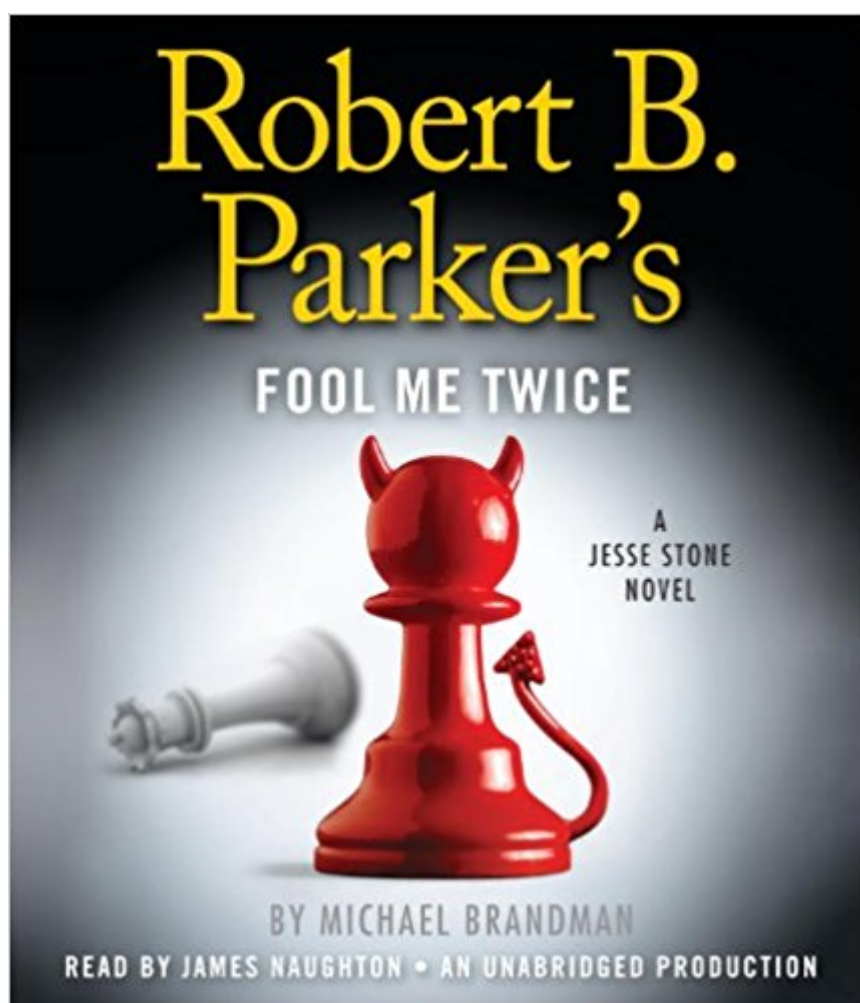


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Robert B. Parker's Fool Me Twice: A Jesse Stone Novel (Jesse Stone Novels)



Synopsis

Autumn in Paradise, Massachusetts, is usually an idyllic time—but not this year. A Hollywood movie company has come to town, and brought with it a huge cast, crew, and a troubled star. Marisol Hinton is very beautiful, reasonably talented, and scared out of her wits that her estranged husband's jealousy might take a dangerous turn. When she becomes the subject of a death threat, Jesse and the rest of the Paradise police department go on high alert. And when Jesse witnesses a horrifying collision caused by a distracted teenage driver, the political repercussions of her arrest bring him into conflict with the local selectmen, the DA, and some people with very deep pockets. There's murder in the air, and Jesse's reputation as an uncompromising defender of the law—and his life—are on the line.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When a movie crew comes to Paradise, Massachusetts, it's a boon to the local economy but a major headache for Police Chief Jesse Stone and his understaffed department. And that's if everything goes well. But the star of the movie, Marisol Hinton, is terrified that her estranged and meth-addicted husband will try to harm her. Since the Paradise PD can't provide around-the-clock protection, Jesse arranges to have Crow, an old friend and professional tough guy, at Hinton's side. When he's not babysitting show-biz types, Jesse attempts to counsel a young, privileged teenage girl with potentially crippling authority issues. And there's also the seemingly mundane matter of curiously increasing Paradise water bills. Brandman, in his second

go-round as the caretaker of the late Parker's Stone franchise, does solid job here (much better than in his earlier Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues (2011)). He nails Parker's compressionist prose this time and isn't quite as predictable in his plotting as the master had become. Parker's protagonists frequently offered tough love to wayward youngsters, but this time there's a little edge to the proceedings, as the water-department scandal adds a genuinely clever wrinkle. As for the stalker and the movie star? Let's just say tough guys gotta do what tough guys gotta do. --Wes Lukowsky --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

