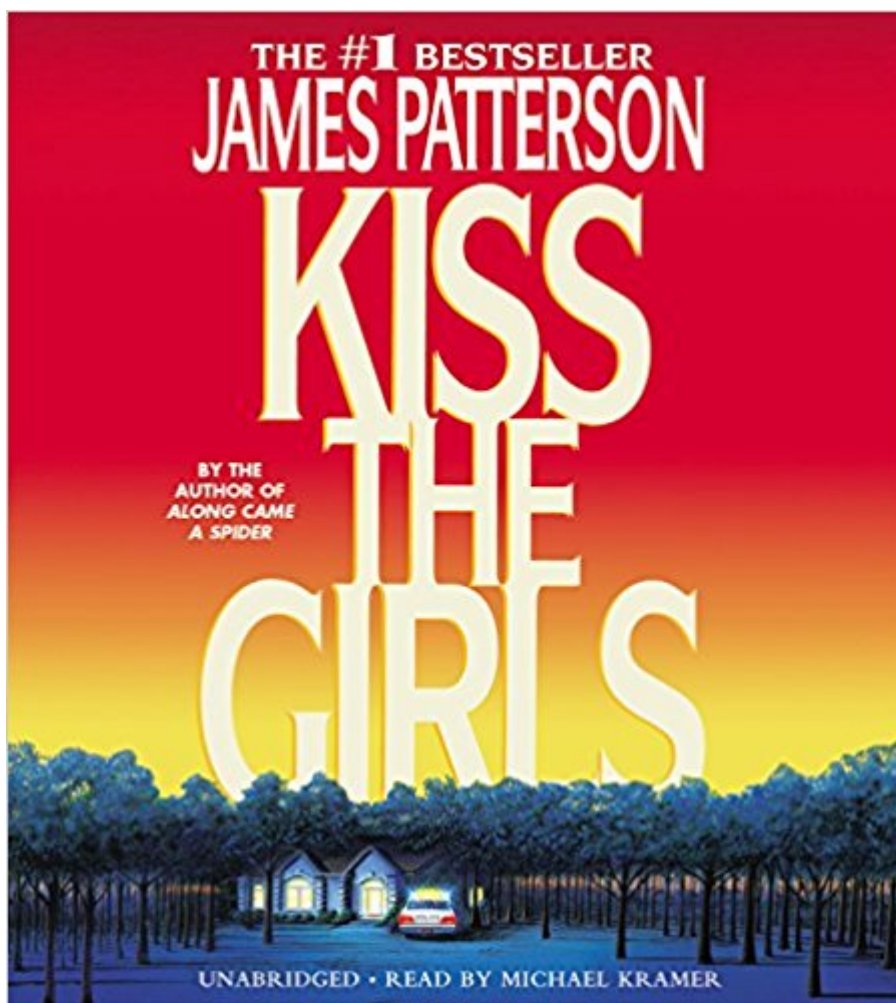




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## Kiss The Girls (Alex Cross)



## Synopsis

In Los Angeles, a reporter investigating a series of murders is killed. In Chapel Hill, North Carolina, a beautiful medical intern suddenly disappears. Washington D.C.Us Alex Cross is back to solve the most baffling and terrifying murder case ever. Two clever pattern killers are collaborating, cooperating, competing--and they are working coast to coast.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Casanova" works the East Coast, "The Gentleman Caller" works the West Coast, and these two serial killers might just be working together. Washed-up Washington, D.C., police detective Alex Cross gets involved when his niece is abducted. Since this is a new work by the author of the best-selling *Along Came a Spider* (LJ 12/92), don't be surprised that Paramount has bought the film rights and that BOMC has made it a main selection. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Advertising executive Patterson doubles neither our pleasure nor our fun by giving us two intense, Hannibal Lecter-type murderers for the price of one in an improbable and hopelessly derivative mess of a thriller. Feds and local authorities on both coasts are baffled by a pair of serial killers targeting beautiful young women: The Gentleman Caller works the scene in sunny L.A., where he brutally murders and dismembers his prey; his counterpart back East, who calls himself Casanova, trolls the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area for sexy coeds to victimize. Their MOs provide plenty of

