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"There is no way one can put down 3RD DEGREE once it has been started."
-Bookreporter.com

"Fans of Patterson will gobble up this installment, and newcomers will become instant converts."
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3rd degree

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- [MIRACLE ON THE 17TH GREEN](#)
- [KISS THE GIRLS](#)
- [WHEN THE WIND BLOWS](#)

The Women's Murder Club

- [4th OF JULY](#) with Maxine Paetro
- [3RD DEGREE](#)
- [2ND CHANCE](#)
- [1ST TO DIE](#)

Reading Group Guides

- [SUZANNE'S DIARY FOR NICHOLAS](#)
- [SAM'S LETTERS TO JENNIFER](#)

review murdered, and another message is left. Boxer brings the rest of the Women's Murder Club --- Washburn, San Francisco Assistant D.A. Jill Bernhardt and *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Cindy Thomas --- into the mix. The nature of these crimes is such that the Federal government also becomes quickly involved, with that involvement in part manifested by the presence of Joe Molinari, Deputy Director of the Department of Homeland Security. Boxer and Molinari soon find themselves involved as well.

Patterson and Gross handle this aspect of the story quite well, straddling the line between the male and female demographics of their audience and making the courtship, romance and afterprom credible from both viewpoints. They also do an exquisitely restrained job of describing the flora and fauna of San Francisco. They keep the city in the background, giving you just enough of a description of the surroundings that there is no doubt where you are, yet making sure that the scenery doesn't get in the way of the story line.

And quite a story line it is, as August Spies continue their reign of terror, aiming at one particularly surprising target. Longtime readers of Patterson know that when they pick up one of his books, they can expect the unexpected --- but what occurs here is over the top, even for him. It is precisely this target, however, that leads the Women's Murder Club to the motivation behind the dastardly acts of August Spies --- and to the identities of the madmen behind them.

review Patterson, in spite of (or perhaps because of) his prodigious output, never disappoints, and there is no doubt that 3RD DEGREE will add new members to his already loyal legion of fans. If you have yet to encounter Patterson or the Women's Murder Club, this is the perfect introduction to both.

--- Reviewed by Joe Hartlaub

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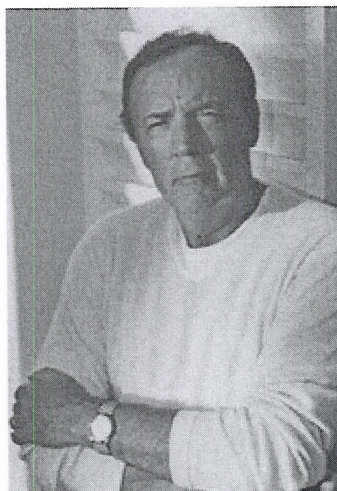
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JAMES PATTERSON

BOOKS INTRODUCTION MOVIES THE WOMEN'S MURDER CLUB ALEX CROSS NEWS CONTACT



James Patterson Bio

Interview with JP

Photo Gallery

Author Appearances

MEET JAMES PATTERSON

James Patterson is one of the top-selling novelists in the world today. His debut novel, *The Thomas Berryman Number*, won the Edgar Award for the best first mystery novel. It was published by Little, Brown in 1976 when he was just twenty-seven years old, after being turned down by more than two dozen other publishers.

He has since written a string of major national bestsellers that includes the nine books in the series featuring detective/psychologist Alex Cross - *Along Came a Spider*, *Kiss the Girls*, *Jack & Jill*, *Cat & Mouse*, *Pop Goes the Weasel*, *Roses are Red*, *Violets are Blue*, *Four Blind Mice*, *The Big Bad Wolf* and *London Bridges*-- as well as *Sam's Letters to Jennifer*, *The Lake House*, *The Jester*, *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*, *Cradle and All*, *When the Wind Blows*, and *Hide & Seek*. There are currently three books in the bestselling "Women's Murder Club" series, *1st To Die*, *2nd Chance* and *3rd Degree*. His first foray into the picture book genre, *santaKid* is destined to become a holiday classic.

Paramount Pictures' feature film adaptation of *Kiss the Girls*, starring Morgan Freeman as Alex Cross, was a box office hit in 1997. Morgan Freeman reprised the Cross role in the film adaptation of the first novel in the series, *Along Came a Spider* in 2001. NBC bought the rights to *1st To Die* and aired a three hour mini series starring Tracy Pollan and Gil Bellows in February 2003. *Miracle on the 17th Green*, a novel co-written with Peter de Jonge, was also made into a television movie, starring Robert Ulrich.

In addition to writing novels, Mr. Patterson served as chairman of J. Walter Thompson, North America from 1990 to 1996. He began his advertising career as a junior copywriter with the company in 1971 and went on to become the youngest executive creative director and youngest chief executive officer in the company's history. He made his mark at the agency by creating award-winning campaigns for Kodak, Burger King, Toys R' Us, Bell Atlantic, Bristol-Myers and others. He collaborated with advertising colleague Peter Kim to produce the nonfiction bestseller *The Day America Told the Truth*.

Patterson grew up in Newburgh, New York. He graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English from Manhattan College and summa cum laude with an M.A. in English from Vanderbilt University.

