

Justice, Revenge and Redemption in James Patterson's Select Works

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Abstract:

James Patterson is an American author who has written novels and non-fiction. He has often been mentioned in Forbes as a highest paid author. He was born in Newburgh, situated in the State of New York, United States of America. James Patterson's novels have dealt in multiples genres. Some of the genres include mystery, thriller and young adult fiction. Patterson also deals with realistic fiction, romance fantasy and science fiction. This paper studies some of the author's critically acclaimed works.

Key Words: James Patterson, 1st To Die, Along Came A Spider.

I. Introduction

James Patterson is an American author who has written novels and non-fiction. He has often been mentioned in Forbes as a highest paid author. He was born in Newburgh, situated in the State of New York, United States of America. James Patterson's novels have dealt in multiples genres. Some of the genres include mystery, thriller and young adult fiction. Patterson also deals with realistic fiction, romance fantasy and science fiction. Young Adult Fiction is meant for readers aged between twelve and eighteen. Young Adult Fiction includes themes related to friendship, sexuality, coming-of-age or even substance abuse. Science fiction incorporates futuristic and highly imagination concepts related to science and technology. Patterson's two very famous novels are *1st To Die* and *Along Came A Spider*.

II. 1st To Die

1st To Die is a crime novel by James Patterson. *Women's Murder Club* is a book series of novels set in San Francisco by James Patterson. They are mystery novels. *1st To Die* is the first novel in the series. The series focuses on four female friends who come together to solve mystery cases. Lindsay Boxer is a homicide inspector. She works for the San Francisco Police Department. Claire Washburn is a medical examiner. Jill Bernhardt is an assistant district attorney. Cindy Thomas is a reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle.

Lindsay Boxer is the protagonist and is suffering from depression. The novel begins with the introduction of David Brandt and Melanie Brandt at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. They are killed by Phillip Campbell. The novel then depicts Lindsay Boxer, who is suffering from a rare disease and has to get blood transfusions. At a doctor's appointment, she is called to the crime scene at Grand Hyatt, where she meets Cindy Thomas. Another pair of bodies are also found, followed by another. Later, the women they meet Claire and Jill. Justice, revenge and redemption are the main themes of the novel.

III. Along Came A Spider

Along Came A Spider is a crime thriller novel about Alex Cross, who works as a forensic psychologist. A Forensic psychologist studies the practice of psychology when it is applied to the law. It uses scientific methods to answer legal questions that arise in civil, criminal and judicial cases. This novel was adapted into a film. The psychologist goes to a crime scene where the Sanders family, consisting of a mother daughter and a toddler, are murdered. Alex's partner is John Sampson. Their boss instruct them to join an investigation on

two kidnapped children instead. This case is getting more attention than the Sanders family's case who hail from a poor neighbourhood.

Alex tries to get out of the investigation over the kidnapped children, but the mayor tells him to take the case. Alex has to work with Jezzie, who is the secret service supervisor. The dead body of one of the child victims is discovered and a ransom demand for the other child from the kidnapper ensues. The other child victim is Maggie Dunne. However, Alex ends up losing the ransom. Hence, Alex and John are removed from the case. The murderer of the Sanders family is revealed to be Gary Murphy. Themes of justice, revenge and redemption occur.

REFERENCES:

1. Patterson, James. *Ist to Die*. Headline Book Publishing, 2015.
2. *Along Came a Spider*. Grand Central Publishing, 2024.