

LESS



THAN



ZERO

Bret Easton Ellis

N AND
STER

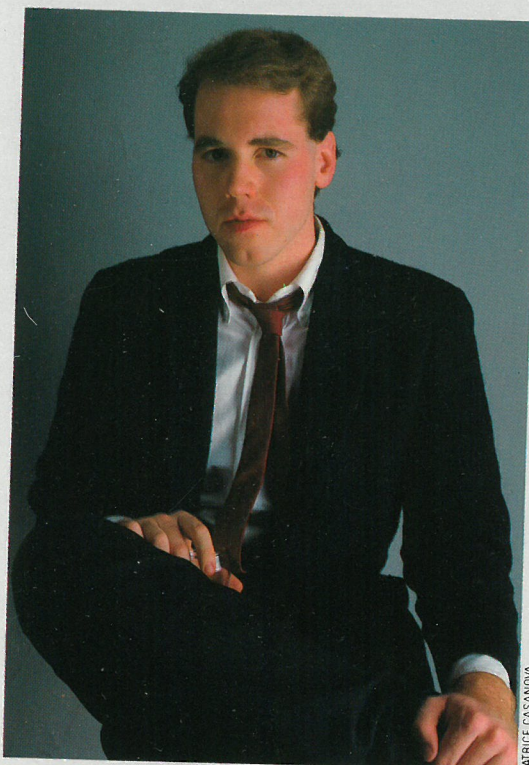
\$15.95

***Less Than Zero* is an astonishing first novel—this decade's *Catcher in the Rye*—by a twenty-year-old writer. Set in affluent Los Angeles, it is a raw and powerful portrayal of a generation of young people who have experienced sex, drugs, and disaffection at too early an age. Its narrator, Clay, comes home to Los Angeles for Christmas vacation, following his first semester at an Eastern college. Trying to make sense of the life he left behind, he renews his ties to his old girlfriend, Blair; to Trent, a male model; to Rip, his dealer; and, most tragically, to Julian, Clay's best friend from high school, who has got into trouble with drugs. Clay's holiday turns into a dizzying spiral of desperation that takes him through the rich suburban homes, the relentless parties, the seedy bars, the glitzy rock clubs, and the seamy underworld of pornography and homosexual prostitution. A shocking coming-of-age novel about the casual nihilism that**

(continued on back flap)

(continued from front flap)

comes with youth and money, *Less Than Zero* marks the stunning debut of the first voice of a new generation.



PATRICE CASANOVA

About the Author

Bret Easton Ellis is a student at Bennington College in Vermont. He was born and raised in Los Angeles.

Jacket design by George Corsillo

Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 1985 Simon & Schuster, Inc.

"Filled with a languid comic terror, *Less Than Zero* is a startling debut for Bret Ellis, a no wave West Coast La Dolce Vita."

—Richard Price, author of *The Wanderers* and *The Breaks*

"Bret Ellis is undoubtedly the new master of youthful American alienation. With his spare, seamless writing, Ellis tells a tale of collegiate Christmas in L.A. that makes Jack Kerouac and his Beat Generation seem like pussies. A harrowing yet poignant indictment of our times that is like a long day's journey into the L.A. night."

—Emily Prager, author of *A Visit from the Footbinder*

"Bret Ellis writes with a pen dipped in Percodan; the dialogue sings of sour breath and one-night stands. He doesn't hype his characters, but lets them behave, with brutal insouciance, totally without affect, as though congealed inside the aspic of our era.... This is an auspicious debut."

—Richard Elman, author of *Cocktails at Somoza's* and *The Breadfruit Lotteries*

"This is the novel your mother warned you about. Jim Morrison would be proud."

—Eve Babitz, author of *Slow Days, Fast Company*, and *L.A. Woman*

"This is a scarifying book, an act of chilly witness, and it deserves attention. Here is a young artist whose career will have no easy outside limit, who leads where writers twice his age will follow. A memorable debut."

—Nicholas Delbanco, author of *Group Portrait* and *Sherbrookes*

05851545

0-671-54329-6

SIMON AND
SCHUSTER

Bret E

LESS THAN ZERO
A NOVEL
LE
TH
ZE