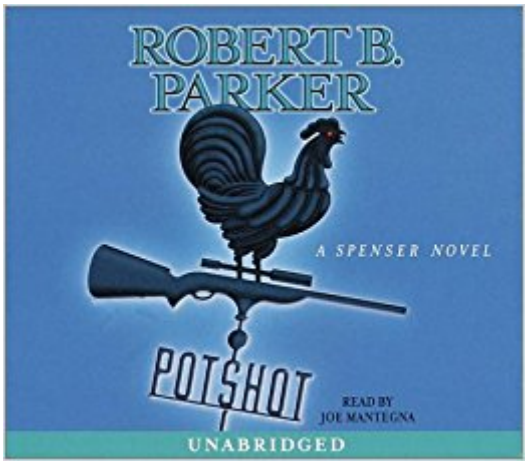
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Potshot: A Spencer Novel (Spenser Novels)



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Synopsis

Six CDs, 6 hrs.performance by Joe MantegnaBoston P.I. Spenser returns Ã¢â ¬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

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Shipping Weight: 9.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 207 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,048,942 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (P) > Parker, Robert B. #304 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Religious #305 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Fiction

Customer Reviews

Maybe Spenser's driven all the bad guys out of Boston. Which is too bad because on his home ground, the tough and tender PI and Hawk, his trusty sidekick, don't need a gang of other guys to do their work. And the hired guns they round up to help them clean out a nest of ne'er-do-wells who have the desert town of Potshot, Arizona, terrified aren't nearly as amusing as, say, John Dortmunder's criminal colleagues in Donald Westlake's caper novels. The thugs who populate the Dell, a scrubby little enclave just outside of town, have the locals in their pocket, which is why the pretty blonde who hires Spenser to find whoever killed her husband points him toward the Preacher, who rules the Dell and its denizens. But Spenser's not as certain as his client that Steve Buckman died at the Preacher's hands. As our hero and his ethnically diverse but politically incorrect

henchmen (one gay shooter, one Latino, one black, one Native American--all that's missing is Annie Oakley) investigate, it turns out that Spenser's right, as usual. The action ranges from Las Vegas to L.A., Atlanta to New Mexico, but much of it is a humdrum travelogue as Spenser rounds up his gang from all over the country to take on the Preacher and his musclemen. While Potshot isn't one of Robert B. Parker's best, it's still not bad. The one or two lines devoted to introducing Spenser's backup buddies don't begin to do any of them justice, and there's a lot more description of the artillery the guys pack than usual. But they do fill up the white space, and when the action lags, there's always Susan's dirty talk, shopping jones, and dietary obsessions to divert the reader. There's a midlife crisis somewhere in this evergreen series that's just waiting to erupt. Whether it's Spenser's, Susan's, or Parker's, however, remains to be seen. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

HThe Spenser series remains fresh after 28 novels in about 30 years. How does Parker do it? Through recurring characters as alive as any in fiction, and through exceptionally clean, graceful prose that links the novels as surely as do the characters. The author also refreshes himself through other writings the Sunny Randall series, for example, or Gunman's Rhapsody, a tale about Wyatt Earp that Putnam will publish in June. So even when Parker resorts to a bit of gimmickry, as he does here, the vitality of his storytelling prevails. The manifest gimmickry is Boston P.I. Spenser's corralling of sidekicks from previous novels Hawk, of course, but also gay Tedy Sapp from Hugger Mugger, sharpshooter Chollo from Thin Air, Vinnie Morris (from several novels) and a few others to deal with trouble in the Arizona town of Potshot. Spenser is hired by a sexy blonde to look into the shooting death there of her husband, who tangled with an outlaw group known as the Dell, which for years has extorted the citizens of Potshot. There's an eventual shootout, of course (there are enough parallels between this tale and that of Wyatt Earp to guess that Parker's forthcoming Earp novel inspired this one), but not before Spenser digs into the town's secrets, uncovering the expected but in detail, always surprising domestic mayhem and corruption. Genuinely scary villains, sassy dialogue, a deliciously convoluted mystery with roots in the classic western and Parker's pristine way with words result in another memorable case. (Mar.)Forecast: A BOMC Main Selection, this novel will hit the charts, as Spenser novels do. The gimmick involving the many sidekicks should only help sales and may even draw back a few readers who have strayed from the series.Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I do like the characters in this book and the way they are developed. I also enjoy that he brought back several characters from previous novels. It is the finish that I'm hung up on. This story does not resolve itself. I'm not someone who has to have every t crossed and every i dotted but too much is left to speculation here.

