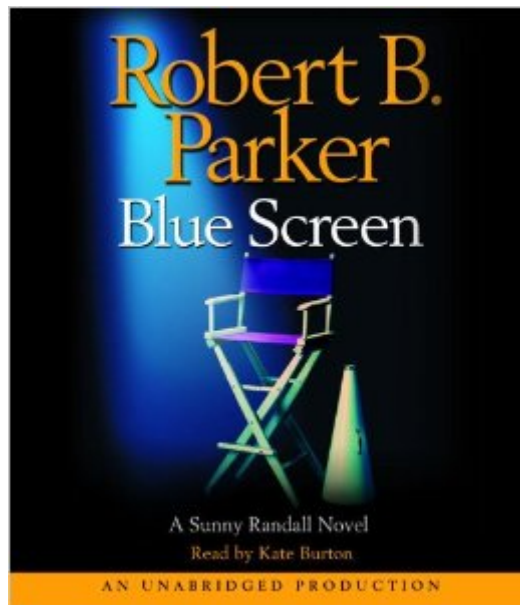


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# Blue Screen (Sunny Randall Novels)



## Synopsis

Sunny Randall, the Boston P.I. with a personal life as tangled as that of her clients, is hired on as a bodyguard to an up-and-coming starlet, and discovers some ugly truths behind her glossy façade. Buddy Bollen is a C-list movie mogul who made his fortune producing films of questionable artistic merit. When Buddy hires Sunny Randall to protect his rising star and girlfriend, Erin Flint, Sunny knows from the start that the prickly, spoiled beauty won't make her job easy. And when Erin's sister, Misty, is found dead in the lavish home they share with sugar daddy Bollen, there doesn't seem to be a single lead worth pursuing. But then Sunny meets Jesse Stone, chief of police in Paradise, Massachusetts, under whose jurisdiction the case falls. Tracking Misty's murderer reveals a host of seedy complications behind Erin's glamorous lifestyle as well as Buddy Bollen's entertainment empire, made up of shady film deals and mobsters out for revenge. But in a world where there's little difference between the good guys and the bad, exposing the killer could prove to be Sunny's undoing.

## Book Information

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[Authors, A-Z > \( P \) > Parker, Robert B.](#) #1624 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#)

#1850 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

It took five books, but Robert B Parker has finally found a woman's voice and attitude for Sunny that I find realistic. The first books had Sunny saying loudly to anyone who would listen that she was strong and independent - then she would promptly crumble and look for a man to rescue her. With Blue Screen, Sunny really does stand on her own - and ironically it's a story that immediately brings her in contact with Jesse Stone, from Parker's other series. This \*could\* have spelled disaster for

Sunny's ability to stand on her own, but the pair actually work well together, supporting each other instead of Stone treating Sunny as a little girl. Where the previous Sunny books relied too heavily on cute references to every single character found in Spenser novels, we almost have a clean slate here with Blue Screen. We still run into Susan Silverman and Healy every once in a while, but it's toned down from previous rounds. Sunny is brought in by a millionaire who wants to protect his curvy actress, Erin Flint, from harm. Erin is, of course, in traditional Parker fashion, an uppity, obnoxious feminist who thinks all men are slime. We've seen this character a few times before. Sunny takes on the job, in short order a friend named Misty is slain, and the chase is on. It turns out of course that EVERYONE is lying, and about really idiotic things, too. Did Erin really think her lies would not be found out? There's a difference between not intelligent and completely senseless. There are a number of things happening during this story which are deliberately for plot reasons - and the plot is pretty transparent. But when you come down to it, this particular story's not about the mystery, or the plot. It's about the romance. Pretty much all focus is on Sunny and Jesse.

I have read every Robert B. Parker novel so of course I have read all the novels featuring Jesse Stone and Sunny Randall. This novel is told from the viewpoint of Sunny Randall but Jesse Stone is the other primary character. In this novel the two team up to solve a murder. The characterization in this novel is fabulous as Parker builds on his previous work to paint a continuing picture of these two endearing characters. The plot seems to be just a backdrop for this character building and that is where the novel falls apart. The plot finds Sunny Randall being hired by Buddy Bollen, a rich mogul who produces movies and also owns a major league baseball team, as a bodyguard for his lover and film star Erin Flint. It just so happens that Erin is not only a stunning beauty but a terrific athlete as well so Buddy plans to have her play on his major league baseball team, the Connecticut Nutmegs, mainly as a publicity stunt. Erin's personal trainer, Misty, is murdered on the Bollen compound in Paradise, Massachusetts and Erin hires Sunny to solve the murder, suspending her role as bodyguard. Jesse Stone, chief of police of Paradise, brings Sunny into his investigation at her request. Of course Sunny and Jesse begin to unravel the unsavory past of both Erin and Buddy with explosive consequences. I loved Sunny and Jesse together in this novel, which is what kept me reading, despite the preposterous and unbelievable plot. The interplay between Jesse and Sunny is just simply Parker at his best and was a rewarding part of the novel for those who are fans of both series. The plot is idiotic and why Parker chose such a ridiculous plot is beyond me. First, Erin Flint is a movie star - she's been in People Magazine and similar publications.

I am getting tired of being disappointed by big name writers whose early works were thoughtful but who are now churning out books so quickly they don't even have time to be picked over for weaknesses in plot, characterization, and other qualities of good fiction writing. Ex: James Patterson, Stephen King, and now, added to my list: R.B.Parker. When these guys started out, they were great. They actually had their books edited, got feedback, made changes along the lines of good fiction writing. Now, it seems that just putting their name on the cover sells, so why bother with good old fashioned editing? If Parker reads this, I urge him to slow down! He's so busy churning out books and getting movie deals, that he's lost the art of fiction writing. Case in point: Blue Screen and High Profile. I can't talk about the latter because I couldn't get through the first 10 pages, with all the "he said" and "she said". Since when does a writer have to tag EVERY line of dialogue? Blue Screen is terribly written. First of all, the plot is uneven. Parker introduces us to a whole set of characters (the Erin Flint entourage) and then drops them flat for most of the novel. The plot gets lost in myriad uninteresting diversions so that at most points, I just didn't care at all about the murder and I couldn't understand why Sunny or Jesse cared, except insofar as it kept them together. Then, there were various unbelievable aspects of the plot which other reviewers have mentioned. These were terribly distracting. For ex: Why would a P.I. and a police chief go out of their way to rustle the feathers of a dangerous mobster (Moonbeam) and potential murder suspect when there was NO POINT to their interview with him in the first place? And, more disturbing...

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