



## Light Before Day

*Christopher Rice*

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## **Light Before Day** Christopher Rice

Adam Murphy wants to be a serious journalist. Unfortunately, he spends his days writing copy about underwear and abs for a gay lifestyle magazine. When a troubled young porn star brings him a tip about a recently deceased marine's secret visit to an infamous pimp for underage boys, Adam is determined to break the story...until someone starts threatening his life.

Undeterred, Adam begins to unravel a deadly conspiracy involving runaway sugar daddies, salacious A-list parties, and three handsome young men who have vanished without a trace. Now he must enter the seedy underbelly of LA to find the truth behind their disappearance, as well as the disappearance of his ex-lover, Corey—who may have some deadly secrets of his own.

In this supercharged modern noir tale of sex, drugs, and revenge from New York Times bestselling author Christopher Rice, getting to the bottom of a scandalous story can be dangerous...if not downright fatal.

Revised edition: This edition of Light Before Day includes editorial revisions.

## **Light Before Day Details**

Date : Published November 25th 2014 by Thomas & Mercer (first published August 1st 2004)

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Author : Christopher Rice

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## From Reader Review Light Before Day for online ebook

### Toni says

This is a bit of an unusual review because it's going to give little information about the story involved. Light Before Day is written by Christopher Rice, son of Anne Rice of Interview with the Vampire fame. Many will probably say he's riding on his mother's famous coat tails, but this novel will prove them wrong.

In an afterword to the book, the author has a dialogue with his mother in which he says he wants to write a novel a la Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. In Light Before Day, he's done just that. The chronicle of a reporter's search for his missing lover while he investigates the story behind a marine helicopter crash suddenly escalates into more than he expects with far-reaching implications in his own life as well as others'.

This is a hard-hitting story both realistic and gritty and has as many turns and twists as anything either of the afore-mentioned writers has written. Giving a synopsis is out of the question because of the convolution of the plot but that doesn't mean it's not an entertaining read. It definitely is. It's merely too complicated to explain simply. I've always considered myself good at guessing "whodunit" and ruining the plot of a story for myself because of that, but this time, I had no idea—right up until the moment the killer was revealed.

This is a book which needs to be read straight-through so don't expect to put it down once you pick it up, because once it's in your hand and that first page is turned, you won't stop until you've finished it.

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### Jane says

The following review was originally posted on my book blog The Book Challengers.

For a book that's supposed to keep me on the edge of my seat and intrigued the entire time, this one bored me way too much. I don't even know exactly why, but it wasn't possible for me to get into this book and therefore I didn't really care for the hero Adam and his quest. I read the story in random chunks and I somehow found quite a few other things to occupy my time with when instead I should have been engrossed by this mystery thriller.

I wouldn't say that the story was boring per se as it had quite a few things going on from drugs and a supposed fight with alcoholism to child pornography and abductions and murders, BUT I couldn't get into it. Where was the fight with alcohol if Adam supposedly had a huge problem with it? One moment he decides to say "I stop now" and that's basically everything we see about it. Also, I didn't really care for the solution and some connections Adam made left me rather baffled. Some connections came out of nowhere and I thought that it was more lucky guesses than good deductions based on good evidence.

All in all, a disappointment for me.

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### Sean Correia says

struggled bus through this... and the ending couldn't even save it...

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### **Tully Vincent says**

Gritty story with a plethora of twists and turns and a large cast of characters.

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### **Indra Vaughn says**

Gritty, raw and real with surprising moments of tenderness as well as gut-punching heartbreak. I lost sleep over this book--totally worth it.

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### **Buck says**

In his third novel, Christopher Rice truly begins to bloom as a mystery-thriller novelist. His first two works involved high school and college age teenagers caught in various mysterious circumstances. This work expands his range to a more urban mystery.

His main character, Adam, finds himself struggling as a reporter for "Glitz" magazine, a gay men's rag in Los Angeles. Adam wants to bring "real stories" to the magazine but is thwarted by his editor who continually prefers to print light hearted trash. Finally, Adam is approached by a former one night stand with a wild story involving a Marine helicopter pilot who crashed his plane into the ocean after a wild night in West Hollywood.

Adam's attempt to cover the story is met with his dismissal from the magazine and he is plunged into an uneasy alliance with a famous mystery novelist and true-crime author as he tries to unravel mysterious disappearances in the gay community, child sex rings, and murder. In the end the finds himself a main player in the drama.

The work is nicely plotted and moves rapidly. The scathing indictment of the "gay youth" culture of Los Angeles adds a nice counterpoint to the work and the new plague of methamphetamine use provides much of the background for the story.

The characters are in turns intriguing and broadly drawn. However, Rice's main characters are more well developed than some of the supporting cast.

An intriguing read and certainly a nice validation of my initial impression that Rice would become an excellent novelist, giving the gay community an author on par with other top-selling writers.

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### **Santino Hassell says**

I can see why this is known to be Christopher Rice's most controversial novel to date. Light Before Day is

part detective novel, part thriller, and a definite sneaky exposé on the sordid past (and present) of sexual predators in Hollywood. Particularly sexual predators who prey on young men.

