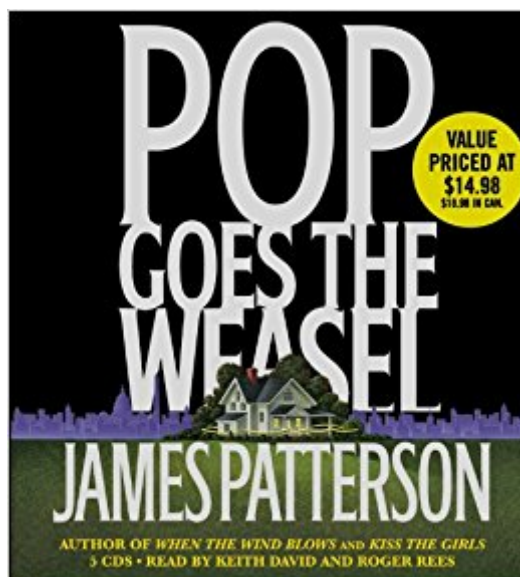


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Pop Goes The Weasel (Alex Cross Novels)



Synopsis

Detective Alex Cross is in love. But his happiness is threatened by a series of chilling murders in Washington, D.C., murders with a pattern so twisted, it leaves investigators reeling. Cross's ingenious pursuit of the killer produces a suspect—a British diplomat named Geoffrey Shafer. But proving that Shafer is the murderer becomes a potentially deadly task. As the diplomat engages in a brilliant series of surprising countermoves, in and out of the courtroom, Alex and his fiancée become hopelessly entangled with the most memorable nemesis Alex Cross has ever faced. Pop Goes the Weasel reveals James Patterson at the peak of his power. Here is a chilling villain no reader will forget, a love story of great tenderness, and a plot of relentless suspense and heart-pounding pace. To read Pop Goes the Weasel is to discover why James Patterson is one of the world's greatest suspense writers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Likened to a "young Muhammad Ali," Alex Cross, the Porsche-driving profiler, doctor, detective, and father of two has seen his fair share of vicious killers. From a bloodthirsty butcher who came after his family (Cat and Mouse) to a devilish duo working cross-country (Kiss the Girls), Cross has managed to outmaneuver all of his enemies. Until he meets the Weasel. A series of killings in the forgotten, crime-infested ghettos of southeast D.C. has sent Cross and his 6'9" 250-pound partner, John Sampson, in search of the "Jane Doe" killer. However, their racist, tyrannical boss George Pitman orders them to stay out of the southeast and investigate the high-profile murder of a wealthy

white man. Cross already has suspicions that the murders are linked, but when Sampson's ex turns up in an abandoned southeast warehouse kicked to death, the two detectives carry on with their original investigation. Meanwhile, Cross's longtime love, Christine (Cat and Mouse), has taken prominence in his life, and it looks as if the two will finally get hitched--with one glitch: Cross puts everything he loves in jeopardy as he obsessively goes after the Weasel. Akin to a slick Hollywood action flick, *Pop Goes the Weasel* doesn't have time for meaningful character development or thoughtful moral analysis. And it doesn't need to. Its winning formula is based on short scenes (chapters average about 3 pages), addictive plot progression, and mean dialogue: "Sampson sighed and said, 'I think her tongue is stapled inside the other girl. I'm pretty sure that's it, Alex. The Weasel stapled them together.' I looked at the two girls and shook my head. 'I don't think so. A staple, even a surgical one, would come apart on the tongue's surface.... Crazy glue would work.'" --Rebekah Warren --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Patterson dedicates his latest (after 1998's *When the Wind Blows*) to "the millions of Alex Cross readers who so frequently ask 'Can't you write faster?'" Those readers won't be disappointed: the successful formula is in high gear, with the Washington, D.C., psychologist/homicide detective up to his ears in unsolved murders. This tale features a duplicitous villain, a glut of dirty office politics and the inevitable threat to someone Cross just can't live without. A highly moral character, Cross is now firmly rooted in many imaginations as Morgan Freeman, who played him in the film version of *Kiss the Girls*. When he's not caring for Damon and Jannie, his two young children, Cross takes boys to visit their fathers in prison and works in a soup kitchen. After his boss, Chief Pittman, refuses to believe that a serial killer is striking in the neglected Southeast section, Cross and four other officers work extra hours on their own, the only ones who really care. Readers learn early on that the killer is a British diplomat, Geoffrey Shafer, a chilling madman ostensibly holding his sanity together with drugs. Shafer is obsessed with a real-life version of a computer game called the Four Horsemen, during which he masquerades as a taxi driver who kills his unsuspecting passengers. If Shafer is almost too good to be true--another fictional psychopath with infinite resources--Patterson is shrewd enough to show him making mistakes (like forgetting to wash) as he comes apart at the seams. The killer is caught in the middle of the narrative, setting the scene for a bold courtroom drama. Even the disappearance of Cross's new lady love (his wife was killed in a previous book) is less of a clichéd device than a ritual sacrifice as Patterson's well-oiled suspense machine grinds away with solid precision. 1 million first printing; \$1 million ad/promo; 14-city author tour; Time Warner audio. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable

