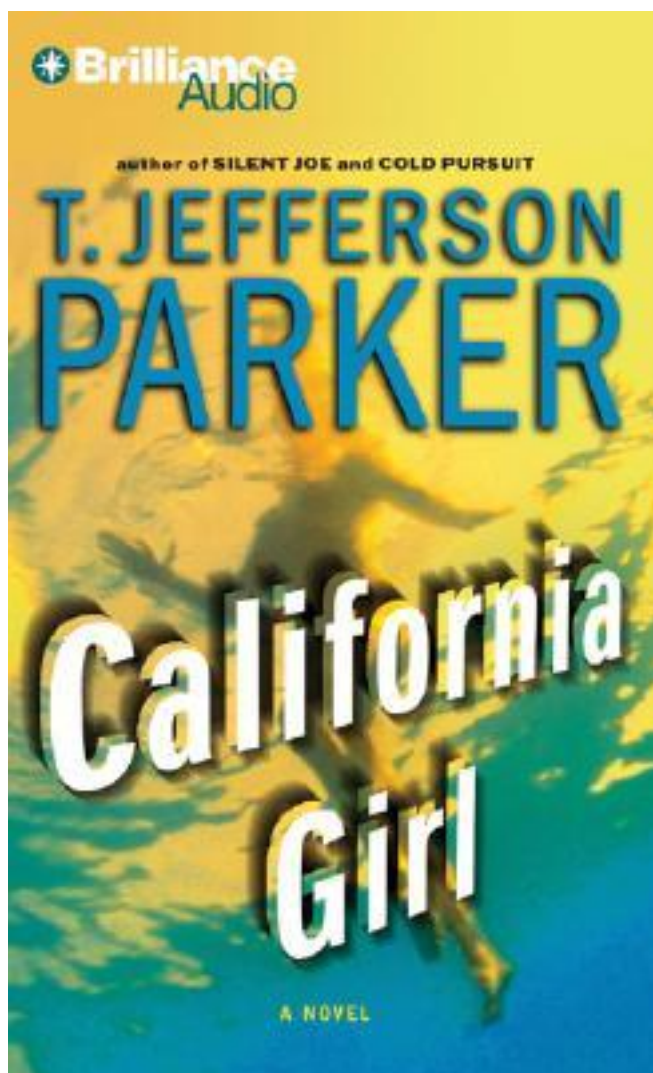


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**T. Jefferson Parker**

**California Girl**



Title: California Girl

Author: T. Jefferson Parker

Format: Audio

Language: English

Pages: 0

Publisher: , 0

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Download: allowed

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## Description

A different world then, a different world now? California in the 1960s, and the winds of change are raging. Orange groves uprooted for tract houses, people flooding into Orange County, and strange new ideas in the air about war, music, sex, and drugs, and new influences including Richard Nixon and Timothy Leary. But for the Becker brothers, the past is always present and it comes crashing back when the body of the lovely and mysterious Janelle Vonn is discovered in an abandoned orange packinghouse. The Beckers and Vonn have a history, beginning years ago in high school with a rumble between the brothers of each clan. But boys grow up. Now one Becker brother is a cop on his first homicide case. One's a minister yearning to perform just one miracle. One is a reporter drunk with ambition. And all three are about to collide with the changing world of 1968 as each brother, in his own special way, tries to find Janelle's killer. As the suspects multiply and secrets are exposed, the Becker brothers are all drawn further into the case, deeper into the past, and closer to the danger.

## Insightful reviews

Gerald Kinro: This family saga is set in Orange County, California and revolves around a murdered beauty queen found beheaded in a warehouse. It begins in 1954 with action, a rumble pitting the Becker brothers, David, Nick, Clay and Andy against the lowlife Vonn brothers. Spectators are the Vonn sisters, Lynette and Janelle. Fast forward to 1968. Clay has died in Vietnam, David is a minister, Andy is a newspaper reporter, and Nick a detective. Janelle is the beauty queen who is murdered and beheaded. With their respective occupations the three brothers are involved in their own way. This involvement puts them on divergent paths, and conflicts are deep, very deep. Suspense goes all the way to the present when the case is reworked.

