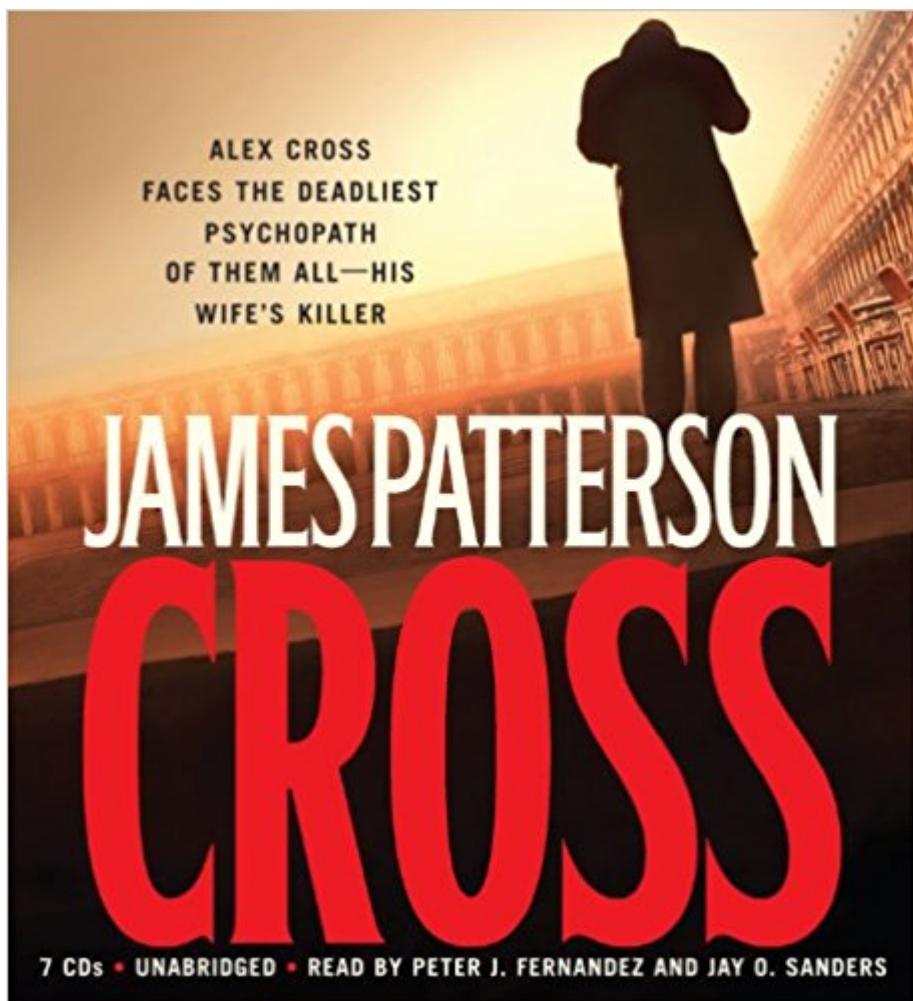


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## Alex Cross: Also Published As CROSS



## **Synopsis**

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING TYLER PERRY Alex Cross was a rising star in the Washington, DC, Police Department when an unknown shooter gunned down his wife, Maria, in front of him. Alex's need for vengeance was placed on hold as he faced another huge challenge-raising his children without their mother. Years later Alex is making a bold move in his life. He has left the FBI and set up practice as a psychologist once again. His life with Nana Mama, Damon, Jannie, and little Alex finally feels like it's in order. He even has a chance at a new love. Then Cross's former partner, John Sampson, calls in a favor. Now Cross must go on the hunt for the most cunning, psychotic killer he has ever faced...and it pushes him dangerously close to the breaking point.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD: 7 pages

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing; Rei Una edition (August 28, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1619694107

ISBN-13: 978-1619694101

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 726 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #557,316 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( P ) > Patterson, James #1337 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General #2832 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > TV, Movie, Video Game Adaptations

## **Customer Reviews**

Forensic psychologist Alex Cross's storied career in private practice, with the FBI and as a Washington, D.C., cop has brought him into contact with all kinds of seriously disturbed killers, but his 12th outing from bestseller Patterson (after 2005's *Mary, Mary*) may be the ultimate in lunatic deadliness. Beginning with a flashback to the murder of Cross's wife, Maria, Patterson quickly introduces Michael Sullivan (aka the Butcher of Sligo). What follows is a frenetically paced series of brutal rapes and killings by Sullivan, once employed by the mob as a freelancer and now at war with them. Cross juggles being a single parent and being involved in the dangerous game of tracking serial killers until he finally decides to give it up for his family. Needless to say, he's drawn back into

the game when it promises a chance of finding Maria's killer. Cross's competence and vulnerability make a stark contrast with Sullivan's sadistic mutilations and psychological manipulations of his victims. Fans know that Cross will survive, but at what cost? (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Patterson's departure from the nursery-rhyme titles in his latest Alex Cross yarn is a tip-off that the focus this time is not so much on the case as on the man. For the first time in Patterson's 13-year-old series, we relive the day in 1993 when Cross' wife, Maria, was murdered. Alex was a young gun with the D.C. police then, and Maria was a social worker in the poorest and most dangerous section of the city before she became the victim of a drive-by shooting. Cut to the present, and Alex--who has been with the FBI for some time, become a successful crime writer, and started to lose a bit of that "dragon slayer" touch--decides to devote more time to his three kids, much to the delight of Nana Mama, Alex's nonagenarian three-in-one grandmother, nanny, and guiding light. Alex is nothing if not loyal, so when his former partner John Sampson asks him to help track down a sicko who is serially raping Georgetown coeds, Alex cannot say no. Little does he know, however, that the search for the rapist will have ties to Maria's death. That her killer was never found is a constant source of frustration for Alex, and this case offers a chance to finally put Maria's memory to rest. Even as the story whips by with incredible speed, Patterson manages to pack it full of suspense, emotion, and a resolution that, while perfectly satisfying, carries the author's trademark teaser hinting at the "more" that surely will come. Mary Frances WilkensCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

