

# TWO RIVER LIFESTYLES

## THE TWO RIVER TIMES BOOK REVIEW

### J. Lee Delivers Both Suspense & Intrigue With 'The Deadly Deal'

By Jeffrey Bogen

J. Lee's latest thriller, "The Deadly Deal" (Moonshine Cove Publishing, Sept. '23) immediately delivers action and mystery as David Centrelli, an everyday businessman working for a Richmond pharmaceutical company, learns that his best friend has perished in a New York City house fire. Less than two hours later, he's being held at gunpoint and informed that his friend's death was no accident. Within days, he's a fugitive from the law and a hit list target, his home is destroyed and his past forces him to make life and death decisions.

Abruptly thrust into a world he was neither trained for nor seems likely to survive, David's adventure over the course of

one week will have readers' heads spinning with multiple near-death experiences and mind-bending riddles. The intrigue and tension persist throughout this clever, action-packed novel.

While purely a work of fiction, the premise presents an all-too-realistic, thought-provoking conspiracy with catastrophic consequences: an arrangement between a pharmaceutical powerhouse, the insurance company backing its next blockbuster drug, and the highest levels of U.S. Government. It's clear that Lee did his research, and as readers unravel the mystery along with David, they'll find this scenario frighteningly believable.

Equally impressive is the way Lee incorporates Da-

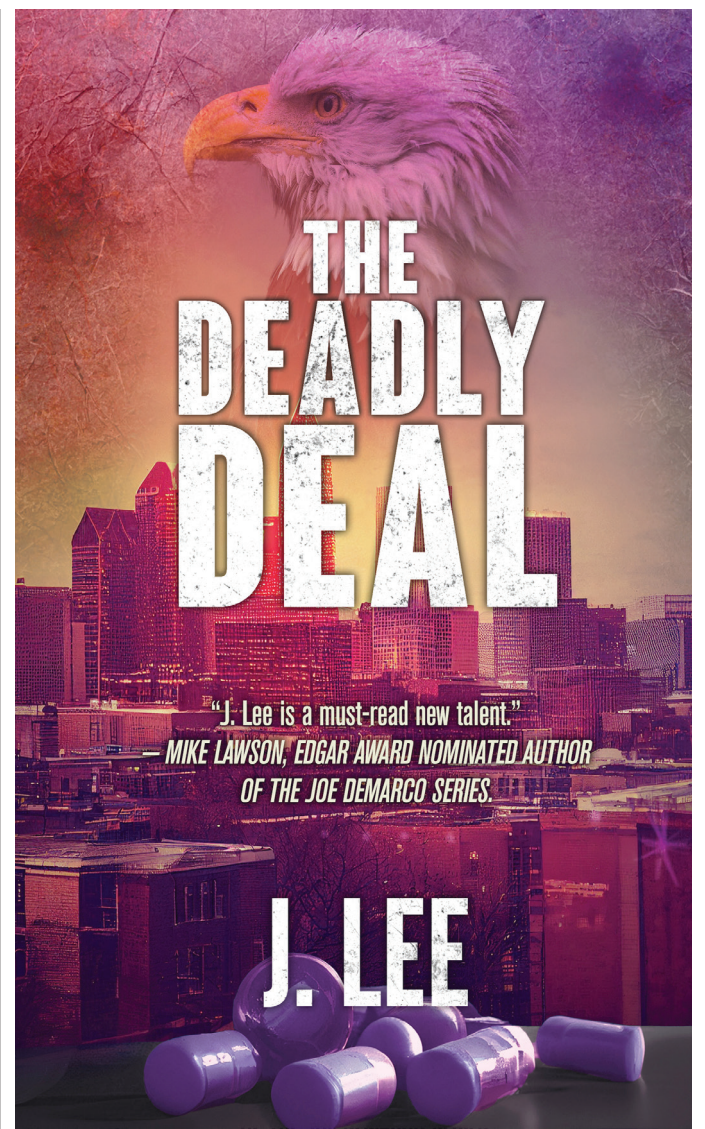
vid's personal growth along the way. He has taken his character development up a notch from his previous two novels in providing a relatable protagonist with a deeper, more mysterious past that comes full circle in an explosive manner. David has no Special Forces background to help him escape death from people trained to administer it, yet Lee delivers believable, suspenseful scenes that keep him barely surviving until the next one.

