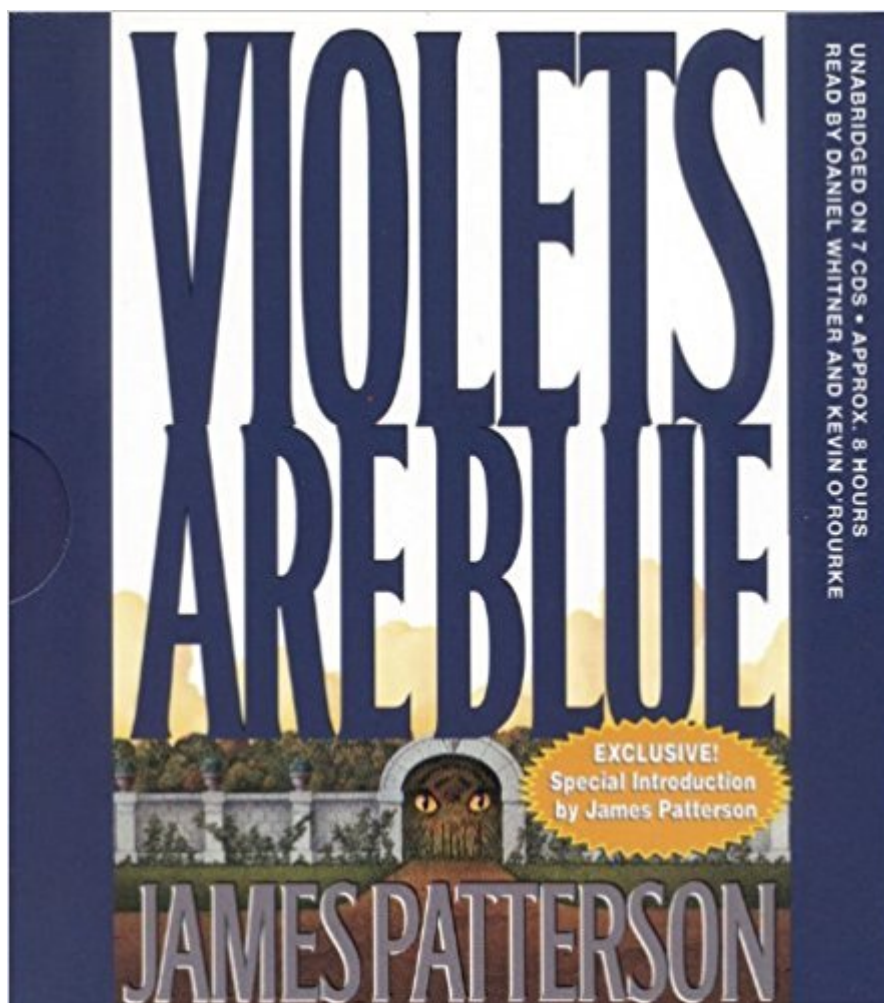


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Violets Are Blue (Alex Cross)



Synopsis

Detective Alex Cross must confront his most terrifying nemesis ever-and his own deepest fears-in this electrifying new thriller from the master of suspense, James Patterson. Alex Cross has never believed in vampires. But when two joggers are found slain in a manner that suggests a macabre ritual, he has to reconsider. Someone believes in vampires enough to have committed a series of bizarre murders that appear to be the work of one. Local police are horrified, and even the FBI is baffled. Cross takes on the case and plunges into a netherworld of secret clubs and role-players, a world full of poseurs and playactors-and someone demented enough to have crossed the line from dark ritual to real blood. At the same time, a lethal super-criminal from Cross's past known as the Mastermind is stalking him, taunting him, and threatening everything he holds dear. Cross has never been closer to defeat, or in greater danger. In a shocking conclusion, Alex Cross must survive a deadly confrontation-only to discover at last the awful secret of the Mastermind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fans of James Patterson's resourceful cop Alex Cross will be relieved to find that he's back on familiar territory with *Violets Are Blue*--and, more importantly, that this is one of the best Alex Cross thrillers yet. The malign criminal genius of *Roses Are Red* is fixing to give Alex a hard time once again. The FBI joins Patterson's dogged cop in a particularly unsettling investigation: two San Francisco joggers have been viciously murdered and are found suspended by their feet, with all the blood drained from their corpses. And when further brutal deaths follow in California and on the East

Coast, Alex is forced to contemplate the bizarre possibility of modern-day vampires, although his instincts point him to one of the many sinister religious cults that flourish on the West Coast. Aided by Jamilla Hughes, a streetwise young woman detective from San Francisco, Alex finds that he has to crack not one but two impenetrable mysteries to stop further bloodletting. Patterson fans expect the extremely concise, page-turning chapters (116 of them here!), along with a reluctance to dawdle over details of his hero's personal life, and both characteristics are firmly back in place. If you can resist reading this one in just a few sittings, you deserve some kind of a thriller reader's medal.

