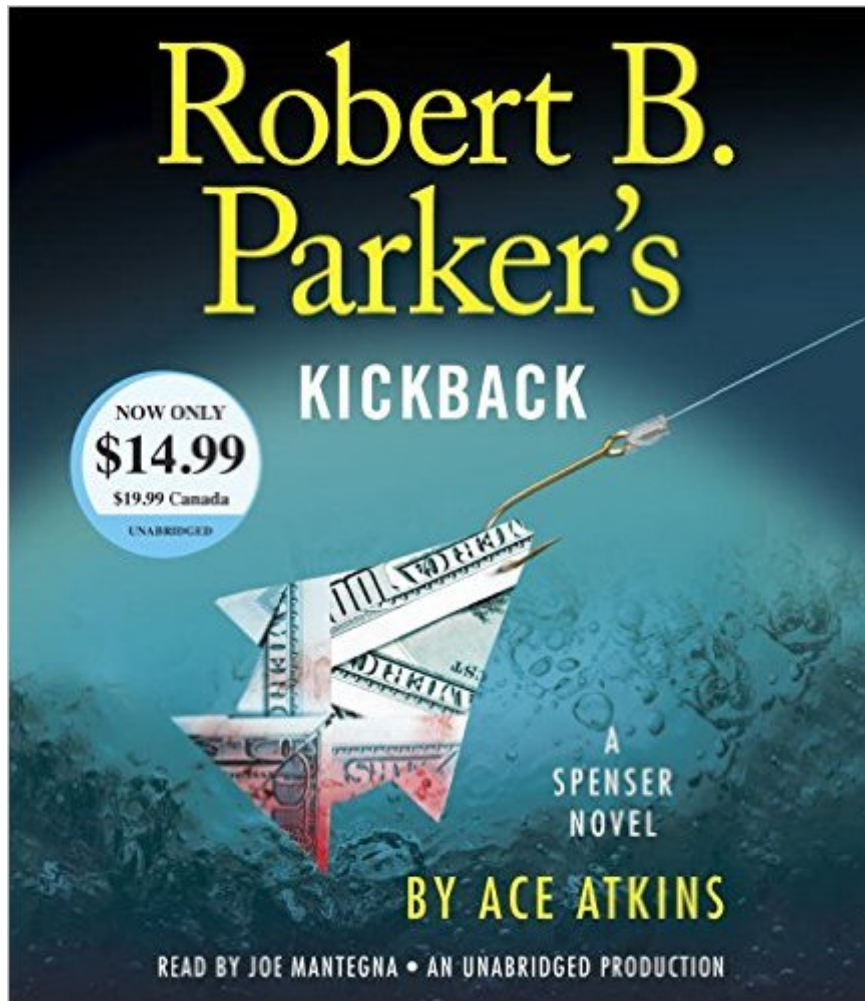


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Robert B. Parker's Kickback (Spenser)



Synopsis

P.I. Spenser, knight-errant of the Back Bay, returns in this stellar addition to the iconic New York Times "bestselling series from author Ace Atkins. What started out as a joke landed seventeen-year-old Dillon Yates in a lockdown juvenile facility in Boston Harbor. When he set up a prank Twitter account for his vice principal, he never dreamed he could be brought up on criminal charges, but that's exactly what happened. This is Blackburn, Massachusetts, where zero tolerance for minors is a way of life. Leading the movement is tough-as-nails Judge Joe Scali, who gives speeches about getting tough on today's wild youth. But Dillon's mother, who knows other Blackburn kids who are doing hard time for minor infractions, isn't buying Scali's line. She hires Spenser to find the truth behind the draconian sentencing. From the Harbor Islands to a gated Florida community, Spenser and trusted ally Hawk follow a trail through the Boston underworld with links to a shadowy corporation that runs New England's private prisons. They eventually uncover a culture of corruption and cover-ups in the old mill town, where hundreds of kids are sent off to for-profit juvie jails. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: Spenser

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0735209391

ISBN-13: 978-0735209398

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (529 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #233,855 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (P) > Parker, Robert B. #312 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #604 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General

Customer Reviews

KICKBACK Is the latest Spenser novel crafted beautifully by Ace Atkins, clearly a writer who holds the series, and the much loved characters that comprise it, with the same amount of respect as their creator did. This is Mr Atkins' fourth attempt at re-creating the legend of Spenser and Co, and the book simply *works*. This story revolves around justice (but don't they all?) - but more so

than your standard Spenser novel ever did. It appears that juvenile offenders in the town of Blackburn, Massachusetts, are being given penalties that far outweigh the nature of their crimes, and Spenser and Co are asked by an associated family member of one such juvenile to investigate the matter. Links are soon found running between the Boston Underground and various organisation that run and control some of the state prisons and it is not long before Spenser and Hawk decide to turn the tides of ill-intent back on it's many sources in order to determine how many rats they can drown in the (metaphorical) city sewers. The magic of a good Spenser novel (just pick one at random) was often created by Mr Parker when he stopped to smell the metaphorical roses. And the parallels of the associated epiphanies taken from the book's universe, and given to the reader were often uncanny in their accuracy. KICKBACK is no exception. It is the kind of book that makes you glad you decided to pre order the hard cover, as the moments of enlightenment that you find more than make up for the expense incurred by the reader by having such early access to the wonders found within. The Spenser novels are timeless. They are essentially about love, and the forces of good battling and (hopefully) overcoming the powers of evil in the terrifying reality that the reader finds themselves in every day.

The legend of Spenser continues, thanks to Ace Atkins. Although Robert B. Parker, Spenser's creator, regrettably passed away in 2010 and remains deeply missed, Atkins has proudly carried the torch, working a miracle on an annual basis by channeling Parker's style while carefully nudging his iconic character forward. The result is a continuation of the series that pleases longtime fans while bringing new ones into the fold. KICKBACK ultimately takes Spenser out of (though not far from) Boston, but begins within the confines of his very familiar office. Read the first paragraph --- that would be the one after the short prologue --- and you won't stop: there are no explosions or karate, but those few lines, wherein Spenser meets a new client, encapsulates perfectly what has gone before in over 40 installments. If you've ever been tempted to write a novel, take this paragraph and post it above your work area as an example of clean and simple, yet exquisite, writing that tugs the reader gently but relentlessly into the story. The story, as relayed by the client to Spenser, is a sad one. Sheila Yates's son, Dillon, has been sentenced to a term of nine months by the state of Massachusetts and incarcerated in a private juvenile facility. What is noteworthy is that Dillon earned this sentence as the result of...a Twitter account. Rita Fiore, Spenser's favorite attorney, is on the job trying to get him released. What Sheila wants Spenser to find out is the how behind it all. Ground Zero for that appears to be a black-robed figure with the title of Judge Joe Scali, who runs the legal system of the small town of Blackburn, Massachusetts, with an iron fist

and a steel gavel.

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