• "A great addition to the series." • "West Orlando News" • "No one understands what makes Bob Parker's Jesse Stone tick better than Michael Brandman..." • "Tom Selleck, star of the Jesse Stone TV movies" • "Spencer is the invincible knight, the timeless hero of American detective fiction, then Jesse Stone is the flawed hero of the moment." • "The New York Times Book Review --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The 2010 death of author Robert B. Parker left many fans bereft; no more Spenser, Jesse Stone, Cole & Hitch, (maybe some Sunny Randall mourners) books. Then Parker's estate contracted other authors to continue his work. Ace Atkins has done a superb job with Spenser and his novels are as close to the original as we're likely to get. I was never a huge fan of the Jesse Stone stories in print but enjoyed the TV versions featuring Tom Selleck. That said, I had hopes that these might be OK given that Brandman was a writer for the television movies so thought they'd be worth a shot. Brandman captures the pacing, short chapter style and somewhat terse dialog of Parker's but the characters seemed off and Jesse more like Spenser. Brandman also makes a number of technical errors; others have mentioned the airbag deflation mistake early in the book. It's also apparent the author has little familiarity with firearms, he repeatedly refers to semi-automatic pistols as "automatics". At one point he has Jesse confronted with a "45 millimeter Ruger"- wow, that's some handgun. The bore of a 45mm would be bigger than a shot glass, he obviously meant .45 caliber. The plot(s) were just so-so and while it was nice to visit with some familiar characters I'm not sure any future efforts will be worth the time.

Okay, I've thought about it and I tried. I started to write this review several times and had to stop and start over. I may as well say it: Brandman is turning Jesse Stone into a wimp and I don't like it at all. Where Ace Atkins has managed to continue the Spenser legacy as close as possible to Parker's character, Brandman appears to be trying to create a kinder, gentler Jesse Stone that doesn't come

across as valid. First there was the cat thing from the previous Brandman book. I can live with that--I like cats okay although I'm really a dog guy at heart. But now we have a Jesse Stone that is more of an environmentally aware social worker than police chief. The Compassionate Green Cop From Paradise. It's a suit of clothes that doesn't fit the Jesse Stone I met through Robert B. Parker. Sure, Parker's Stone had his faults--Scotch whisky and an ex-wife to name a couple. Still, Parker's Stone was the better character because of all his demons and psychological hang ups and shortcomings. Brandman's Stone is simply a shadow of the original Stone. Putting aside Brandman's lack of knowledge of weaponry for a moment, Brandman got the dialog down extremely well. The best parts of the book are those short sections when the characters converse. But you can't carry the book on dialog alone. The remainder of "Fool Me Twice" is weak. I've read that Brandman is associated with the Jesse Stone TV productions in some capacity. I think that might be the reason for the weakness here. The dialog is strong but there needs to be a good director in charge of the action sequences. Now to the mistakes concerning the weaponry in the book. I haven't read the other reviews yet so someone probably has pointed out that Brandman arms his bad guys with some pretty odd guns. The weirdest of the bunch is a ".45mm". That's POINT FORTY FIVE MILLIMETER. That's a caliber of less than one half millimeter. I guess that gun is popular in Lilliput. I doubt there's one available in Massachusetts. That's the biggest blunder on weaponry I remember but there were several others. It's just lazy writing and the lack of good editing. There's just enough of the Robert B. Parker writing style here to keep me from totally disliking this book. It's pretty mediocre, however. And it's not as good as Brandman's previous Stone book which was not a barn burner either. In that respect, Brandman probably "fooled me twice". The next Jesse Stone book will not be a priority read for me.

I noticed a few reviews make it sound like this author's style is noticeably different (and worse) than Parker's. I don't know where they're getting that. To me, this reads just like virtually every other Jesse Stone novel... except for the lack of Jenn, who is missed by nobody. I honestly forgot I was reading a different author, except for maybe a handful of sentences. I don't think Parker has his characters nuzzling cats quite as much. But Brandman hits all the right notes where it counts and the books have the right tone. Maybe it depends on whether you're a "Parker fan" or if Robert B. Parker was just one author out of several you automatically buy once a new book is released. I'm looking forward to the next one.

I love the idea of keeping Parker's characters alive. In theory. In practice, Brandman's Jesse Stone

is barely recognizable. Yes, the sparse dialogue is there, and the drinking habits, and the iron character, and the supporting cast, and for a minute we're seduced into feeling at home again in Paradise. It's not a feeling that lasts long. The plot here is quite sparse and uninteresting, which could be forgiven with enough character development and good writing. Sadly, both of these are absent. But mostly it's the truly bad writing. Brandman, for reasons which I can only chalk up to his being an amateur, switches wildly from one character's point of view to another, with abrupt and sloppy scene changes between chapters. His style of setting a scene is especially clumsy and ham-handed-- he explains way too much rather than revealing scenes through interesting action. This was Parker's gift and we are made to miss him all the more by this very poor imitation. Perhaps it would be better to let Jesse Stone and Bob Parker rest in peace.

Fool I am for purchasing this novel. Loved Parkers Jesse Stone novels and tv movies. I read killing the blues by Brandman, disliked some of it but realized it was a difficult task to keep the the characters/stories exactly right. Read Fool me twice and it is terrible, I can let the cat go, the meth head bad guy go but the preachy tree hanging, save the planet, brough beating crap is unforgivable. All these positive reviews is baffling, even if you never read a prior Jesse Stone novel this book is terrible. Shame on the editor/publisher for printing this.

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