But it's the way Lee intertwines David's backstory into the book – and shows his character's evolution throughout it – that is most impressive. Readers will sympathize with David and connect to his story, which will make them further ap-

preciate the difficult choices "The Deadly Deal" forces him to make. Be on the lookout for clever clues, red herrings, multiple perspectives and unexpected plot twists, as we've come to expect from this author's novels.

Lee has hit yet another home run. His first two thrillers were quite impressive, but this is his best so far – a captivating blend of intriguing suspense and relatable characters told at a lightning pace. Give it a try. But be warned, both throughout the story and long after finishing it, you'll be thankful you're not David and wonder: What would I do?

For more information about "The Deadly Deal," "The Silent Cardinal," "The Hubley Case" or J. Lee visit [jelethrillers.com](http://jelethrillers.com).



Author J. Lee's latest book "The Deadly Deal" is a fast-paced, page-turning thriller.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ARTS

The eighth annual **Indie Street Film Festival (ISFF)**, presented by Basie Center Cinemas, will feature 65 innovative short films and 11 of the year's most exciting independent feature films now through Sept. 17. ISFF 2023 will run feature-length films, short films, filmmaker Q&As, and panels with industry professionals at Basie Center Cinemas. For a complete schedule of events and to purchase festival passes, visit [indiestreetfilmfestival.org](http://indiestreetfilmfestival.org).

36 White St., Red Bank

Art629 gallery presents its latest exhibition "**City By The Sea**" showcasing the unique perspectives of local artists on the vibrant city of Asbury Park with an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, kicking off the Sea.Hear. Now Festival Weekend. Experience the rich history and diversity of this beloved community through a celebration of its people, art and music.

The exhibit features an array of artwork that brings Asbury Park to life, depicting buildings, landmarks and people through photography, paintings, collages, and more! "City By The Sea" will feature 15 local artists including Dean Adams, Donna Rubin, Eleanor James, Jim Twerell, Jude Harzer, Judi Hull, Kamelia DeSoucey, Lois White, Michelle Renee Bernard, MC OConnor, Quasonna Moore, Robert Piersanti, Rupa DasGupta, Steve Miller and Tom White. There will also be live jazz music by local musician Mike Noordzy.

629 Cookman Ave., Asbury Park

The **Red Bank Chamber Music Society (RBCMS)** kicks off its 2023-2024 season from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church with Frisson, featuring Halversen-Passacaglia (after Handel) for violin; Ravel – sonata for violin and cello; Strauss – sextet from Capriccio Op. 85; Piazzolla – Oblivion; Bellini – Concerto in E flat major for oboe and strings; Mendelssohn – octet for strings in E-flat, Op 20.

The season consists of five concerts featuring both new and established chamber music ensembles, performing some of the most cherished chamber music works, as well as pieces likely to be unfamiliar to many listeners. Concerts are open to all, without tickets and at no cost, thanks to the generosity of its members. Check website for upcoming performances.

50 White Road, Red Bank, [rbcsms.org](http://rbcsms.org)

Phoenix Productions presents "**In the Heights**" Sept. 22 – 24 at the Hackensack Meridian Health Theatre at the Basie Center Campus.



Devin Cortez and Tiffany Francés will star in the Two River Theater's production of "Hair" Sept. 30 – Oct. 22.



