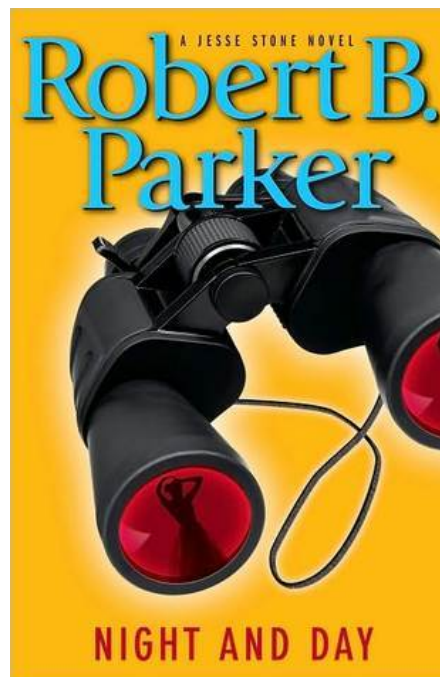




Night And Day

Robert B. Parker

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Parker and Stone-back with another *New York Times* bestseller

When the sun sets in Paradise, the women get nervous. A Peeping Tom is on the loose. According to the notes he sends Police Chief Jesse Stone, he's about to take his obsession one step further.

Night And Day Details

Date : Published February 24th 2009 by Berkley

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Author : Robert B. Parker

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From Reader Review Night And Day for online ebook

Glee says

This is latest in Jesse Stone series. I never read the Spenser books, maybe someday, because I like Parker's style, but he is doing them (the Jesse Stone books) in his sleep now, I think. This is quick easy read -- perfect for when you don't have energy or interest to invest in heavy read. The last couple of books I've read were much denser and harder to get through, so I just appreciated the simplicity. However, pretty empty calories after all is said and done.

Una Tiers says

While I have enjoyed most of the earlier Parker books, this one fell short of the mark. There was more repetition than usual, especially about involving the lady policewoman. The writing is still clear but the idea behind the book is thin.

Diane says

I enjoyed this book very much!

Donald Harwick says

Except for Jesse Stone smiling, I could picture Tom Selleck throughout the entire book. The movies captured the essence of this book perfectly. This is my first Jesse Stone novel although I have read several "Spencer" novels and I believe one Parker western. This was classic Parker, very enjoyable, and a very fast read.

Eric_W says

Robert Parker's novels all have a cadence to them that many people find disconcerting. An almost staccato dialogue, it can be especially prominent in an audiobook such as this one in the Jesse Stone Series. I rather like it.

Jesse is faced with two peculiar cases: the woman principal of the school has parents irate because she dained to lift the skirts of the girls to make sure they had on appropriate undergarments before a dance (no thongs, thank you); and the other a man obsessed with watching women undress at night through their windows, his obsession escalating to entering their homes during the day and forcing them to disrobe at gunpoint and then writing Jesse about it.

Everyone is in therapy in this novel: Jesse sees Dick for his drinking and inability to deal with his ex-wife's quasi-abandonment of him; Sunny Randall (a character from another Parker series) is being therapyized by Susan Silvermann (a therapist from the Spencer series); and Betty Ingersoll, the aforementioned principal gets forced into therapy in the end and her husband should have been. It's true most of them are a bit

whacko, but a lot of the psycho-babble that's delivered in many of the interviews seems more sermonizing than enlightening. I suspect Robert Parker must have been in therapy for decades. But, all things, considered, I enjoyed the book and the Jesse Stone character.

James Thane says

This is an entry in Robert B. Parker's Jesse Stone series. A Peeping Tom is on the prowl in Paradise, and Jesse and his team must hunt him down before the perp graduates to more serious criminal activity. In the meantime, Jesse also has to deal with the case of a school principal who has decided that it would be a good idea to inspect the underwear of the young female students. And, on top of all of that, Jesse must sort out his love life, which continues to be a confusing mess.

Like much of Parker's later work, this is a fairly light book that doesn't take itself too seriously. The plot is very thin, and serves mainly as a device that allows Jesse Stone and the other characters to trade witty banter for a little over three hundred pages. That said, it's not a bad book, and it's a fun way to spend an afternoon relaxing by the pool. But it's not a book that most readers will remember and still be thinking about for very long after they've finished it.

Parker wrote at least one other Jesse Stone novel before his untimely death, and in a way, that's almost too bad. "Night and Day" ends on a note of apparent resolution that would have been a fine way to close the file on these characters.

