

# **CROSS THE LINE (ALEX CROSS) BY JAMES PATTERSON**

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## **Review**

"Behind all the noise and the numbers, we shouldn't forget that no one gets this big without amazing natural storytelling talent--which is what James Patterson has, in spades. The Alex Cross series proves it."--Lee Child

"It's no mystery why James Patterson is the world's most popular thriller writer: his uncanny skill in creating living, breathing characters we truly feel for and seamless, lightning-fast plots. I do this for a living, and he still manages to keep me guessing from the first to last page. Simply put: Nobody does it better."--Jeffery Deaver  
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## **About the Author**

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THE NEWEST INSTALLMENT IN THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING SERIES

In all of Alex Cross's years with Homicide, Washington, DC, has never been more dangerous.

After shots pierce the tranquil nighttime calm of Rock Creek Park, a man is dead: what looks at first like road rage might be something much more sinister. But Alex has only just begun asking questions when he's called across town to investigate a new murder, one that hits close to home: Washington's own chief of detectives. And Alex's former boss, beloved mentor of Alex's wife, Bree.

Now there's a killer on the loose, a long list of possible suspects, a city in panic, and nobody in charge of the besieged police force.

Until Bree gets tapped for the job.

As Bree scrambles to find her footing and close two high-profile cases, new violence stuns the capital. What should be a time for her to rely on Alex for support and cooperation is instead a moment of crisis in their marriage as well as their city when their investigative instincts clash and their relationship reaches a breaking point.

And the fiendish mind behind all the violence has appointed himself judge, jury, and executioner, with a terrifying master plan he's only begun to put in motion. To beat him at his own game, Alex and Bree must take the law back into their own hands before he puts them both out of commission...permanently.

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- 528 pages

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

118 of 119 people found the following review helpful.

**ALEX CROSS THE LINES TO SAVE THE CITY!**

By A Journey Without Map

Cross the Line by James Patterson, the twenty-fourth instalment in the Alex Cross series, is for die-hard fans of the series. As a long-time admirer of bestselling author James Patterson and a huge, huge fan of the Alex Cross series, I'm pretty excited about each new release and wanted each new chapter in the series to be a good one. I have been disappointed with some while most have kept me entertained, and satisfied. And this latest addition to the series is a well-crafted one where our hero faces a daunting task with a crime wave sweeping all over Washington, DC.

In this latest Alex Cross thriller, a baffling crime wave hits Washington, DC, with a high-ranking police official ending up as one of the victims. The police department is caught groping in the dark. Alex Cross and his wife Bree teams up to find the killer. But both husband and wife finds themselves at odds at crucial juncture, thereby impeding their work. When a vigilante group strikes with disastrous consequences, Alex Cross knew he has to tread cautiously and quickly before it is too late. In due course Alex Cross' sharp mind sees a pattern in the method of the killers targeting victims who might have actually broken the law.

Cross the Line by James Patterson written in his true trademark style is one that you just can't put down once you start it. I loved the setting, the characterization and the premise of the story. The book wrangles together what I would have considered a weird medley of plot themes – murder, mystery, domestic issues, vigilante, and unsolved crimes. This book has got two things right - a terrific plot and strong characters. It is interesting to see the continuous development of the characters in the series, which is a welcome sign that James Patterson has no intention of bringing it to an end. And I can't seem to have enough of Alex Cross!

76 of 81 people found the following review helpful.

The annoying Nana Mama still crops up way too often

By TUCSON ROBERT

CROSS THE LINE is James Patterson's 24th book in the Alex Cross series. I've never been a big fan of the series, but I give this one some high marks. Believe this book was actually written by Patterson without the help of his usual surrogate writers. For the most part the story is an action thriller and the Cross family appearances are kept to a minimum (thank goodness). The annoying Nana Mama still crops up way too often. The story starts with a wave of senseless killings across Washington DC and its suburbs. Only after the District Chief of Detectives and his Slovakia girlfriend are gunned down in cold blood on a busy public walkway does it grab the attention of Washington politicians. They demand swift action. Dr. Cross is asked to take the job as Chief of Detectives but turns it down. His wife, Bree Stone, accepts the position. This makes for interesting team and family dynamics as they pursue bad guys across the District. Interest grows as the story wades through several subplots. One involves a group of hardcore ex-military vigilantes who take the law into their own hands, another trudges into the manufacture and distribution of dangerous narcotics, and

yet another deals with the trafficking and servitude of young European women at an exclusive Washington area resort. Cross and Stone ferret out the criminal activity with tact and practiced protocols. There is plenty of action with good fight scenes and shootouts. Although not a Cross fan, I must say the novel is engaging and held my interest. I give the story 4-stars.

