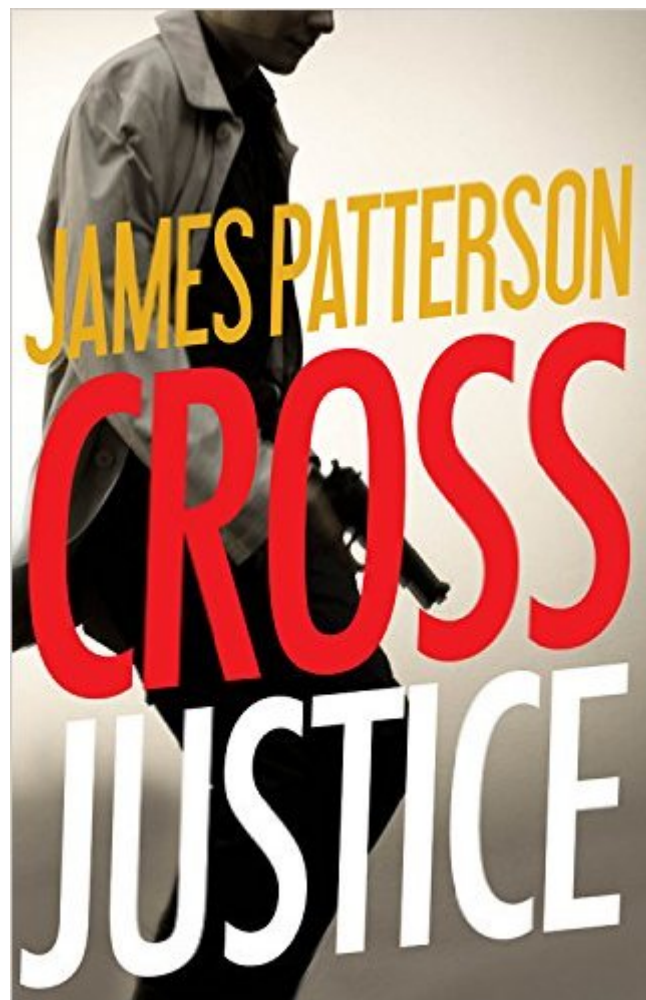


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Cross Justice



Synopsis

The toughest cases hit closest to home. Alex Cross left his hometown, and some awful family tragedies, for a better life with Nana Mama in Washington, DC. He hasn't looked back. Now his cousin Stefan has been accused of a horrible, unthinkable murder, and Cross drives south with Bree, Nana Mama, Jannie, and Ali to Starksville, North Carolina, for the first time in thirty-five years. Back home, he discovers a once proud community down on its luck, and local residents who don't welcome him with open arms. As Cross steps into his family home, the horrors of his childhood flood back--and he learns that they're not really over. He brings all his skill to finding out the truth about his cousin's case. But truth is hard to come by in a town where no one feels safe to speak. Chasing his ghosts takes Cross all the way down to the sugarcane fields of Florida, where he gets pulled into a case that has local cops needing his kind of expertise: a string of socialite murders with ever more grisly settings. He's chasing too many loose ends--a brutal killer, the truth about his own past, and justice for his cousin--and any one of the answers might be fatal. In *Cross Justice*, Alex Cross confronts the deadliest--and most personal--case of his career. It's a propulsive, edge-of-your-seat thrill ride that proves you can go home again--but it just might kill you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

TO SAY THAT THE twenty third volume of this apparently ever lasting series of crime novels gets off to a good start would be a massive understatement. The reader is gifted with a prologue that possesses a truly classic opening sentence, and this same prologue ends with the kind of cliff hanger that could end a volume of a multi part fantasy epic. Well, not really, but you can see that I

am speaking in metaphors, right? Part One of the book is also an enlightening way to learn of the upbringing of one of the world's most famous crime fighters. Alex Cross loved his family dearly (as all children do) but we see that Alex's mother was in fact deeply flawed and traumatised by her own set of internal demons. One doesn't grow up wanting to capture the world's sickest weirdo's without a reason, and maybe this is one of them for our hero. The trip back home for the Washington-based Cross family to Starksville is bittersweet, and experiencing this part of the back story will only add more depth and emotional attachment to the Cross Legend and the books overall. Having said all of that, the book is essentially about the fight to clear the name of the cousin of Alex Cross, charged with a truly heinous series of crimes. The same small town of Starksville, where the Cross family still live, is also the less than proud owner of its own violent culture of drugs and alcohol and this is where the cousin has been entrapped by the law. His family, of course, don't doubt his innocence, and with Alex Cross on the scene the reader has to assume that it will all come good at the end.

Cross Justice, James Patterson, author; Ruben Santiago-Hudson, narrator At first, when the narrator starts reading, it is a bit off-putting. His voice almost lulls the reader into a trance, but then, as the story develops, it picks up a cadence and tone that keeps the reader enthralled and wide awake. Each character has a distinct voice and personality. This book has a similar plot line to the recent book by Michael Connelly, which also has a similar title, "The Crossing". There is a criminal who insists he is falsely accused and law enforcement is corrupt; drugs, rape and murder are afoot. Then the storyline veers in an entirely different direction. If you liked "The Crossing", you will probably also like this book and vice versa. When the book opens, there is a beautiful woman named Coco in a Palm Beach mansion. She is selecting clothes and jewelry from the closet of the woman she has just murdered. She shows no remorse for the crime, but rather thinks she was justified in performing her heinous act. Coco is a cross dresser, a man, who in that moment of time truly believes he is a woman. At the same time as this occurs, Dr. Alex Cross, his wife Bree, their son and daughter are in a car on their way to Starksville, North Carolina. Alex has not returned to see his family there in decades. He has few memories of his life there, and some of those that he has are distorted. Alex and Bree are both detectives with the Washington DC metro police. Recently, they have suffered through some trying times, and this trip, taking Alex back to his roots, is supposed to help them recover from that stress. Making matters a bit more complicated for them is the fact that their cousin Stefan has recently been arrested.

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