John Culuris says

On the surface any review of this book seems superfluous. Those who like this series and/or Robert B. Parker will read it anyway, and if you've never read a Jesse Stone novel this is not the place to start. Like most of the books near the end of Parker's life, it presumes you've been with him for a while. You will find no description of Jesse Stone or his deputies, Molly Crane and Suitcase Simpson. If you decide they happen to look like Tom Selleck, Viola Davis and Kohl Sudduth (as portrayed on TV), you'll not have to worry about the narrative contradicting you. There is barely a narrative worth mentioning. By this point Parker had mastered "get in quick, speak, get out." Essentially he did just enough to establish the scene's location and who is involved. The rest is talk.

Then why 4 Stars? There's talk--and then there's talk. Once you get used to everyone speaking in short, clipped sentences, there's a lot being said. One of Parker's greatest strengths was the ability to explore the psychological complexity behind some outwardly straight-forward actions. This talent is often overlooked in his **Spenser** series because of general dislike for the character of Susan Silverman. (And "dislike" is putting it mildly; just look at any review from almost **every** GoodReads friend I have.) As a trained psychotherapist it falls on her to explain the psychological insight to the reader, and often the message goes unheard because of the messenger. In *Night and Day* there is no reason to dismiss these commentaries as "psychobabble"; there are no vain and self-absorbed characters in the Paradise Police Department or among their associates. It frees us to watch Jesse get to the bottom of more than just the cases at hand.

Also, there is some real writing sprinkled in among the scene sketching. Jesse has to come to terms with some pressing personal issues and his internal monologues are compelling. We also share thoughts with the main villain, a peeping Tom who is escalating. More psychological insight.

A peeping Tom? Don't panic, he's just one of several cases--and the seriousness of the cases is irrelevant anyway. This is not a traditional mystery. Nor is it a procedural. It's about a group of characters--principally the core members of a small town police force--intersecting and interacting until the problems set before them are settled.

One of those characters is Sunny Randall, Parker's other private detective. Before his death, apparently Parker had come to terms with the **Randall** books not selling. He had ended her series two years earlier with *Spare Change*, where he wrapped up her lingering plotlines. And I have to say I agree with the public; *Spare Change* was the only one I **completely** enjoyed, even if I still bought them all. Parker, however, was not ready to say goodbye to the character. Sunny and Jesse had been romantically involved a few years earlier, so all Parker had to do to interject her into this series was to have her best friend Spike buy a local bar/restaurant. I never minded the character of Sunny; I just never found her stories particularly compelling. Sunny in Paradise should be a much more interesting dynamic. Unfortunately the next one, *Split Image*, is the last by Parker.

I have been saving the final four Parker novels because I knew there would be no more. Now that I've broken the seal so to speak, I'm sure I'll end up reading another one before the end of the year. I'd forgotten how much I liked these books.

Janie Johnson says

This is book #8 in the Jesse Stone series. Looking forward to all the other books that remain. I plan on purchasing all the hard backs for this series since I enjoy it so much.

Synopsis

Things are getting strange in Paradise, Massachusetts. Police Chief Jesse Stone is called to the junior high school when reports of lewd conduct by the school's principal, Betsy Ingersoll, filter into the station. Ingersoll claims she was protecting the propriety of her students when she inspected each girl's undergarments in the locker room. Jesse would like nothing more than to see Ingersoll punished, but her high-powered attorney husband stands in the way. At the same time, the women of Paradise are faced with a threat to their sense of security with the emergence of a tormented voyeur, dubbed "The Night Hawk." Initially, he's content to peer through windows, but as times goes on, he becomes more reckless, forcing his victims to strip at gunpoint, then photographing them at their most vulnerable. And according to the notes he's sending to Jesse, he's not satisfied to stop there. It's up to Jesse to catch the Night Hawk, before it's too late.

Two different stories run parallel with one another. The plotline was pretty in intriguing to me and in my mind I had a perfect scenario picked out for how this one would proceed and end, but unfortunately it did not go the way I planned. LOL I think it would have been to obvious of an outcome. The story once again is pretty fast paced and such an easy read because of Parker's use of dialogue. I much prefer to read people that are speaking to one another consistently, rather than reading what is on someone's mind and the author gives me that.

The characters, what can I say, I love Jesse Stone more and more with each book. He is someone who I could imagine telling my deepest darkest secrets to and know they would be safe with him. I also love Molly and Suit, his side kicks in this series. All 3 of them are well developed, likeable, relatable and totally believable. All great qualities for protagonists. They are flawed and gritty and make mistakes. Give me those characters over 'perfect' characters any day.