This was great. I picked this up as a casual, easy read, but it exceeded my expectations by going beyond an open-shut crime novel to a solid mainstream piece. The characters are real, the story is well-plotted and the mood and pace was just right. Parker does an excellent job of bringing to life a period some fifty years ago with miniskirts, John Birchers, hippies, Vietnam, drugs, and more drugs. He raises the issue of becoming personally involved in professional matters and, more important, honesty and truth. The truth hurts, but so do lies.

Ken Schloman: 2005 Edgar Award winner for best novel. Well deserved. Novel follows two families from the 1950's through the 90's. A murder thrown in. Ending a bit weaker than the balance of the story and that is all that keeps me from giving 5 stars. Good discription of the political climate in California in the 50's and 60's. Well worth the read even if you are not a great mystery fan.

Peg: California Girl was recommended and since I had never read this author, I decided to give it a try. I enjoyed it but not as much as I had hoped I would. I can't quite put my finger on what was missing though. Lovely setting in Orange County, CA, in the 50s and 60s. Those years were times of many cultural changes so there is some history here for those of you too young to

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remember that era.

Two families are involved in the plot in this big novel. It is a murder mystery but we also read about the drug culture (Timothy O'Leary makes what I assume is a fictional cameo appearance), religion and drive-in churches, poverty, transients, careers, and sex/adultery. The novel moves along nicely and most of the characters are well-developed. Some of these characters are certainly lacking morals which made it hard for me to like them.

I doubt I will commit to read another of Mr. Parker's novels although I've heard that it is either 'hit' or 'miss' with him. California Girl was somewhere in the middle of 'hit' or 'miss' for me.

Larry Hoffer: I have purely learn another T. Jefferson Parker ebook and it used to be a type of quick-read thrillers, so I did not understand really what to anticipate from this book, yet provided that it gained an Edgar Award (given to extraordinary mysteries) I figured I used to be in for an outstanding read. Umm, no. This booklet had a very attention-grabbing premise, and lovely multi-dimensional characters (most of them; a few of them have been directly out of imperative Casting) however it simply took FOREVER. And what I suspected could ensue early on did, in a sort-of twist correct out of "Cold Case." The ebook starts off out in 1954 Southern California, while the Becker brothers rumble with the tougher, less-fortunate Vonns. Which places the wheels in movement for the 2 households to pass paths during the years. Ultimately, the youngest sister, Janelle, who escapes from her dead-end life, is located murdered, and her homicide touches the Becker relatives in lots of ways. This had loads of promise, and on the center used to be an outstanding story, it simply appeared fairly contrived. Disappointing.

Ronald Wilcox: First of Parker's books I've got ever read. provides as virtually a old novel of existence in Southern California within the past due 50's and 60's. a tender lady is located along with her head sawn off. Nick Becker knew her from early life and is assigned as first officer to enquire her death, his first. Andy and David, Nick's brothers, are respectively a reporter overlaying the tale and the preacher for the victim's funeral. I presumed the 1st 1/2 the e-book to be a three superstar and the second one part a 4.5 star.

Cathy DuPont: My 3rd e-book into the writings of T. Jefferson Parker and a stand by myself at that. the opposite books I've learned have been the Merci Rayborn sequence which I actually enjoyed. This one, now not as much. every thing appeared a bit contrived. turns out foolish announcing that as a result of course, it is fiction. yet nevertheless, humans from the 1960's are interjected within the novel resembling Richard Nixon, Charles Manson, Thomas Leary and some others. Unfortunately, so much additional not anything to the plot that I'll determine. However, I need to say that if you are searching for a e-book in regards to the 1960's in California...go no further. learn this e-book for a fictionalized account. Unfortunately, do not count on an outstanding storyline to compliment it though.

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