62 of 67 people found the following review helpful.

"Cross the Line;" A Book You'll Want in Audible & In Kindle Format - Authentic Character-Based Action-Adventure Crime Fiction

By Travis C

\*\*\* LANGUAGE \*\*\*

Written in Adult English, but, with only a very few f-bombs, this crime fiction novel would probably be rated PG-13 if it were a film.

### Quick Overview

Written mostly in first person POV, this is classic James Patterson and his character Alex Cross.

The story leads with a prologue, but, for the life of me, I can't figure out why the prologue wasn't simply titled Chapter 1. Whatever, though, this and the subsequent chapter drew me into the story and held on to me better than most other writers do.

Then again, I am definitely a James Patterson fan. Still, this Alex Cross novel exhibits a good opening with action and descriptions that, at every turn, caught my interest and sucked me in deeper and deeper.

POV – Mostly first person, but the first person is not always Alex Cross. As the author often does in other books, he lets us know what a victim sees, feels, smells and understands at their moment of death. The challenge, for me as a reader, was to forget what the victim saw when I am reading what Alex Cross first notices upon reaching a crime scene.

GENRE – Billed as a Mystery Thriller-Suspense. Personally, I see it more as an Action-Adventure Crime Fiction novel.

PLOT OR CHARACTER – The key to this would ordinarily seem to be plot, as are most Patterson stories. Yet, the character development, letting us glimpse a character's personal life and how it affects his judgment, convinces me that the magic here is in strong character development.

PACE – I love the pace. Taut action at some settings. At others, a slightly more leisurely description that allows us to catch out breath. There also is a bit of sarcastic dry wit, such as when another officer working on the case has an anniversary that demands the man's attention away from the job. I won't spoil it for you though.

EDITING – Of course this is professionally edited, removing or eliminating issues more commonly found in self-published works, sold at far lower prices.

PAGE LENGTH – 401 pages; Audible, 8 hours 35 minutes.

Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first?

A – Yes, but most readers will have already read several Alex Cross novels.

Q – If this is a recurring character or a series, does it have a cliffhanger ending?

A – No. There is no cliffhanger ending.

Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read?

A – At 400 pages, this is not the sort of book you will read during commutes, but, it reads much faster than your typical 400-page tome.

Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment?

A – For an Alex Cross fan there are no disappointments. What I am most pleased by Cross the Line is that it doesn't feel like formula-based writing. When you consider how many books the author writes in any given year, it is easy to understand how some sort of formula must be necessary, but this story reads as if it were the only thing on this writer's mind. If writing can have charisma, Cross the Line has oodles of charisma. At least for me.

To give a feel for the editing, and the style and flow of this work, I am posting a brief excerpt below.

Excerpt

The next drawer down was full of files. I looked through them, found out that she owned a late-model Audi A5 and that she vacationed in the Caymans— a lot, as in three times in the prior year. But there was nothing that gave me a clear idea of how she'd paid for it all.

I was thinking she'd have to have an income of over a hundred grand to live like this. Did Level 2 Certified Coaches make that kind of money? If so, maybe I was in the wrong business.

I thought about breaking the lock on the first cabinet but decided to take a look at the computer first. To my surprise, when I ran my finger across the touchpad, the screen lit right up and showed me the desktop. Several different applications were running.

One was Edita's law school e-mail account. I sat down and scanned through the e-mails, seeing nothing from Tom McGrath. Most of the messages were to and from professors and classmates. One classmate, JohnnyBoy5, had sent six e-mails to her in the eighteen hours preceding her murder.

Really? read one sent around ten thirty the previous night. Standing me up again? This was your meet, remember?

I did a search of her entire in-box, looking for all e-mails from JohnnyBoy5. There were more than a hundred, going back eighteen months. I rearranged them so they were in chronological order and read a tale of growing obsession.

JohnnyBoy5 had evidently been smitten by Edita Kravic from the get-go, and he was not shy about saying so. Though she seemed to flirt with him at times, for the most part, she did nothing to encourage him.

For the first year, she'd managed to keep

Patterson, James. Cross the Line (p. 38 - 39). Little, Brown and Company. Kindle Edition.

Bottom Line:



This is another title I have bought through Audible. A big chunk of my salary now has gone to the likes of Craig Johnson, Stephen King and James Patterson. Amazon and Audible must be grateful.

Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite.

Thank you.

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