This is a Spenser, Hawk, et all great adventure with intrigue on all sides including asavvy "Preacher" who is a bad dude but can see the writing on the wall and the Boston plus gang gets the job done.

This novel opens with a very attractive lady hiring our man Spenser to track down the man who murdered her husband. She claims he was killed by a group of local thugs known as THE DELL who intimidate, threaten and demand protection money from local businesses and residents who comprise the town of Potshot. The initial meeting between Spenser and his new client is less than overwhelming. The superficial display of loss and mourning put on by Mary Lou fails to impress either Spenser or the reader. It does not take long for the shining light of righteousness to be fixed on the grieving widow which exposes her flaws in all their glory.The story is set in a remote part of suburban America, lying on the outskirts of Las Vegas, a few hours' drive from the nearest town. I must admit to suffering feelings of disappointment at the end of every chapter early in the book when Mr Parker's other two heroes of law enforcement - Everitt Hitch and Virgil Cole - fail to ride into town and give Spenser a hand in ridding the town of the local bullies. But such is life. The book moves on, and so do I. And as it happens, our man Spense has plenty of friends to rely on when the going gets tough, and in the town and book of Potshot, it surely will.Characterisation is as strong as ever. Indeed, we see sides to the regular characters in this book the reader has never before seen, and of course Mr Parker has brought in a cast of several to support both the plot and our man Soense in his time of need. Susan is there, in small doses, but we get an even greater level of understanding to the depth of their relationship, if that is at all possible.The solution to the mystery is surprisingly complex but still a joy to read. Layer upon layer of depth is added to the plot as you progress through the book until, right near the end, when the solution becomes obvious. By then, of course, it is too late for the bad guys to avoid their fate and so the veteran of many Spenser novels knows enough just to sit back, relax and enjoy the ride.In summary, then: POTSHOT is a very worthy recipient of a four star rating. I would given an extra half star for the book's originality if I could, but I can't. But it is still a great stand alone novel, and an excellent addition to the series. Even if it is not set in Beautiful Boston!

Don’t usually bother to rate books as it is such an individual taste, but had so much fun with this one I had to share. If you follow the Spenser series, all of his "thug" accomplices: his sidekick Hawk, his go-to guy in Boston Vinnie, his LA recruits Chollo and Bobby Horse, Tedy Sapp - a gay thug, for heaven’s sake! - and undersized Bernard J Fortuno from Las Vegas have all gathered in a cowtown outside the Sawtooth Mountains to rid the place of "other" thugs, who are holding the town hostage. Counting Spenser, that’s 7 - against the usual 30 to 40 guys. Parker is very careful to bring his characters to life with description, and this is no exception. The banter between these guys is hilarious, and even though they are all thugs in the truest sense of the word, you find yourself liking them. A really fun read, especially if you started the Spenser series from his first book "The Godwulf Manuscript".

Only Robert Parker fans will let him get away with this effort. With Spenser in the Yul Brenner role and Hawk as a supporting Steve McQueen, the good guys round up a collection of politically correct compadres (black, gay, American Indian, hispanic, Italian enforcer from Vegas) to clean the bad guys out of Potshot, Arizona. The dialogue, as always, is worth the effort of reading the book but the plot is pure Hollywood B western. There is a sub-plot of murder, greed, and land speculation but these seem to become secondary to the ambush of the bad guys at the Spenser compound. Spenser and Hawk are urban cowboys. Taking them out of their environment detracts from the legitimacy of what they do. Parker has seen the movie The Magnificent Seven too many times. If this trend continues in the future...

Skip this one unless you’ve read all the others and are desperate for one more. Parker’s plot is thin and contrived. The characters aren’t believable. The setting in the Arizona desert lacks color and depth : Parker should have kept Spenser in Boston where he knows the lay of the land. Spencer novels are fun....Potshot just doesn’t stand up well in comparison.

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