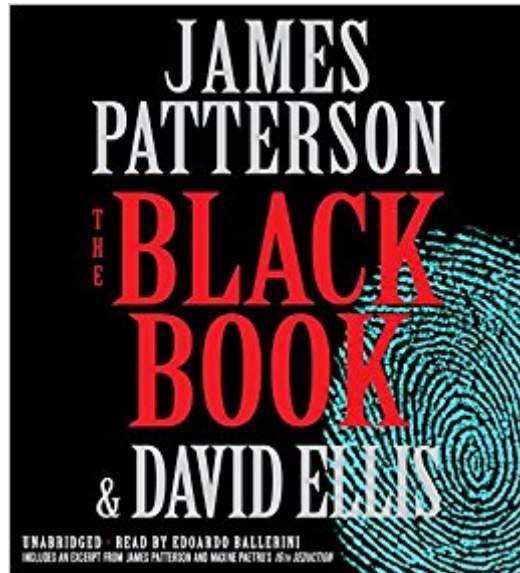




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The Black Book



Synopsis

The Instant #1 New York Times and USA Today Bestseller Three bodies in a beautiful and luxurious bedroom. Billy Harney was born to be a cop. The son of Chicago's chief of detectives, whose twin sister is also on the force, Billy plays it by the book. Alongside Detective Kate Fenton, Billy's tempestuous, adrenaline-junkie partner, there's nothing he wouldn't sacrifice for his job. Enter Amy Lentini, a hard-charging assistant state's attorney hell-bent on making a name for herself-who suspects Billy isn't the cop he claims to be. They're about to be linked by more than their careers. One missing black book. A horrifying murder leads investigators to an unexpected address-an exclusive brothel that caters to Chicago's most powerful citizens. There's plenty of incriminating evidence on the scene-but what matters most is what's missing: the madam's black book. Now shock waves are rippling through the city's elite, and everyone's desperate to find it. Chicago has never been more dangerous. As everyone who's anyone in Chicago scrambles to get their hands on the elusive black book, no one's motives can be trusted. An ingenious, inventive thriller about power, corruption, and the power of secrets to scandalize a city-and possibly destroy a family-The Black Book is James Patterson at his page-turning best.

Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > (P) > Patterson, James #195 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#328 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General

Customer Reviews

Praise for THE BLACK BOOK: "Brilliantly twisty...Many readers will agree with Patterson that this is the 'best book [he's] written in 25 years.'" • Publishers Weekly (Starred Review) "The mystery is authentic, the lead-up genuinely suspenseful, and the leading characters and situations more memorable than Patterson's managed in quite a while." • Kirkus

James Patterson has had more New York Times bestsellers than any other writer, ever, according to Guinness World Records. Since his first novel won the Edgar Award in 1977 James Patterson's books have sold more than 300 million copies. He is the author of the Alex Cross novels, the most popular detective series of the past twenty-five years, including Kiss the Girls and Along Came a Spider. He writes full-time and lives in Florida with his family.

Downloaded it today, read it today. It's just that good. It has everything you need in a great mystery-twists and turns, romance, secrets, intrigue, betrayals at the highest level, not to mention a set of interesting characters.. I have to say, I was sure by 25% into the book, I knew who was behind all of this. But so much happened in the book, I was about to change my mind. In the end I was right but there's a twist at the end that will really blow your mind. This is one of James Patterson's best books. I am just sorry it had to end. I recommend this book to everyone that enjoys a fast paced, interesting book. Mr Patterson and David Ellis make a great duo.

This is one of the best James Patterson books I have ever read! I honestly couldn't put it down till I finished it!

Just when I thought I had everything figured out, there was another twist! This book left me shaking my head and my mouth hanging open and saying how could you? How could they? How could he? Wow! It was like I was sitting on the jury listening to every word of testimony. I don't know if James Patterson can top this book. I probably will reread this book over and over again for years to come.

Everyone assumes (correctly) that a missing black book "which may or may not be literally black or a book" was kept by the madam of a deluxe brothel frequented by prominent Chicagoans. It would contain the names of the patrons and of the police who allowed the business to function in exchange for payoffs. You can see why a lot of people want to get their hands on the black book. At least one of them is a killer. The story, which alternates between present and past, begins with the discovery of three shooting victims in the bedroom of a high-priced condo. Two are dead "a woman detective and a woman prosecutor. The third victim barely survives but remembers nothing. He is Detective Billy Harney, our protagonist, the son of a top cop and the twin brother of a woman officer. Forensics points to him as the perp. Not long before, Billy led a raid on that brothel. Among those arrested were the mayor and the archbishop. Will the case be dismissed

because Billy did not have a probable-cause warrant? Billy is put on trial for the murder of the two women in the condo plus the madam and a cop. (He had, shall we say, intimate relations with both women killed in the condo.) After a violent encounter, his memory is restored. He is able to testify about what happened in the condo. Not what the reader expects. As a former police-news reporter in Chicago, I enjoyed revisiting the Windy City. Every chapter ends with a bang. But the timeline is tough to believe. Two big trials seem to begin almost immediately after charges are filed. Justice is not that swift in Chicago or anywhere else. The astonishingly prolific James Patterson has more than 160 titles over (or under) his name. Co-author James Ellis, an Illinois judge, has written nine novels. I don't know who composes the music and who writes the lyrics, but they make a good team. Patterson calls this book "the best work I have done in 20 years." Maybe it is.

Kept me interested These days some books get you at the first few chapters and then let you down. This one kept me interested and waiting for more twists and turns. The ending chapters kept you guessing and I did figure out that part..

Patterson and Ellis combine to write a story with more twists than a mountain trail. The hero and principal character is a career Chicago detective as are his father and female twin. The novel deals with police and political corruption in the nation's third largest city. It is filled with raw emotion and frequent raw language; but both are well within the limits of the plot. The hero, William "Billy" Harney is a highly competent cop who enjoys doing standup comedy in a cop bar in his off time. The writing style is unique, constantly switching from the current to the past and back again. Similarly, character dialogue and Billy's thoughts are intertwined in almost every paragraph. Like some other reviewers, I guessed the villain about two-thirds of the way through only to be caught by additional surprises at the end. It all makes for a highly entertaining read that I expect to be adapted to a blockbuster screen play.

As James Patterson advertised on TV, this truly is one of his best books and I've never been disappointed in any of his books. The book moves from the past to the present to the past building the story of what happened. It is full of twists, turns and surprises. You won't be disappointed!

Definitely worthy of the 5-star rating but there is a "complaint": Patterson's novels tend to be worthy of an intense, focused & dedicated reading time, meaning that they are usually read within a 24 hour period, hungry for more -- just like trying to eat only one potato chip!

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