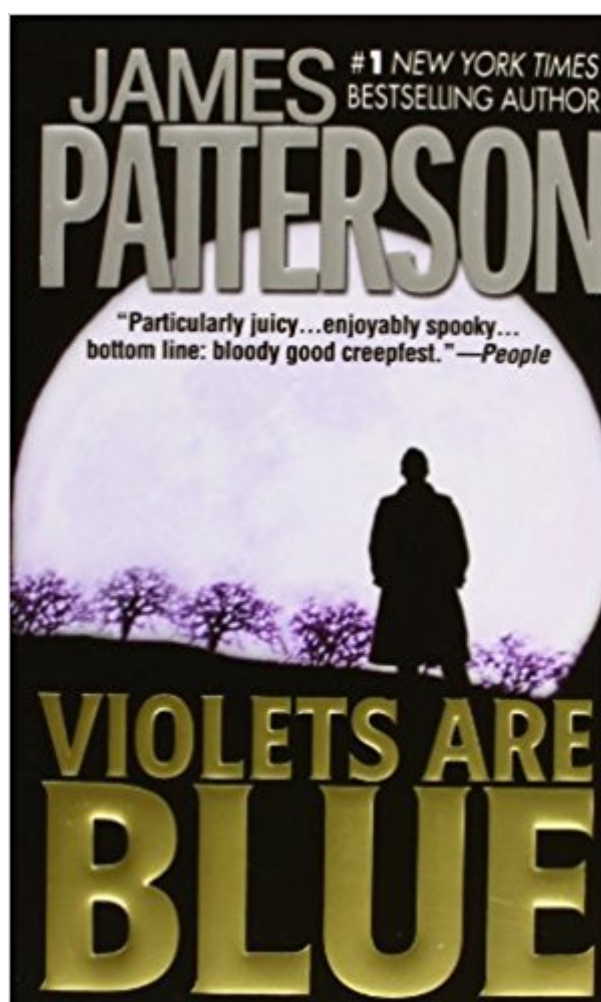


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Violets Are Blue (Alex Cross)



Synopsis

D.C. Detective Alex Cross has seen a lot of crime scenes. But even he is appalled by the gruesome murders of two joggers in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park - killings that look more like the work of savage beasts than humans. Local police are horrified and even the FBI is baffled. Then, as Cross is called in to take on the case, the carnage takes off, leaving a trail of bodies across America and sweeping him to Savannah, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Los Angeles . . . as his nemesis, the merciless criminal known as the Mastermind, stalks him, taunts him, and once again, threatens everything he holds dear...

Book Information

Series: Alex Cross (Book 7)

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Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (744 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

It may be true that when an author becomes enormously popular while writing a suspenseful series, they're under some sort of pressure to keep writing more and more convoluted or even more and more bizarre plots to keep readers interested. Enter James Patterson not entirely unknown for some strange plots in his stand alone books or even bizarre premises i.e., his older title When the Wind Blows where children are genetically altered in the womb so they are born with wings and can fly. Once again in his latest Alex Cross book, Patterson introduces several more bizarre elements to a case Alex tries to solve. In the novel, Violets are Blue, two brothers are featured as grisly serial killers whose murders at times either resemble the work of vampires or tigers. Now thousands of

readers favorite psychology/detective is on a mission to find the killer when his partner is found dead. And if this isn't enough, almost immediately in another part of the country another murder occurs which almost mimics Alex's partners death. As Alex crisscrosses the nation investigating these bizarre murders and some other very weird folks, somebody known as the Mastermind is keeping track of Alex's every move. Its as if this individual, who some readers may remember from the previous book *Roses are Red*, is always one step in front of Alex taunting him with warning phone calls and threats against his family. Alex spends the majority of the book perplexed, confused, overworked and overwrought. By the end, Patterson ties up at least two parts of the plots neatly but leaves one danglgnthread. And it is this thread which left this reader perplexed, confused and overwrought. For it seems that this may be the end of Alex Cross or is it? Fear not Patterson fans if this is the end for dear Alex.

I have read all but 2 of the Alex Cross books by James Patterson; a few weeks ago I finished "Roses are Red" and anxiously snatched up its sequel, "Violets are Blue," after doing so. I admire James Patterson's way of getting you immediately involved in his Cross novels via the suspense and plot turns and VERY short chapters (though stylistically he leaves alot to be desired), but I just felt a bit empty after reading "Violets". In this book, Dr. Alex Cross has two cases on his back; first, he's receiving daily threatening calls from the Mastermind, the psychopath Cross failed to capture in "Roses". The Matermind's identity is known to anyone who reads the last page of "Roses are Red" but Cross is still in the dark, even as the Mastermind promises Cross he and/or his family will die soon. Added to this, Cross's FBI friend Kyle Craig draws him into a string of brutal "vampire murders" around the country where the attractive and healthy victims are found hanging upside down and drained of nearly all their blood. I think Patterson heaps too much into this novel. Through two-thirds of the 393 pages the Mastermind does little more than threaten Alex, and that wears thin after awhile -- it's almost like filler, like a "b-story" storyline that is stretched to fill up book space. In "Roses" the Mastermind was all about action -- nearly every 2nd or 3rd chapter he pulled something. Here, he's just a boogeyman on a phone through so much of the novel. The vampire murders story is NOT as gorey as some reviewers here would have you believe (try a little Laurell K.

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