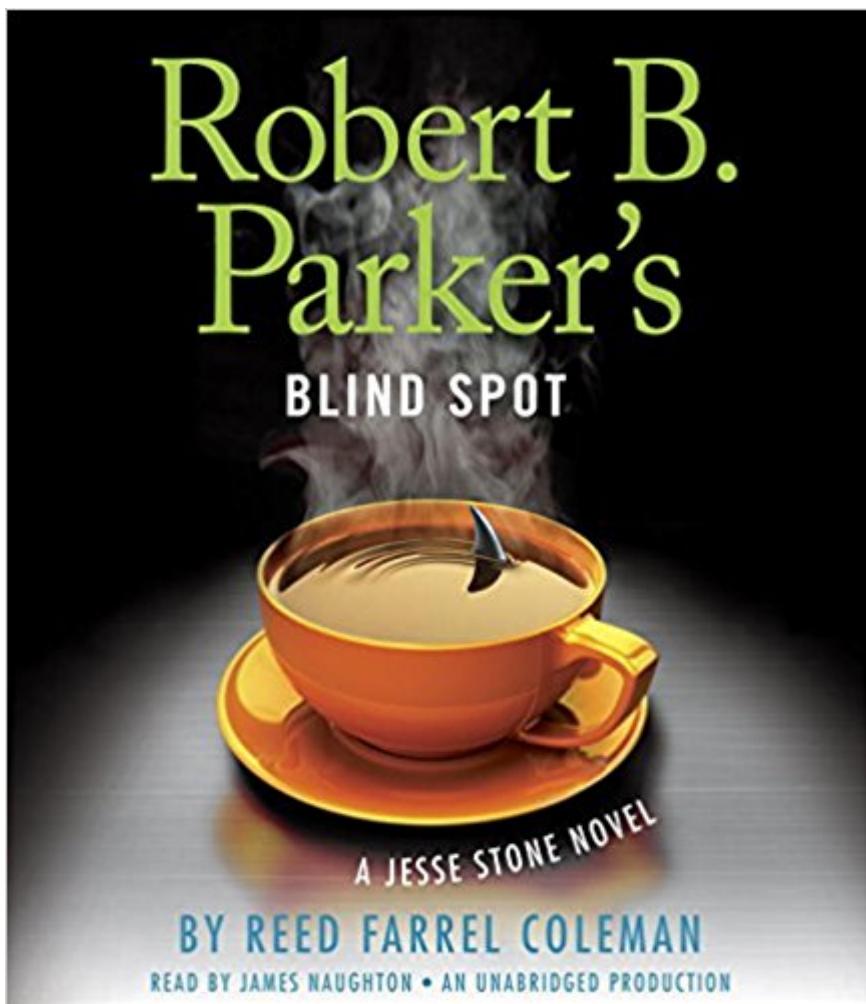


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Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot (A Jesse Stone Novel)



Synopsis

Police Chief Jesse Stone is back in the remarkable new installment of the New York Times' best-selling series. It's been a long time since Jesse Stone left L.A., and still longer since the tragic injury that ruined his chances for a major league baseball career. When Jesse is invited to a reunion of his old Triple-A team at a hip New York city hotel, he is forced to grapple with his memories and regrets over what might have been. Jesse left more behind him than unresolved feelings about the play that ended his baseball career. The darkly sensuous Kayla, his former girlfriend and current wife of an old teammate is there in New York, too. As is Kayla's friend, Dee, an otherworldly beauty with secret regrets of her own. But Jesse's time at the reunion is cut short when, in Paradise, a young woman is found murdered and her boyfriend, a son of one of the town's most prominent families, is missing and presumed kidnapped. Though seemingly coincidental, there is a connection between the reunion and the crimes back in Paradise. As Jesse, Molly, and Suit hunt for the killer and for the missing son, it becomes clear that one of Jesse's old teammates is intimately involved in the crimes. That there are deadly forces working below the surface and just beyond the edge of their vision. Sometimes, that's where the danger comes from, and where real evil lurks. Not out in the light—but in your blind spot.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the Jesse Stone series "As in every Parker novel, the great attraction is the writing. The

author's wry wit and clear, muscular prose go down so easily that his books seem to be not so much read as inhaled." --Associated Press "Stone, who continues to struggle with his drinking and his obsession with his manipulative ex-wife, is the most engaging of Parker's post-Spenser contemporary protagonists. . . . The dialogue is spot-on and the professional chemistry between Stone and his small force is its own reason to read the series." --"Booklist" --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Robert B. Parker was the author of seventy books. He died in January 2010. Â Reed Farrel Coleman, called "a hard-boiled poet" by NPR's Maureen Corrigan, is the Edgar-nominated author of eighteen novels and three novellas, including the critically acclaimed Moe Prager series. A three-time winner of the Shamus Award, he has also won the Anthony, Macavity, Barry and Audie awards. He teaches writing at Hofstra University and is a founding member of MWA University. He lives with his family on Long Island.