The novel follows Adam Murphy, a young gay man struggling with alcohol dependency, as he tries to prove his salt as an investigative journalist amid the glitz, glamour, and alcohol and drug drenched streets of Hollywood. Through luck and connections with just the right number of scumbags, Adam finds himself embroiled in a massive conspiracy relating to missing gay men, murder, and a child porn ring. The book explores this Hollywood/LA world that everyone kind of knows is grimy and sleazy, but becomes even more so as Adam uncovers more about the people he has been surrounded by.

This plot starts out intriguing and suspenseful before eventually becoming over the top in terms of twists and turns. There were like three climaxes, I swear (heh heh heh). But that aside, I liked it. It was dated but noir, exploited stereotypes and revealed them to sometimes be unfortunate realities, and that is why I think this book was so controversial.

There are a lot of drugs in this book, a lot of star struck twinks and sugar daddies, sex-fueled pool parties, air-headed wannabes, and there are also incredibly rich men who spend their time beta programming young men or outright raping little boys. No one wants to hear about a man who identifies as gay being a sex offender. No one wants to hear about there being an entire ring of these wealthy, rich, elites who get off on raping kids, desperate young men who want to make it in Hollywood, and assaulting guys that are blackout drunk.

The blackout is practically a recurring character in this drama, and there's a reason for that. A bad reason that I know a lot about from personal experience, and hit home when the fear of wondering what happened in that void, or being told what happened by a gleeful observer, is recounted by Adam in Light Before Day.

I can see why some people would find the book offensive. He's making it seem like all gay men are [fill in the blank], but there is no denying that Hollywood is shady and full of drugs and alcohol. There is also no denying that it's full of powerful men who abuse hopeful young women, and powerful men who also prey on hopeful young men. One of the clever things about Light Before Day is that it features a veteran crime author who is helping Adam on his quest, and that writer is known for writing novels about real crime stories that were ignored or abandoned by mainstream media or the authorities. It's not clever because that's a genius twist, it's clever because I suspect that character is known for doing exactly what Christopher Rice was doing with this novel.

The characters of Scott Koffler, Billy Hatfill, and Joseph Spinotta in particular are reminiscent of real Hollywood players of the past and present who have been accused and convicted of raping young men and boys. Joseph is a man who became rich during the dot-com explosion due to a startup website that was supposed to "make television obsolete", spent a lot of the production time hosting lavish pool parties where young boys (scouted by his henchmen) were drugged and raped, and launched with a fizz before Spinotta fled Hollywood with all the money. The story is eerily similar to the real story of Hollywood sex offender Marc Collins-Rector who ALSO had a internet company that was supposed to revolutionize the Internet and TV during the dot-com boom, who ALSO threw lavish pool parties where boys were said to be raped, and who ALSO consort with various shady individuals who were accused of the same. And he also fled after the site failed and the convictions landed, and went into hiding. Spinotta's methods are also eerily similar to the methods alleged to be used by Bryan Singer when it comes to using henchmen to scout and lure young men\*\* to his fancy parties.

Charges of rape against Singer were recently dropped, but the fact that there are startling similarities between

those recent accusations and a novel that was penned a decade ago beg the question of how much of this shit really goes on in Hollywood and how much of it is an open secret? Of course no one wants to assume the powerful gay men in Hollywood are all pedos and rapists, but people have long ago accepted that women are regularly abused in the film industry so I think it's not hard to believe that rich people with power are capable of being fucked up and depraved no matter which way they swing.

So, I give it four stars because of engagement value, hilarious one-liners, poignancy that comes out of nowhere but hit me like a brick in the head, and because I really do suspect that this was Rice's way of talking about something that is usually hush hush.

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\*\*Yes, I am aware that Defamer/Gawker is not exactly a super reputable source of news, but Google is ur frend. All the info is out there in various places.

### **Punk says**

Fiction. Yes, Christopher, son of Anne, but don't worry, he doesn't use the word preternatural *once*, and even gets some great lines in, like: "Around six, I thought about getting some dinner the way some people think about buying a vacation home." Unfortunately, as much as Christopher loves using two or three metaphors a paragraph, his success rate is really only fifty percent. Some aren't very good, some I couldn't even decipher, but he tries hard. This is nominally a mystery. Our main character, Adam, starts out as a journalist and a junkie. He gets fired, gets sober, gets a job working for a true crime writer, and tries to fight crime. I don't know if it's me or Christopher, but I couldn't quite get a handle on the mystery plot. At times I even forgot what it was we were trying to figure out. His ex-boyfriend is missing, there's a lot of dead people, and some sort of meth side thingy plot. This book has a lot of characters and they're all named Jimmy and Billy and Corey, and despite Adam's near constant summarizing each time he learns a new detail, I still was totally lost. It was kind of funny really, exactly how little the mystery engaged me, but I didn't exactly mind. I still figured out at least two of the twists before the main characters did.