I recommend this to anyone who likes mystery. If you want a quick fluid and fast paced read, then Parker's books are great for you. If you like a lot of dialogue, as I do, then Parker is definitely a must read. I look forward to more from this author and this series.

Kemper says

Even though he's the police chief of a small town Jesse Stone has faced some big time threats like murderers, professional thieves and organized crime. So it seems like kind of a let down that his two enemies here are a Peeping Tom and a female high school principal inspecting the underwear of some of her students. It's not exactly Sherlock Holmes facing Moriarty.

In his later work Robert B. Parker seemed content to have every scene be about his characters having coffee and doughnuts or throwing down a few cocktails while they exchange banter. It's got a style and rhythm that's familiar so it's as if you're listening to a song you like but have heard so many times that you don't even really hear it anymore. It is a little weird that (view spoiler)

So this is a typical example of the kind of 3 star book that RBP churned out like a human printing press in his later years. It's not as good as his early stuff, but it's still got the elements that his fans enjoyed. However, I'm really tempted to give it 5 stars for the ending.

(view spoiler)

Jerry B says

"Night and Day" is the eighth entry in Parker's enjoyable Jesse Stone set. Compared to some of the others, the storyline is a little tame, although three sets of events bother Jesse enough to seek righting some wrongs, crimes or not. First, a middle school (female) principal is caught literally inspecting a bunch of the girl student's panty underwear, prompting numerous complaints to say the least – but her husband, a high-powered attorney, tries to keep the lid on that virtually all-book long. Meanwhile, a peeping Tom is seen spying through some bedroom windows – and his actions soon escalate into home invasions and nude photo ops with unwilling women! Lastly, a couple who is hosting wife-swapping parties at their house, and traumatizing their kids in the process, comes to Stone's attention via the visits of their teenaged daughter. All this action gives Jesse's cop shop plenty to work on, in the process providing plenty of digressive material for Jesse to discuss with his shrink rather than pursue his troubles with ex-wife Jenn. Another Parker character, PI Sunny Randall, puts in a few token appearances as well, mostly as Jesse's latest girlfriend – and will things finally start to get more serious there?

So: a typical novel in the series, a quick pleasant read, with not much blood and guts, but with our world-wise favorite small town police chief prevailing in the end, as totally expected!

Paula Dembeck says

This is the eighth novel in the Jesse Stone Crime Series and the last one published before Parker's death in 2010. Similar to some of the previous novels, Jesse is working three cases and at the same time dealing with

his personal issues, notably his heavy drinking and his obsession with his ex-wife Jenn.

In the first case, high school principal Betsy Ingersoll is being accused of molestation. Several girls report that before the last school dance they were required to lift their dresses so the principal could check their underwear to ensure they were modestly dressed. Betsy believes proper attire includes what shows and doesn't show and tells the girls that anyone wearing a thong is to go home. The girls object to the "panty patrol" and their parents, equally outraged, ask for Jesse's help. Jesse agrees it is an invasion of privacy and is definitely not right, but whether it is illegal is another question. A charge of molestation usually requires sexual contact and a charge of assault includes the intent to injure. Nevertheless, Jesse is determined to do something. Complicating matters is Betsy's husband Jay Ingersoll, a managing partner of the biggest law firm in the state. He defends his wife, insisting that no one was injured, no harm was done and no crime was committed. But Jesse feels what Betsy did was wrong and he doesn't want her to get away with it. When Jesse persists, Jay threatens him with ruin if he continues to annoy his wife.

At the same time Jesse is dealing with another problem. Someone called the Night Hawk is looking in the windows of middle aged women while they are undressing at night. His behavior soon escalates into breaking and entering during the day, a time when he forces the women to undress at gunpoint. He never touches them but photographs them and then leaves. Jesse knows that sometimes what peepers see changes their future behavior and that the simple act of watching can lead to riskier behavior. As word spreads about the home invasions, women left home alone during the day with their children at school and their husbands at work, are becoming increasingly frightened. When the Night Hawk contacts Jesse and confesses his obsession, Jesse is not sure of the peeper's motivation. Does he want to get caught?

In the third case, Jesse is approached by a young teen who tells him her parents are "swingers". Both she and her brother know about the parties they hold once a month which they don't like. She says her parents' behavior is hurting the family and she asks for Jesse's help to make it stop. Jesse does not have a problem with consenting adults changing sex partners, but when this behavior starts to affect the children, he feels he needs to intervene.