Coleman is definitely not Robert Parker. His style varies from Parker's, with more sexual content (not graphic), and the stories more grimey (is that even a word?), but still captivating. If I had never read Jesse Stone stories by Parker, then I might just as easily prefer Coleman's take on the character. That being said, I enjoyed this Jesse Stone novel to the fullest. No more of the constant whining about his ex-wife (I did get tired of that), and more of Jesse having some intestinal fortitude. Less time spent with his psychiatrist (I was pretty tired of that, too). After all, what good does a shrink do talking to an alcoholic? Until Jesse decides to get and stay sober, seeing any head shrink is a total waste of the character's and the reader's time. By the way, this novel would make a good Jesse Stone film and I hope it does, because Selleck makes such a perfect Paradise Police Chief, and the stories they have been using without Parker are just crap.

RBP relied on his characters actions, and their limited but excellent dialog, to speak volumes. Coleman's style is so different it is jarring at times. He tries to give us the complete inner thought processes of Stone, always, and it is so different from Parker's style that it frequently yanked me right out of Paradise. Additionally, some of the descriptions were quite on the flowery side and over the top at times. The most glaring issue involved a piece of evidence that Stone never, ever would have overlooked. I doubt even Suit would have missed it. Even when Stone realizes its in the evidence bag, he seems not to think much of it initially. Wholly and totally absurd. So absurd I should knock off two more stars. Also, the cliffhanger ending didn't need to be spelled out for us.

Upon the resolution of the case, it's clear someone has unfinished business with Stone. I guess it's unrealistic to hope anyone can breathe life into RBP's world like the masterful Ace Atkins can. We're lucky enough just to have Atkins.

"Blind Spot" is a convincing Jesse Stone novel. Maybe because decent wise cracks are hard to produce, and Robert B. Parker had a gift for producing them, the Spencer novels by surviving replacements haven't been so satisfying. Spencer survives on wisecracks. Jesse Stone isn't reserved, but he's less flashy and deliberately avoids saying more than necessary. This may explain why I prefer the second-writer Jesse Stone novels. This one has several strong characters. Even the heavy who kills the girl quite unnecessarily turns out to have a soul. The two characters without any redeeming features (the wealthy businessman and "Mr. Peepers") are interesting too as motivating forces. I can't say more without divulging something of the plot. I recommend this novel.

A bit of background first: While Tom Selleck not likely to get an Academy Award, his Jesse Stone series are most entertaining. That being said, I saw the movies prior to reading this book, and wow, was I pleasantly surprised. The book has caught the spirit of the movies, and that's kind of backwards in that usually it's the movie that catches the spirit of the book. But, since I went into this backwards, I thought a little background might help as I might have not been alone in this cycle. This is a great read if you are a fan of Robert Parker's books, and his co-author, not sure how he is to be addressed, has caught Parker's character, dialog, and all-around spirit of Jesse Stone. I loved it!

Finally!! In *Blind Spot*, the next installment of Robert B. Parker's Jesse Stone series, author Reed Farrel Coleman successfully and faithfully presents Jesse Stone's personality, wit and determination to solve the mysteries that occur in and around Paradise. Additionally Coleman seems to have found Parker's 'voice' as he adds tidbits of insight into Stone's past experiences and friends. The reader engages Stone's professional determination to find the answers, and Coleman makes it easy for the fans to seamlessly see and understand the divergent lines that Stone has to follow to reach the solutions to the crimes. I'm looking forward to reading the next Jesse Stone mystery with author Coleman's help.

Disappointing is the word that comes to mind. The rhythm that defines Jesse Stone, his thought process and his instincts are just not here. Coleman has lost the essence of the character. Without that essence, the character is just another bumbling cop. The evil Mr. Peepers is just too vicious for

the lover of Jesse Stone. I found myself putting the book aside, not wanting to finish, having no love for the victims that Jesse is out to save.....and there are way too many of them. Mr Coleman should write his own characters to a different audience. Don't ruin Jesse Stone for us.

I couldn't agree more with the 1 star reviews of this book. Except - Oh !! Was there a plot ?? I couldn't make it thru the mind numbing, over-done, pointless descriptions and irrelevant commentary to even figure out what this book was about !! Where is the character dialog? Where is the quick paced action? What is the point of commissioning an author to write Jesse Stone Books who re-creates nothing of the attractive elements of the series? Brandman did a great job in my estimation - and even improved on the plot creations from the Parker writings. But Coleman isn't even in the same universe !! I started scanning for substance in Chapter 2, and even quit that by the end of Chapter 3 !! Let him go write some other series of his own creation if he wants to parade his own completely different (tedious) style !! Because this is NOT a Jesse Stone book !!!

Authors filling in for Robert Parker are improving but even Parker could have done better by Jesse. Jesse is better and better. Wish he would stop bringing up the ex. The plot was ok but still very predictable. Jesse is really smart but the storylines still slow his character down. Jesse shouldn't be getting dragged down by Jen anymore. And his shrink should graduate to fulltime friend/former shrink. Let Jesse graduate from the ex and drinking! He's overdue!

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