James Patterson lives in Palm Beach County, Florida, with his wife and their young son.

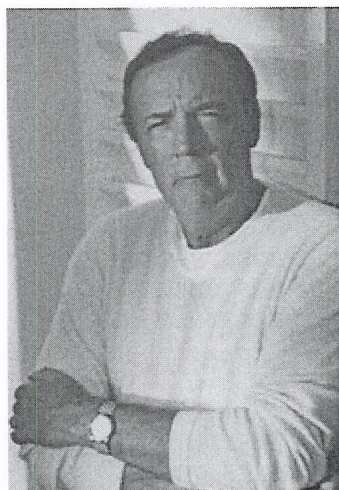


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JAMES PATTERSON

[BOOKS](#) [INTRODUCTION](#) [MOVIES](#) [THE WOMEN'S MURDER CLUB](#) [ALEX CROSS](#) [NEWS](#) [CONTACT](#)[James Patterson Bio](#)[Interview with JP](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Author Appearances](#)

MEET JAMES PATTERSON

A Conversation with James Patterson about *Four Blind Mice*

Q. Will *Four Blind Mice* describe the last Detective Alex Cross case?

A. I will guarantee readers this: if Alex returns, he will be very different from the way he is now.

Q. The NBC miniseries for *1st to Die* is scheduled to air soon. Did you visit the set? What did you think about the casting?

A. What excites me the most about *1st to Die* is that they set out to make a movie movie rather than a TV movie. The director is from cinema and they really went out of their way to get exceptional actors. Tracy Pollan, Pam Grier, and Robert Patrick are exceptional in their parts. It was also gratifying that the producer/writer stayed close to the story of the book. I can't wait to see *1st to Die*, and NBC also recently bought the second book in the series.

Q. What's next for James Patterson?

A. In March I'll be publishing a historical thriller called *The Jester*. It takes place around the time of the First Crusade. The publisher's line is 'every thousand years or so a truly great adventure story comes along.' *The Jester* is the kind of historical novel that readers are used to, but at a faster and more exciting pace.

Q. How has your fan base responded to your non-Alex Cross novels, including *1st to Die* and *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*?

A. Interesting to both myself and my publisher, *1st to Die* and *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* have both outsold the Alex Cross novels.

Q. You write two or three books a year. How do you come up with fresh ideas for that many stories?

A. I have a big thick folder of story ideas, far too many for me to actually write. I'm incredibly fascinated by how a story will turn out once I begin to write it. That's my chief motivation for doing two or three books a year.

Q. Would you ever do a cameo in a movie based on one of your books?

A. No way! I'm holding out for the romantic lead in *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*.

Read a [Conversation with James Patterson](#) about *The Beach House*.



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EL TRANSPORTE REALIZADO EN VIRTUD DE ESTE CONTRATO ESTA SUJETO A LAS NORMAS Y LIMITACIONES RELATIVAS A RESPONSABILIDAD ESTABLECIDAS POR EL CONVENIO DE VARSOVIA A MENOS QUE EL TRANSPORTE NO SEA "TRANSPORTE INTERNACIONAL" SEGUN SE DEFINE EN DICHO CONVENIO.

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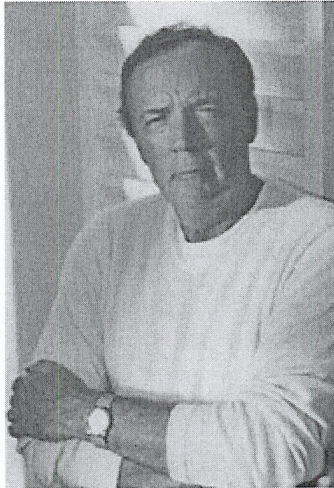
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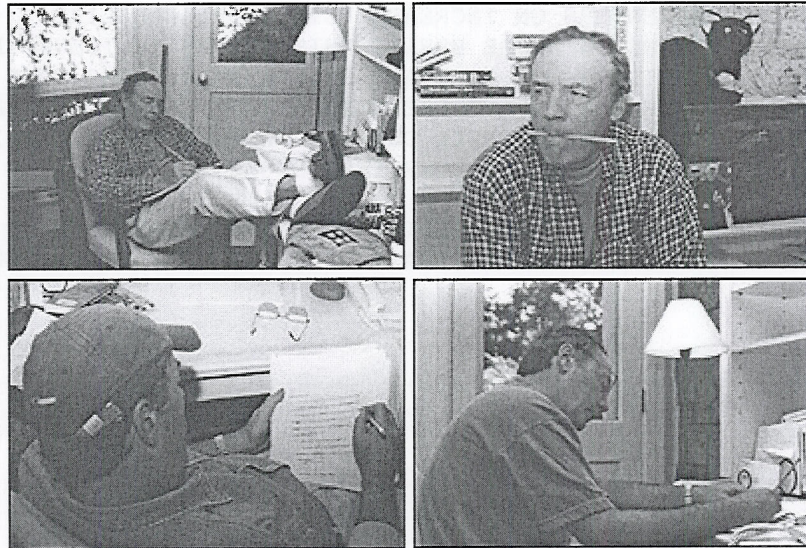
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James Patterson at Work



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