fodder for an author trying to cook up a work of psychological terror: Both are powerful, handsome, brilliant (natch), commit perfect crimes, and, despite their busy schedules, manage to keep in touch with each other. To catch them, you obviously need a perfect crime fighter. Enter Alex Cross, the Washington, D.C., detective/psychologist hero of bestselling *Along Came A Spider* (1993), who gets dragged into all this after his niece Naomi, a student at Duke University, vanishes. Working with the authorities and a medical student named Kate McTiernan, who was lucky enough to escape Casanova's clutches, Cross begins to understand how the two dueling psychos operate. Just in the nick of time, too, because the Gentleman Caller, on the run from the law out West, decides that nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina with his old buddy Casanova. So, what does Cross, whose favorite niece is now in the clutches of two sickos, do? Fall in love with Kate McTiernan, of course, in an ill-placed romantic subplot intended to raise the stakes in the deadly cat-and-mouse game. Does Cross save Naomi? Are the two killers brought to justice or, at the very least, consigned to gory demises? Who cares? As a storyteller, Patterson is a great ad copywriter. (First printing of 275,000; film rights to Paramount; Book-of-the-Month Club main selection) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I love the relationships between the characters in these books. Alex with his son and daughter, with his grandmother, 81 year old Nanna Momma, who raised him when he lost his mother to a drive by shooting and is now helping raise his children. His best friend since childhood, 6'7" Samson, who is also a Washington police detective and always has Alex's back. I love the relationship between these two men. Everyone should have a best friend like this. They live and work in a world where the monsters look and masquerade as people, but are frighteningly monstrous. Where Alex struggles daily to keep his family and community safe from the monsters. Druggies, gang bangers, pushers, dealers and the monsters. Those who prey on the innocent, Those who molest, torture and kill because they feel entitled. The horror most of us are not familiar with.

"Kiss the Girls" is not only better than "Along Came A Spider" but it literally the best installment in the entire Alex Cross series! It upgrades its characters and it continues the story like a good sequel should do! The villains are great and all of the sub-plots fit the story. This is the first time that I actually feel like I'm reading an Alex Cross/detective story. It takes on the usual detective themes and uses them to the novel's advantage. I love the new character, Kate McTiernan. She is really interesting and fun to read about in this story. In fact, I love the idea of having Kate and Alex get into a relationship, because there is tons of evidence of them having feelings for each other and

Patterson does a great job making me want them to go that route. The chemistry between them is beautiful. The twist is very well done, not to mention the ending as well. While the ending to "Along Came A Spider" felt depressing, this novel corrects that mistake and gives us a true "Alex Cross" ending. It has that sadness, happiness, cliffhanger, and yet, satisfying feeling that makes it feel like "the end", along with "the adventure continues" as well. But the best part about this novel is that I have no problems with it! None at all! It begins and ends with a strong note, the pacing and timing of everything works, the characters are all done so wonderfully, and the story is amazing. "Kiss the Girls" is not just worth buying. It is worth reading over and over and over again! It is a timeless story that shows Patterson at his best and also takes the Alex Cross series to a whole new level! Please buy it!

A friend recommended that I read Along Came a Spider, I became hooked on the Alex Cross series. If it's possible, Kiss the Girls was even better than the 1st book! In Kiss the Girls, D.C.'s finest homicide detective and psychiatrist Alex Cross is given perhaps his toughest case to date with two serial killers who live in two completely different parts of the country. In Los Angeles, a reporter investigating a series of murders by a man known as The Gentleman is killed. The Gentleman lures his victims in and then proceeds to brutally murder and dismember them. On the east coast in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, a man known as Casanova trolls the Duke University area for young co-eds to have his way with in order to mentally break them and capitalize on them in their weakened state. The FBI and local authorities on both coasts are baffled and seek the services of Alex Cross for help. The plot thickens when Patterson introduces the possibility that not only are the two serial killers similar in the tactics they employ and the women they choose to target, but it would also appear that they are somehow collaborating, cooperating and even competing in a horrifying game of one-upsmanship. The case quickly becomes personal for Alex Cross when his own niece is among the abducted/missing young women on the east coast. Some questions include will Cross be able to save his niece and the other women in time or will his emotions cloud his judgment, thereby jeopardizing the case? Will the authorities be able to put the pieces together before each of these men murders yet another woman? One of the things I enjoyed about Kiss the Girls was that it was a very engaging read. Patterson writes his Alex Cross books in a way where the reader feels like they are knocking out one chapter after the other and before you know it you've read 50+ pages in a sitting. In addition, Cross is shown to be fallible in this book as well. It's good to see that the protagonist is capable of making mistakes from time to time and is human like the rest of us. Furthermore, Patterson throws in a few twists at the end as Cross misidentifies one of the killers

more than once and I felt that was great that it wasn't just a typical X-Y-Z detective novel. If you're looking for a good way to pass those summer days or need a good book to enjoy, I would certainly recommend this series! - Travis S.

James Patterson doesn't disappoint. If you like mysteries and want to be taken through the ringer, read Kiss the Girls. You never know what's going to happen next. The book is full of crazy bad guys and guys you don't know if you can trust. I liked the short chapters, but I ended up reading more chapters than I intended on reading each day. The plot was just that good and the character development was that great. Now I have to buy the next book in the series. I have to know what Dr. Cross is going to do next. Well written!

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