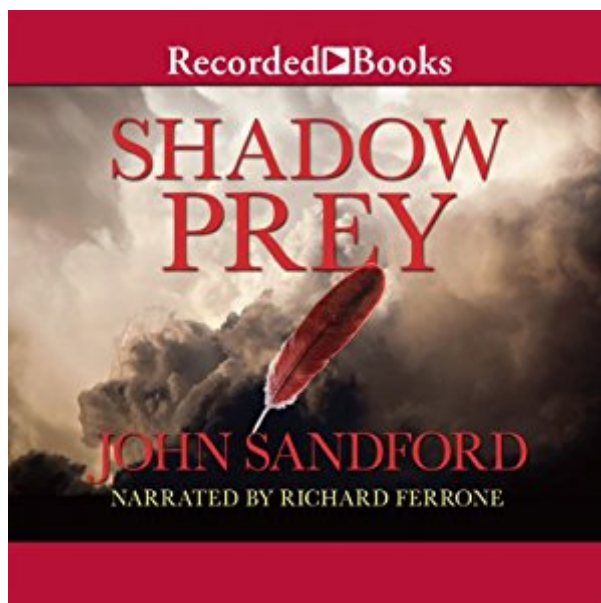


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Shadow Prey



Synopsis

In *Shadow Prey*, the crackling sequel to *Rules of Prey*, Twin Cities sleuth Lucas Davenport teams up with NYPD Lieutenant Lily Rothenberg to track down an elusive killer known only as Shadow Love. Among the victims are a Minneapolis slumlord, a judge from Oklahoma City, and a Manhattan politician. The murder weapon is a Native American ceremonial knife.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I haven't read all the Lucas Davenport books but I have read a lot of them. This one is about two American Indian men who approach life from a spiritual perspective. In their sixties, they want to avenge some heinous crimes against their people that they have witnessed over the years. In my opinion they have a righteous case, although I'm not sure that condones murdering the offenders. But that philosophical issue aside, they have a son who is functionally mentally ill - most likely a severe personality disorder and he steps into the picture and starts muddying the message that the Crow brothers are trying to convey. Obviously on the side of the law, Lucas Davenport comes at them with all his brains and bravery and brawn. A female police officer, Lily Rothenburg, is sent from New York City to help the investigation and the book really heats up from there. It's not the crime action that heats up but Lily and Lucas. I guess that would be okay if you like to read about other peoples' sexual affairs in detail but I didn't like Lily. I thought she was obnoxious as a NY abrasive stereotype - she just rubbed me the wrong way. I would have preferred that the focus remain on the Indians - their culture and value system. Sanford could have channeled a bit more of Tony Hillerman and left about 80% of the sexual details out and I would have liked the book better. I

always get the feeling that these guys who write about the lady killer detectives have some issues to resolve. I do recommend "Shadow Prey".

I've now read most or all of John Sandford's Lucas Davenport series, of which there are quite a few. I was one of those that did not read them in order of publication but recently decided to go back and fill-in the black spots, i.e. read those novels I skipped. I cannot recommend this method for all although each novel I have read is most certainly a stand-alone book, but reading out of order did work for me. I found it interesting, knowing how the series develops as time passed, how Sandford has developed his characters, in particular Davenport, over the years. I must admit that in the first couple of novels that Davenport is not the most likeable person I have read but on the other hand he does have a certain appeal. In this novel we have Lucas going up against a small group of Native American activists as chance would have it. I have to admit that at first the people this small group did away with more or less deserved it and I could not help sort of sympathizing with them. As the story develops though this more or less changes. There is more romance in this work than in future works which I suppose could be a good or bad thing depending upon your taste. I don't read all that much romance but I did not feel the author over did it in this case...it was just a bit strange and not what I expected. In this second book in the series we do find out about Lucas's daughter and his long time relationship with his child's mother which was interesting because this situation is indeed referenced in many books to come. All in all this was a good story and a tale well told. The action was good and descriptive writing excellent. I enjoyed the read from cover to cover. My wife and I will now listen to the CD version of this work on down the road.

Shadow Prey, the second of John Sandford's Lucas Davenport novels, demonstrates why the long-running series has been reaching bestseller lists for nearly three decades. Sandford first introduces us to a young cop named Lawrence Duberville Clay as we observe him raping a drunken young Indian girl in a Phoenix back alley. This and other, similar crimes remain hidden as Clay rises rapidly through the criminal justice system. Eventually he becomes director of the FBI. His designs on the White House are clear. Meanwhile, a slumlord in a Minneapolis suburb is murdered in his office. He is widely known as a racist, with a special animus for Indians. It's clearly no coincidence that an Indian has slit his

throat with a ceremonial knife. Shortly afterward, another outspoken racist, a social worker, is murdered in the city in a similar manner. Around the same time, a wealthy and ambitious politician in New York City falls to an Indian knife as well. He too is widely known as a racist. Circumstances point to at least two and probably three different killers. The pattern is clear: a small group of Indians has undertaken a terrorist campaign, and the Minneapolis Police Department mobilizes a task force to track down the murderers. Simultaneously, the chief assigns Lieutenant Lucas Davenport to pursue an independent investigation. Soon the FBI enters the picture as well. The wages of racism in Indian country Murders continue to proliferate as the hunt for the killers stalls. Gradually, Lucas turns up first one, then another lead. Though the FBI gets in the way, the police eventually close in on three suspects, all Indians. Seeking headlines, FBI director Larry Clay rushes to the twin cities, pushing the case into national headlines. As Clay himself becomes a target of the killers, the suspense builds to a thrilling climax. John Sandford is a gifted writer. While faithfully following the activities of the police, he paints a picture of the grim conditions in which so many Indians live both on the reservation and in the cities and of the racism they encounter so frequently. At the same time, he fleshes out his portrait of Lucas Davenport. The man emerges in three dimensions: a brilliant investigator, an increasingly wealthy game designer, a womanizer, a police officer who often skirts the law, and a man capable of great violence. The evolution of a hero Lucas Davenport is the protagonist of 26 novels to date in what author John Sandford calls the "Prey" series. Though I've read many of the later books, I recently started going through the series from the beginning. Shadow Prey was the second book. Reading it and remembering its predecessor, Rules of Prey, it's easy to see how Sandford turned this engaging series and its charismatic hero, Lucas Davenport, into such a long-running franchise. In the later novels, Lucas is happily married to a surgeon and raising an adopted daughter. Though he is still tough in middle age, the cruelty he displays as a young detective on the police force is not evident. Nor is the womanizing that he pursues as a younger man.

I have read this author for over 25 years. I always look forward to the read. He helps me remember how much I really miss Minnesota. I can see people I have met in every story. Not the bad ones but the county folks, out fishing on the lakes. The farmers working hard to make a living for their families. I actually I think I read this book several years ago but it does not matter. I love reading this author

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