



## BRET EASTON ELLIS

---

**Born** March 7, 1964 (Los Angeles, California, USA)

**Trademark:** Controversial novelist famed for his depraved characters and extreme situations; social satire; exploration of human depravity; graphic violence; misogynistic views from his characters; anti-establishment views.

---

### Masterworks

*Less Than Zero* (1985)

*The Rules of Attraction* (1987)

*American Psycho* (1991)

*The Informers* (1994)

*Glamorama* (1998)

*Lunar Park* (2005)

Despised and adored in equal measure, Bret Easton Ellis is very difficult to ignore. His novels enact and satirise vacuity, moral and intellectual, whilst his protagonists are unified by their lust for depravity. Ellis populates his novels with a cast of characters who reappear across the different titles, linked for the most part by a connection with Camden College, New Hampshire, a place apparently based on Ellis's own experiences at Bennington College, Vermont. Raised in the San Fernando Valley, he studied music at college, and spent the early eighties as a part-time musician in various bands. After his first novel was published he moved to New York, where he became a member of the literary Brat-Pack which raised establishment heckles in the late eighties and early nineties.

With *American Psycho*, Ellis's satire on eighties' excess, he reached his apotheosis. Dropped by one publisher for its extreme violence and perceived misogyny, it was eventually published in 1991 to a mixture of outrage and admiration. Death threats and hate mail followed, although the book sold extremely well. The aftermath of its publication triggered

something of a collapse, and Ellis had well documented problems with drink, drugs and relationships—including a widely publicized divorce—for the following years. His father (on whom he based his most controversial character, Patrick Bateman) died in 1992, and then, in 2004,

so did his lover and friend Michael Kaplan, aged thirty. Both deaths inform and to an extent, haunt *Lunar Park*, a novel he took ten years to complete, in which a character called Bret Ellis is tormented by ghosts from his past, both fictional and real. He is rumoured to be working on a sequel to *Less Than Zero*, and a movie of *The Informers* is due in 2008. **PS**

"I have no problem with people identifying me as anything—except as a bad writer."

ABOVE: Bret Easton Ellis photographed in his thirties.