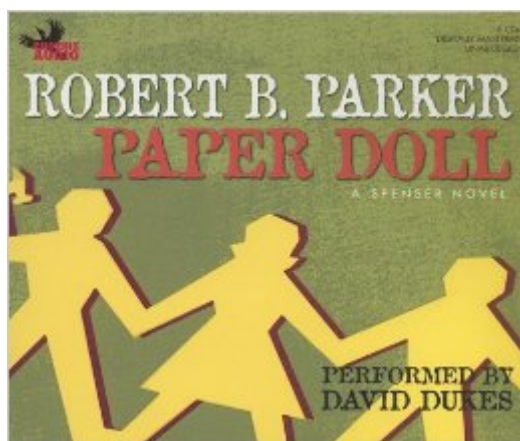


The book was found

Paper Doll (Spenser Mysteries)



Synopsis

Boston aristocrat Loudon Tripp hires Spenser to investigate his wife's murder, and Spenser soon uncovers high-class scandals and a corpse who might not be dead after all. 150,000 first printing. \$135,000 ad/promo. Mystery Guild Main. Lit Guild & Doubleday Alt. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Series: Spenser Mysteries

Audio CD

Publisher: Phoenix Books; Unabridged edition (September 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1597770221

ISBN-13: 978-1597770224

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (79 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,971,102 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 inÂ Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (P) > Parker, Robert B. #9504 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#10129 inÂ Books > Books on CD > General

Customer Reviews

I have read all the Parker books more than once, and this one is my favorite. You shouldn't start with it - it would be better to be familiar with the character first - but if you're going to pick and choose, choose this one. The mystery is top-shelf, the supporting characters are carefully drawn, there isn't too much of the adorably annoying Susan, and Spenser is at his wise-cracking best. He really hit his stride with this book.

I have read many, many of the Spencer books. Some I liked better than others. I rank this one close to the top. Spencer is hired to find out who killed Olivia Nelson. She was killed with many blows to the head with a hammer. The police have done all they can to find the killer but had no success. Spencer is hired by Olivia's husband. A trip is made back to a town in South Carolina, where Olivia Nelson came from. But is her real name Olivia Nelson? Yes, there is a person by that name but where is she? Why would a Senator want to keep Spencer from finding out anything? Spencer in jail?????? Many, many twists and turns. The ending is very good, really two endings, finding the

killer and finding out about the senator. A good Spenser read! The only thing that would make it better, for me, would be less Susan and more Hawk.

I bought this book to give to someone else and read it myself only because I had run out of books of my own. I was hooked. By the time the summer was over, I had read 4 more Spenser novels and now have my name on our local library's waiting list for the new novels. I have read all the Spenser novels now and love them. I never did get a chance to watch the TV series but have seen a couple of TV movies. I like the books better.

Robert B. Parker does a marvelous job in this book of interweaving southern culture into the story. He certainly did his homework, and I respect that. If it is formulaic, it is an excellent formula that works for me.

As with all his Spenser books, Parker's writing in this is so smooth, so witty, with so much descriptive power, that I enjoy reading it even without the nicely-progressing plot. Maybe it's because I feel that I know Spenser and Quirk pretty well, but, whatever the reason, I find the part where Spenser is being brutalized in a Southern jail and Quirk walks in and walks him out, followed by their bracing of the two instigators (not Southerners, by the way) to be the scene I enjoy reading again and again.

Since Robert Parker's death a few years ago, no one has come along to fill that huge void. I find myself scouring through his old titles to find something that I missed and so far have been able to find treasure. Paper Doll is no exception. Some day I will run out of titles but for now, at least, there is still some excellent reading. Parker fans, beware that the Robert Parker estate sold the rights to the Parker name to other authors. Look carefully at the next Robert Parker title that you better buy. Make sure that it was actually written by Parker. I was fooled once but not again. There's only one Robert Parker.

I have read several of the Spenser books. This one started very promisingly, with witty dialogue and an interesting background. But about halfway through the book, the plot gave out. Spenser gets a lucky (too lucky) break when he spots a certain photograph, but the thread it offers to unravel the mystery is only minimally drawn out. The murdered woman remains a cipher to the end, her secrets barely unveiled. Too many secondary characters are mere page-filling red herrings (the sexy

secretary, the sexy Southern detective, the overaggressive teenager). The murderer eventually just confesses his/her guilt to a passive Spenser. And, worst of all, at the last moment, to create the illusion of closure, the author invents a new, unrelated crime, both nameless and motivationless, so that Spenser can have one of the suspects arrested in a sham climax. A good premise gone nowhere.

Robert B. Parker never, ever fails to entertain with both suspense and humor. I am reading all of his Spenser series, as I was hooked after the first book. Great supporting cast, including Pearl, the Wonder Dog!

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