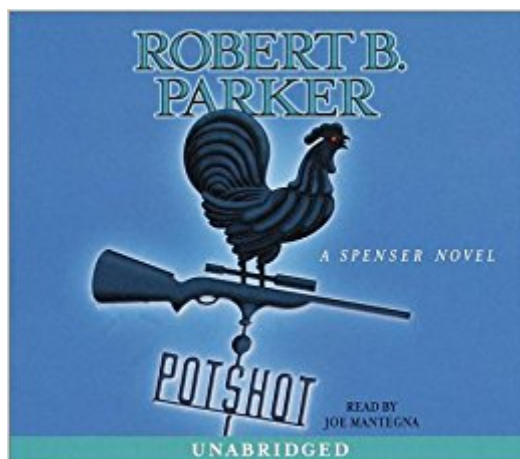


The book was found

Potshot: A Spencer Novel (Spenser Novels)



Synopsis

Six CDs, 6 hrs. performance by Joe Mantegna Boston P.I. Spenser returns â” heading west to the rich man's haven of Potshot, Arizona, a former mining town recently reborn as a paradise for Los Angeles millionaires looking for a place to escape the pressures of their high-flying lifestyles. When a band of modern-day mountain men, led by a charismatic individual known as The Preacher, takes over the town, even the local police are powerless to defend the residents in the face of the clever, dangerous gang. Spenser assembles a group of his own, including the redoubtable Hawk, to beat the gang at their own dangerous game and form the nucleus of a real police force to watch over the town when he's gone.

Book Information

Series: Spenser Novels

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (March 20, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553712470

ISBN-13: 978-0553712476

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 4.9 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (194 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,061,630 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 inÂ Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (P) > Parker, Robert B. #382 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >

Religious #382 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Fiction

Customer Reviews

As an avid Spenser fan for the past 15 years, I bought this book the day it came out. After devouring it in one sitting - my son went to bed early that night! - I am left with very mixed emotions. The story itself is good, but not great. Mary Lou Buckman hires Spenser to find out what happened to her husband in the half tourist trap/half backwater town of Potshot, AZ. As always, the beautiful blonde client is honesty-challenged, the wife of the local real estate broker is after him, and the head cop is involved (think Walking Shadow). This is not one of his better plot lines - see Sudden Mischief or Ceremony for a true mystery/whodunnit type book. Reading Parker, however, always involves much more than the plot. His clean, elegant writing style and story pacing is without par, and no one delivers the dry humor the way Parker does. If Potshot were simply another in the Spenser series, I

would be inclined to rate it three stars and chalk it up as a solid but not terrifically distinguished entry. I have read some of the other reviews of this book, and a few people seemed to catch on to the fact that something is changing in the world of Spenser. This book has the feel of a farewell, and speaking as someone who has read this series since my teen years, that really bothers me. The clues are there: Spenser rounded up EVERYONE of distinction from his previous novels (he even included a brief reference to Mei Ling, the Chinese student who served as a translator and Hawk's girlfriend in *Walking Shadow*), he mentions that the beloved Pearl is getting old, and even Susan contributes to the feeling by giving up shopping (!) to take a long drive with Spenser. Minor details, I realize, but it definitely gives the book a different flavor from all the previous entries.

When Spenser first talks to Mary Lou Buckman about investigating the death of her husband he knew it would be a tough job. After all, the suspects were a gang of 40 ne'er-do-wells living in the hills around Potshot, Arizona. These western gangsters had recently been organized by a sociopath known as 'The Preacher,' and were terrorizing the town. A visit to Potshot Spencer that there is something rotten going on. The town, nestled in the mountains was a Mecca for those suffering from urban flight syndrome. Aside from the Preacher and his 40 thieves Potshot's resident population includes a suspiciously inactive police force, a non-productive film producer and a real estate salesman with a way oversexed wife. Spenser quickly discovers that it isn't just Bebe the real estate woman who is oversexed. It seems that almost all the cast has had some history with each other. Realizing this was far more than a one-man job Spenser heads back to Boston to assemble a militia of tough guys that reads like the Robert B. Parker hall of fame. Naturally Hawk is included, and Vinnie, another Boston professional, Tedy Sapp from Georgia, Bernard J. Fortunato, and finally Chollo and Bobby Horse from Los Angeles. This adds up to seven, and if you are getting the feeling that Parker is parodying *The Magnificent Seven* a bit, you might not be wrong. In addition, while investigating Mary Lou in Los Angeles Spenser is menaced by two employees of Morris Tannenbaum, one of the big West Coast gangster chiefs. It's pretty clear that all is not what it seems, but Spenser is unable to resolve his suspicions.

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