edition of this title.

I do have to say I enjoyed Pop Goes the Weasel more than the other four Alex Cross books. I also know it's not the best in the series though, if that makes sense to you. Why don't you see what I thought?

The Ugly: A major murder investigation and the lead detective decides to go on a vacation with his girlfriend, kids, and mother? No cop in the world would ever do such a thing. It doesn't matter how much the cop hates his boss or not, there are always ways around someone like that. So, the real problem here is Cross's boss. Either quite or request a transfer if the work environment is hostile.

The Bad: Now, speaking of the vacation. One of the major plot points in this book is the disappearance of Christine. But it just seemed to be glossed over. I don't understand it, but I can accept it because

The Good: The best part about this book, and the reason I like it the most, is that it's not all about murders. Cross is investigating one killer here. It's not a complicated story with multiple murders. Then the trial started and things picked up. It was more of a political and court room thriller than a murder thriller. It was a nice change of pace.

Final Thoughts: Seeing as how the problems with his boss has been going on for five books now, I can look pass that. I'm sure you can too. Like I said, so far this is my personnel favorite, but not the best.

Bodies being dumped in the Southeast neighborhood of Washington DC by a crazed killer that is a master at disguising himself brings Dr. Cross into a suspenseful and intriguing investigation. No matter what he does the killer remains ahead of him. Dr. Cross, his finance, and family go on a vacation where she is kidnapped. Dr. Cross returns to Washington DC where he apprehends the killer and goes through the trial of the century, and the suspect found not guilty. The suspect has a twist in his identity. Dr. Cross is able to track the suspect to a tropical island where a battle in the water occurs with another twist. Excellent in depth writing and investigating by this author again

Pop Goes The Weasel, by James Patterson is a fast moving gut wrenching story. Cross and Sampson, his partner at Washington D.C. PD, are trying to solve a run of homicides of young women, mostly prostitutes. Whomever is doing these killings is an expert at the job. He leave no clues. How are these two men going to solve these murders? Cross is under pressure from the Chief of Detectives not to bother with the South End murders. After all, they are black and whores so who cares? Get on with solving who murdered a British citizen who just got off a plane from England. Cross, Sampson and three other detective are working to solve these murders on their

own time. The chief learns of this and places all, but Cross, on suspension. Cross is under such pressure, that he takes his family and Christine on a vacation when Christine disappears. What has happened to her? Has the "Weasel" taken her and killed her? To find the answers, read this excellent book. You will not be sorry. Rated PG. Sexual content and very descriptive homicide scenes! DP, Castro Valley, CA.

In his books, filled with crime, passion and suspense Patterson is one of the best. His Alex Cross series is a must read. The author brings Alex Cross, his family, his best friend Samson alive. Painted with vivid pen strokes the D.C. Police force, the violence of the streets and the dark monsters that feed off of them become all too real. Alex is in love and he has a lot of enemies.

Probably the one thing I did not like about the book is that the main character is being "set up" - this one wasn't as bad as some I've read - but I REALLY don't like it when the main character is being framed. The story is a great psychological thriller. Men who use prostitutes and who are married are being murdered - and rather gruesomely. DI Helen Grace is in charge of the investigation. The investigation of the horrific murders takes many unexpected twists and turns. We learn more about Helen Grace in this 2nd novel. Charlie comes back to the team after her injuries from the last case. And we learn more about Jake - interesting to see what happens with him

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