A mafia hit man is going around the world killing people ,and disfiguring them after they die, and them committing a rape in the general area afterwards.He tells the ones he allows to live not to say anything to any one and shows them pictures of people he has cut up , to maintain their silence.One of these victims talks to Maria Cross, the Doctors wife who is a nurse, but refuses to identify her attacker.The killer realizes this victim did indeed talk and he kills her and cuts up her face and then he tries to kill Maria Cross.Dr. Cross, a psychologist now, is brought into the case when the killer goes into his home to kill his wife, but leaves after talking with him for a couple of minutes. Maris is killed later that day.Dr. Cross becomes a consultant on the case and follows leads all around the D.C. area.Excellent story line and attention to detail, as is common with this writer. A great book in the series of Dr. Alex Cross.

I'm rather fond of the series, it's a comfort to sink into so you won't find any harsh lashings about it not being perfect, it's another ride in the body of Alex Cross, reading these books takes me into his skin and makes me live his life through his character and book twelve is a snakes eating its own tail but in a good way. Alex is on the trail of a killer who has haunted him for the past eleven years, the man who took Maria's life, the one who extinguished the existence of the perfect wife and mother and the person that the doctor loved most. The reader gets to see who took the life and why, some surprises and new action comes to place that gives the book a refreshing new direction, past is stirred as it catches up to the future, I rather enjoyed this chapter in the life of doctor Cross as he not only changes jobs but also takes on an enemy who will make the punishment harder to deliver than it looks, if caught one on one with the man who killed the love of your life do you shoot or recite his rights, the more the scale tips the blurrier the line between restraint and cold revenge, and Alex has more choices than time, all ticking against him. As usual this series always delivers a villain per every book or so, this one centers around the erratic but cunning Butcher who slides though law and order like the best ice skater on super speedy skates. He damages and leaves messages, his life almost a farce is hard to track and pin point and he might give Alex some much needed answers, as usual the reader gets to share the villain's and also the good guys mind which is the best thing about these books, the ending is so interesting that I can't wait to read the next in series!- Kasia S.

Always full of surprises, "The Dragonslayer," is in private practice again and has some success with new patients. Then he gets asked by Big John to act as a consultant on a case involving rapes of four D.C. Area women who WILL NOT talk about the rapist which gets both of them in the hunt for the "Butcher."

James Patterson never disappoints me. His books in this series gets better and better and harder to put down. This book had action every time you turned the page. It had suspense and the kind of thriller i liked to read because you never know what is going to happen next. I cannot wait to read the other books in his series.

The story begins when Alex Cross' idyllic life is shattered by the hit man who murders his wife. Cross had been a cop then, and the story jumps ahead to his career move to the FBI, after which an altercation with his grandmother prompts him to change careers again. In the present, Cross is a

therapist raising three children with help from Nana Mama, and only occasionally consulting for the Washington PD or the FBI. He gets pulled into the case of a serial rapist only because he believes it's the same man who murdered his wife. The Butcher was a mafia hit man who had fun mutilating his victims, and the FBI has wanted him for a long time, but he's like a shadow who leaves no trace of himself. In actuality, he's been raising a family in the suburbs, occasionally taking a job or venturing into the city to commit a rape or a murder, photographing his grisly deeds to frighten future victims. The story ambles along following both the lives of Alex Cross and the Butcher, Michael Sullivan. Sullivan is an interesting character, though his family life doesn't exactly ring true and there are several violent incidents he'd have a tough time explaining to his family that get glossed over and forgotten. Alex Cross is as exciting as oatmeal. The author obviously thinks highly of him, but I found him a bit too much of a great guy. He's one of those people who can whimsically pick and choose from professional careers, and never utters a misplaced word or commits a dastardly deed. And what a dad! He's also the hope and salvation of more than one branch of law enforcement because he's such an incredible detective, but he's so terribly bland about it, I found myself wishing something bad would happen just to liven things up. Also, in an apparent bid to ensure the book made money even if sales were low, Patterson seems to have worked out a deal with Mercedes, singing the praises of their crossover vehicle several dozen times too often. I half expected to see Mercedes in the acknowledgements, or at least find their logo on the cover. Though I have read a Women's Murder Club book by Patterson and liked it a lot, that same feeling did not translate to this book. Not only was the change between points of view jarring, Alex Cross is a snore. He's easily the most vanilla lead character I've come across in a long time. Patterson has quite a following, and some of his books are good, but this one fell far short of impressing me.

First James Patterson books were GREAT. However, the last one I read was written with no real ending. I believe he is now writing books with open ending only to sell the next book. I will not purchase any more.

Reading this series, I've always wondered what exactly happened to Maria and who did it; now I know. I'd still like to have known what happened to little Alex's mom. I'm sure it'll be in the next book, at least I hope so.

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