yet wonderful. The deceptive simplicity also masks the complexity of Franco's writing. His economic construction seems so simple throughout, but the stories end up approaching profundity. These stories were not published because James Franco is a movie star but because they are good. He makes the difficult appear simple, which only a talented writer can do. --Blair Parsons

Review

"Startling and original."—*The Economist*

"[Franco] ends up perfectly mirroring the undulations of a teenage mind."—*The New York Times Book Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Allison Phelps:

Book is actually written, printed, or created for everything. You can learn everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book *Palo Alto: Stories* will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think that open or reading the book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have

you in search of best book or suited book with you?

Joann Nixon:

This Palo Alto: Stories is great guide for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it information accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tough core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Palo Alto: Stories in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no guide that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen tiny right but this publication already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

Denita Lumley:

The book untitled Palo Alto: Stories contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your ex idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

Joseph Wilds:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This book Palo Alto: Stories was bright colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Palo Alto: Stories has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Private investigator Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading in which.

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