



Loaded Dice (Tony Valentine Series Book 4)

By James Swain

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For ex-cop Tony Valentine, life in balmy Florida provides little R&R. In fact, he's in demand now more than ever. Armed with a special grift sense, Valentine can spot card cheats and even bigger game whose sole purpose on earth is to relieve a casino of its cash. But when his son, who was going to card-counting school, goes missing, Valentine jets to Las Vegas. Once in town, he is pressed into service—and lands inside a treacherous game with higher stakes than he has ever encountered before.

There's a new casino in town, aptly named Sin, the largest on The Strip: three thousand guest rooms and a gambling floor as big as an airport terminal. The owners of Sin want Valentine to show them how the scams are done. But these powerful men harbor ulterior motives: They want to use their newfound skills to put a rival casino out of business.

Sin's competition is the Acropolis, run by Valentine's longtime pal. Nick taps Tony to figure out how an amateur won \$50,000 at his blackjack tables. But the small job is full of landmines. For starters, the suspect bears a strong resemblance to his late wife. What's more, Valentine's son is still M.I.A. Upping the ante, a dead stripper is found with Valentine's calling card—and her grief-stricken boyfriend is vowing revenge.

Yet in a city where barracudas wear pinstripes, time seems motionless even while it flies, and reality and illusion shift depending on the neon light, a greater threat maneuvers through the streets: an all-new breed of criminal with an agenda propelled by fury that will shake not just Valentine, but the city of Las Vegas.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Swain's fourth Tony Valentine novel (after 2003's *Sucker Bet*) starts out on a wacky, breezy note, but the horror of a threatened terrorist attack that develops in a subplot jars in a tale centered on the seedy world of gambling and more mundane crimes like (non-mass-) murder and robbery. Tony Valentine, a retired Atlantic City cop who helps gambling casinos catch swindlers, travels to Las Vegas to show three casino owners how blackjack players use a new high-tech device to cheat. He's also checking up on his feckless son Gerry, in town to learn about illegal card-counting so he can join Tony's business. But Tony's three clients have also hired Frank Fontaine—a world-class card sharp and Tony's longtime enemy, who has FBI connections—to run a scam that will close a casino owned by Tony's friend Nick Nicocropolis. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Gerry, two new foreign friends have links to al Qaeda. An expert on casino swindles, the author packs his books with mind-boggling cons and scams—how to do them and stop them—along with entertaining dialogue and vivid characters, notably the strong, sympathetic Tony. No doubt many readers will be attracted to the timely terrorist element, but those expecting another fast-paced gambling romp may be disappointed to see Tony sidetracked.

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From [Booklist](#)

Swain's series starring freelance casino consultant Tony Valentine has quickly established itself as one of the freshest, most entertaining hard-boiled comedies to risk setting up camp in Elmore Leonard country. In this fourth entry in the series, Valentine is in Las Vegas, on the trail of his wayward son, Gerry, who has gone AWOL from card-counting school. Mixing work with parental responsibility, Tony also agrees to help maverick casino owner Nick Nicocropolis (see *Grift Sense*, 2001) prevent two rival owners from putting him out of business. There's a slightly over-the-top terrorist angle, too, but if Swain is guilty of overstuffed his plot, he recovers nicely with another delicious helping of insider dope on how casinos work and how cheaters cheat. There's also plenty of snappy, Leonard-inspired banter and more charming cell-phone byplay between Tony and his devoted office manager, Mabel, the indefatigable Mrs. Moneypenny of the series. Great fun with just the right amount of edge--sort of like a night at the blackjack table. *Bill Ott*

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Review

“Leaves us wanting more of this pulsing, buoyant book.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“Loaded Dice, like all Tony Valentine novels, is pure entertainment.”

—*San Jose Mercury News*

“This smooth, funny series has got to be one of the finds of the decade.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“The author packs his books with mind-boggling cons and scams—how to do them, how to stop them—along with entertaining dialogue and vivid characters, [most] notably the strong, sympathetic Tony.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

From the Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Crumrine:

This Loaded Dice (Tony Valentine Series Book 4) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This Loaded Dice (Tony Valentine Series Book 4) without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Loaded Dice (Tony Valentine Series Book 4) can bring whenever you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This Loaded Dice (Tony Valentine Series Book 4) having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

James Thrasher:

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Anthony Vice:

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Scott Bush:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book Loaded Dice (Tony Valentine Series Book 4) it is very good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

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