--Barry Forshaw, .co.uk --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Washington, D.C., police detective Alex Cross returns for another visit (after *Roses Are Red*) to the top of the lists and for two new cases of disparate quality. The first, which dominates the narrative, takes place within America's vampire underground and is as exciting as anything Patterson has written; the second, in which Cross at last defeats the nemesis known as "the Mastermind," feels tacked on only to knot loose ends. In San Francisco, two joggers are slain, seemingly by both tiger and human teeth, and their blood drained; then an upscale couple is killed similarly in Marin County deaths suggestive of an earlier Cross case, prompting the detective's old pal Kyle Craig of the FBI to ask for his help. Craig's plea plunges Cross not only into a fetishistic netherworld in which thousands play at being vampires and a handful actually do kill for blood, but into personal turbulence as he alienates his family by his dedication to work, and as his always troubled love life takes further dips and flights, the latter in the company of SFPD Insp. Jamilla Hughes, who joins him on the cases. We know the good guys' immediate quarry, but they don't: two golden young men, brothers and self-styled vampires, with a pet tiger at their side. But who is the Sire, their ultimate leader? Meanwhile, the Mastermind, a brilliant homicidal maniac, plagues Cross with threatening phone calls. Most readers probably won't finger the Sire, but anyone who can't name the Mastermind long before Patterson reveals his identity must be reading this book backwards. The action reels around the country, from D.C. to California to Las Vegas to North Carolina, and readers will be swept away by it and by Patterson's expert mixing of Cross's professional and personal challenges. The narrative split between the two cases, vampiric and Mastermind, jars but not enough to seriously mar fans' pleasure, and the two cases will probably mesh more elegantly in the inevitable movie to come. (Nov. 19)Forecast: Is there a writer hotter than Patterson? A 10-city author tour, the forthcoming TV miniseries of his *First to Die*, and the simultaneous AudioBooks (unabridged and abridged, tape and CD) of *Violets Are Blue* will only increase the heat. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Violets are Blue by James Patterson. Here is a novel that is way out. A book about vampires. Vampires? Yes, exactly that. Detective Alex Cross of the Washington D.C. Police, is asked by his FBI associated, Kyle Craig, to help him solve these murders by human vampires. Cross flies to San Francisco, Ca. to work along side with an SFPD Detective Jamillia Hughes. Together to drive to Santa Cruz, Ca. to help with an investigation of one more kill. This writing will take you to the south and back to Washington D.C. Also there is an insane Mastermind that is telephoning Cross no matter where he is. From San Francisco to New Orleans. How does the Mastermind know where Cross is and going? Who is this Mastermind? I began to think of one person when I was about a third of the way through this novel. Will you? Rated PG, strong language and descriptions. DP, Castro Valley, CA.

Vampires are loose and killing people. Dr. Cross is recruited by the FBI because of his knowledge as a forensic psychologist, and his experience as a homicide detective. The story starts with unexplained gruesome ritual deaths in California and Dr. Cross flying there to assist and working with the local authorities. He also is working with the "Mastermind", without realizing it. Dr. Cross travels across the country chasing the killers and comes upon a link that connects the killings in the most unusual way. He also manages to identify the "Mastermind and save a female detective he has gotten close too. He succeeds in arresting him. Again the author's writing style is suspenseful, intriguing and keeps the reader deeply involved.

Patterson and Cross are usually good. This is a solid book, but Roses and Violets just get too far. He solves the crime; woops, wrong guy. He solves it again, and again, till ur lost, and then throws a ball out of left field that takes the whole 2d book to clarify. AND, he has to throw in werewolves to do it. Too much. Go to later books.

I first became interested in the Alex Cross when I picked up "Double Cross." I read some. Of the later books to include the story of Kyle's escape, thus I acquired knowledge about the devious murdering monster Kyle. Armed with this knowledge I began the series from the beginning tying all the loose ends up and stepping more and more into Alex Crosses shoes. The perfect crimes utilizing a cast of puppets to include the Alex Cross puppet and pulling all their strings until Alex severe's all ties and subdues the puppet mastermind. Great series of twists and turns leading to the criminal behind the criminals.

Mr. Patterson is my all time favorite author. He never fails to deliver a character(s) that I love. Alex Cross is a wonderful Character. He is a devoted, kind, gentle, fun, and loving parent and family man. But yet he's still that rough, rugged, and no nonsense cop, that will take you down if you break the law, no matter if he knows u and works with you as a colleague , loves you, or is in a relationship with you. Cross is equal on race, creed, religion, etc. He is a good man, who has amazing intellect into the minds of the most heinous criminal masterminds out the. He will hunt you down and bring justice to the victims and their families, and he stops at nothing to bring those criminals and murderers in to face justice and their final fate. All of the Alex Cross books are wonderfully entertaining, keeping you on the edge of your seat plots, and mind blowing stories, and I can't wait to read every last one. So please keep them coming Mr. Patterson, and thank you for creating Alex Cross.

I am catching up 15 years later on Patterson's earliest Alex Cross books. I have read all of the latest ones and wanted to acquaint myself with his past. Excellent wind up of the Mastermind. I wish more attention had been devoted to the blond vampire brothers but oh well.

The mastermind storyline was masterfully revealed. I simply want Alex to find love. I hope they reprise the movie version of these stories. While Morgan Freeman is one of the best actors of all time, there should be a younger actor to portray him.

Love all the Alex Cross books - I have the entire series and am reading them a second time! Patterson is a master of intrigue and suspense!

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