This novel is filled with Jesse's angst over his personal life. He still bemoans his lost baseball career and the situation with his ex-wife. Jenn has moved to New York for a syndicated TV show, living with her producer until she can get a place of her own and perpetuating her pattern of sleeping with men who advance her career. This latest move has caused Jesse to increase his drinking. He is still in therapy with Dix and has come to understand Jenn's behavior better. He realizes how Jenn takes advantage of the fact he loves her. If things go badly, she calls him and he rescues her, always ready with a welcoming safety net. But Jesse has had enough and tells Jenn he wants her out of his life. What makes things easier is that Sunny Randall has returned to Paradise. Her friend Spike is opening up a restaurant in town and this gives Sunny and Jesse an opportunity to reconnect.

Parker provides coherence to the novel by seamlessly linking the cases as Jesse, along with Molly and "Suitcase" Simpson bring things to a successful conclusion.

Jesse remains a likeable and complex character, a competent police chief who struggles with his personal life. Parker continues to develop the relationships Jesse has with his staff at the police station, especially those of Molly Crane and "Suitcase" Simpson and the witty dialogue between the three always provides a good laugh.

This is a quick, entertaining read and a good addition to the series.

Evelyn Wilson says

This was an interesting twist of a book. You have the swing couples, not good, I don't give a shit what you say, peeping Tom, and that Principal of that school. Shame. A lot about Jenn in this book, including how screwed up she did by moving to NYC and Jesse finally made a decision about their situation . . .

Page 7 . . . "the girls say you picked up their skirts and checked their underwear." . . .
"Did you look at their underwear, Mrs. Ingersoll?" . . .

Page 8 . . . "did yu check their undies, Betsy?" Jesse said. . . . "Do you know who my husband is, Jesse?" she said. . . .

Page 28 is where Sunny talks to Spike about changing the name of the Gray Gull

Page 57 . . . "I think it violated the civil rights of the girls," Dix said. . . .

Page 58 . . . "Every time," Jesse said. "sometimes she says she doesn't want them embarrassed if someone saw them." . . . "Last time we talked she said she was trying to keep them from becoming sluts when they got older," Jesse said. . . .

Page 63 . . . "Protect and serve," Maguire said. . . .

Page 71 . . . He just wanted to discover their secret and move on, and discover someone else's. . . .

Page 74 . . . "Candy is dandy," Jesse said, "but liquor is quicker." . . .

Mary Beth says

I? love Jesse Stone.

Ann says

Night and Day read as quickly as expected with a Robert B Parker book. This is both a good thing and bad. The story, even told sparingly, is a compelling one; it was good to visit with Jesse again and it was over too soon.

In contract with the simplicity of the dialog, Jesse is a rather complex character, certainly a troubled one. You have to admire his desire to do the right thing; even though as usual, doing that puts his position as Police Chief in jeopardy.

If you had asked me at the beginning of the book if I was interested in more Jenn; more beleagured Jesse as the butt of the town council's wrath; amd more drinking -- I would probably have said no. In reality, the end result holds together well, and there actually may be some progress. I am ready for the next installment.

Barbara says

It is so nice to sit down and read a book just for the sheer pleasure sometimes. Robert Parker, who sadly died just a few weeks ago, had the knack of combining snappy dialog in his more than 50 mysteries. These books have varied with his popular detectives, Spenser, Jesse Stone and Sunny Randall. Each one is written with crisp, but clear humor. Parker was sparing with his words, but always managed to convey a clear and vivid picture of his characters and their surroundings. So while the reader is immersed in solving the crime, (or in this case crimes) one often spends time chuckling. This Jesse Stone book, (who now looks like Tom Selleck to me) is no exception. The TV adaptations do not really capture the essence. I will not recap the story here, it can be read and enjoyed in a day or two.

A common thread that runs through Parker's novels is that the starring detective has a problem love interest, although Spenser seems to have conquered that difficulty. Many have equated this with Robert Parker's own situation, but I have read many accounts recently which would argue this. His was not a traditional arrangement. He was married to Joan for around 50 years and dedicated most of his books to her. Apparently they had arranged separate quarters in their large home, which seemed to suit them well. After all, this author seemed to be spending large portions of his life writing. He deserved his quiet space! A strange note is that he is alleged to have died sitting at his desk writing. It seems fitting.

I shall miss my interludes with Robert Parker, but I just discovered two or three books written this past year that I have not read. I will not have to say good bye to my well acquainted characters yet.
(2/2/10)