COURTESY TWO RIVER THEATER

From the creator and star of "Hamilton" comes Lin-Manuel Miranda's first Tony Award-winning musical, a love-letter to the community in upper Manhattan where he still lives. "In The Heights" tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures. A hip-hop musical with a salsa beat, "In the Heights" is the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography and Best Orchestrations.

99 Monmouth St., Red Bank, [phoenixredbank.com](http://phoenixredbank.com)

City of Long Branch presents "**Entertainment in Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec & Friends**" at the Long Branch Arts & Cultural Center now through Sept. 29. Cabarets and musicals, theater, opera and the cancan, this art show recreates the festivities of turn-of-the-century France featuring original prints by Toulouse-Lautrec and his friends who frequented the Moulin Rouge, and other entertainment venues in Paris. A classical music and high tea event will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22. Attendees can listen to classical music, soak in the artwork, and enjoy an art presentation from Congressman Frank Pallone while they are served

pastries at an elegant seated tea. This event is free.

577 Broadway, Long Branch, [longbranch.org](http://longbranch.org)

Two River Theater presents the highly-anticipated production of the American Love-Rock Musical, "**Hair**," directed by Craig Noel Award winner James Vásquez ("Under a Baseball Sky," "American Mariachi") and with original choreography by Mayte Natalio ("Love in Hate Nation"), running Sept. 30 through Oct. 22, kicking off the theater's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season.

The groundbreaking rock musical includes the Grammy Award-winning hits "Aquarius," "Good Morning Starshine" and the title song's ode to long, brilliant, beautiful "Hair!" The cast includes: Devin Cortez ("Evita," "On Your Feet"), Jordan Dobson ("Haddestown," "West Side Story"), Tiffany Francés ("Ain't Too Proud," "Memphis"), Tré Frazier (Hamilton, Rent), Delaney Love (Chicago, Christmas on Ice) and more.

In conjunction with the production, Two River will be hosting several "Hair"-inspired events. Check the website for details.

21 Bridge Ave., Red Bank, [tworivertheater.org](http://tworivertheater.org)

Are you celebrating an engagement or wedding?

Share your good news with our readers by announcing your celebration in The Two River Times

\$100

Includes an announcement and color photo in The Two River Times and posting on [tworivertimes.com](http://tworivertimes.com)

Call 732-219-5788 or email [editor@tworivertimes.com](mailto:editor@tworivertimes.com) to place your announcement today.



### MONMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DIVISION PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with Sections 9.10 and 9.15 of the New Jersey Pesticide Control Code (N.J.A.C. Title 7, Chapter 30)

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division (MCMCD) may be applying pesticides for the control of adult mosquito populations on an area-wide basis, as needed, throughout Monmouth County during the period from June 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023. The pesticides used will be those recommended by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) for the control of adult mosquitoes which include Prallethrin/Sumithrin and Piperonyl Butoxide (Duet® and Duet®HD), Etofenprox (Zenivex®), Malathion (Fyfanon EW®) and natural Pyrethrin (Merus 3.0®); applied by aerial ULV and/or truck mounted or handheld ULV mist blowers. Upon request the MCMCD will provide a resident with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application, except for Quarantine and Disease Vector Control only, when conditions necessitate pesticide applications sooner than that time.

In the case of any pesticide emergency, please contact the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System at 1-800-222-1222. For routine pesticide-related health inquiries, please contact the National Pesticide Information Center at 1-800-858-7378. For information on pesticide regulations, pesticide complaints, and health referrals, contact the New Jersey Pesticide Control Program at 1-609-984-6568. For the most updated information on the time and location of adult mosquito control applications, please visit our website at [www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito) or call 732-542-3630. REMEMBER: mosquito control is everyone's responsibility; please do your part by preventing mosquitoes from breeding on your property. All persons interested in obtaining additional information regarding the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division pesticide application activities are requested to contact Victoria Thompson (NJDEP CPA License #26752B), 1901 Wayside Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 at (732) 542-3630.

Victoria C. Thompson  
Superintendent  
Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division