Two stars. The writing is sort of amateurish and the plot's kind of fumbling, but in an endearing way?

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### **Goose says**

If you've read Christopher Rice before there are no surprises here. A bunch of characters run around having sex, doing drugs, drinking, and many of them are up to no good/illegal things. This one has more of a tone of a mystery and less gothic details and is also a little less over-the-top than the other books I've read by this author. I did enjoy how all the disparate parts of the plot came together in the end. A fun read for me. If you liked his previous books you will like this one. If you didn't like his previous books and were hoping for something new here, keep hoping and move on to something else.

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## **C.W. says**

Christopher Rice may be the son of ultra-famous Anne Rice, reigning queen of the Gothic novel whose lush, supernatural tales have changed forever how readers look at vampires, witches and ghosts, but he's inherited more than his share of her talent, plus his unique voice to boot.

This is the third novel of his I've read so far, following "Density of Souls" and "The Snow Garden", and thus far, it is my favorite. In Adam Murphy, a young reporter whose emotional baggage is compounded by an irascible temper and severe addiction, Rice has created his most rich, nuanced character to date. Adam is too smart, too jaded, too different to fit into his vacuous West Hollywood milieu, yet after he's fired from a meaningless magazine job, he finds himself thrust into a terrifying search for a missing ex-boyfriend whose disappearance may be linked to the mysterious death of a helicopter pilot, while contending with a new job as assistant to a reclusive true-crime author.

Rice spins out his multi-layered tale via breathtaking action, suspense, and moments of unexpected tenderness. The complexity in of itself is a feat; what seems like the hunt for a serial killer morphs into a dark plunge into the underworld of sex slavery, pornography and Central Valley meth trade. It's like "Breaking Bad" meets "Cruising" and then some. And Rice does it all without ever sacrificing character development or depth.

"Light Before Day" is the thinking person's thriller, from a writer who is at the top of his game.

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## **Holly says**

I've read a little over 1/4 of this book. It's well written, and it's a fairly decent book, but for some reason I can't quite put my finger on, I am having trouble focusing on this book. I really think it's just because there's so much going on in it. I'm going to unfortunately have to take a break from this one and try again later.

Okay, so I've tried to finish this about 4 times now, and I just can't do it. I regret it, because it isn't terrible, but I just feel as though this isn't a book for me. I'm giving it 3 stars because it's just meh. I'm passing my copy of this book on to someone who may enjoy it.

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## **Artemiz says**

Christopher Rice's Light Before Day is a really good criminal mystery that keeps you on your toes through all the book.

It's a story about recovering alcoholic journalist, who stumbles on a story about lost boys, exploding meth labs, vigilante, pedophiles, old grudges, revenges and ex lovers. The story is filled with many different story lines, many different villains and through all the story I came up with many different outcomes, but at the end all those ideas of mine didn't hit the mark at all.

I'm romantic at heart and I was really hoping that the bad are not really as bad as they seem and love will conquer all, but the bad were really bad, even worse than I thought and love is just something that makes you blind.

I really enjoyed the story, loved the way it keeps you guessing and trying to figure out the next step ahead. Just all in all one very good read.

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### **Fabian says**

If a semigood whodunnit had a stomach-churning noir feel with all characters gay guys... well, you'd have "Light Before Day."

Christopher Rice exercises his writing muscles more than his mother- but he is not a better writer. He seems intent on writing mysteries with sprawling narratives... he is courageous in that aspect.

I did not appreciate the main character: an alcoholic gay guy with nothing but intuition. Yes-- this thing is what is loveable in characters like Sookie Stackhouse, but here it's not at all an attractive feature. Shouldn't we find him attractive?

This novel deals with meth labs, meth kids, kiddie porn rings, gay porn rings, sugar daddies, bitchy betrayals, murders, murderers... the atmosphere is heavy like syrup... and not in a good way. Yes, I admire a young writer with intuition, but does homosexual psychology ever evolve? Or is every gay guy the same heartless materialistic Frankenstein's monster\*? Little innovation, diminished light.

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\* That is: assembled of only the parts a Modern Man (c. 2000) should have: or, the musings and ravings of a gay man on HIS ideal Modern Man)

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### **Tulay says**

#### **Couldn't finish.**

Read the first five characters and the last two, couldn't keep reading this story. Plot and lifestyles of the characters don't bother me but the writing style was terrible. Seems like lately I keep downloading couple books and wasting my time trying to read them.

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### **Mendy says**

I couldn't wait for my sister's copy so I bought myself one! Biggest waste of &6.50 ever. I have liked the two other books I have read by Christopher Rice, I can't say that about this one. I don't even know where to start. There were too many characters, I couldn't keep up with who was who for the majority of the book. The book also had too many twists and turns that were so unbelievable! The other two books have been more character based with a plausible plot. This one was too far out there and his metaphors were laughable! I teach writing and preach to my students to use descriptive language but he took it to the extreme! I hope his next one is closer to the first two or I may have to give up on his books!!!!!! Hopefully my darling sister will let me read her Christmas present copy when she finishes!

