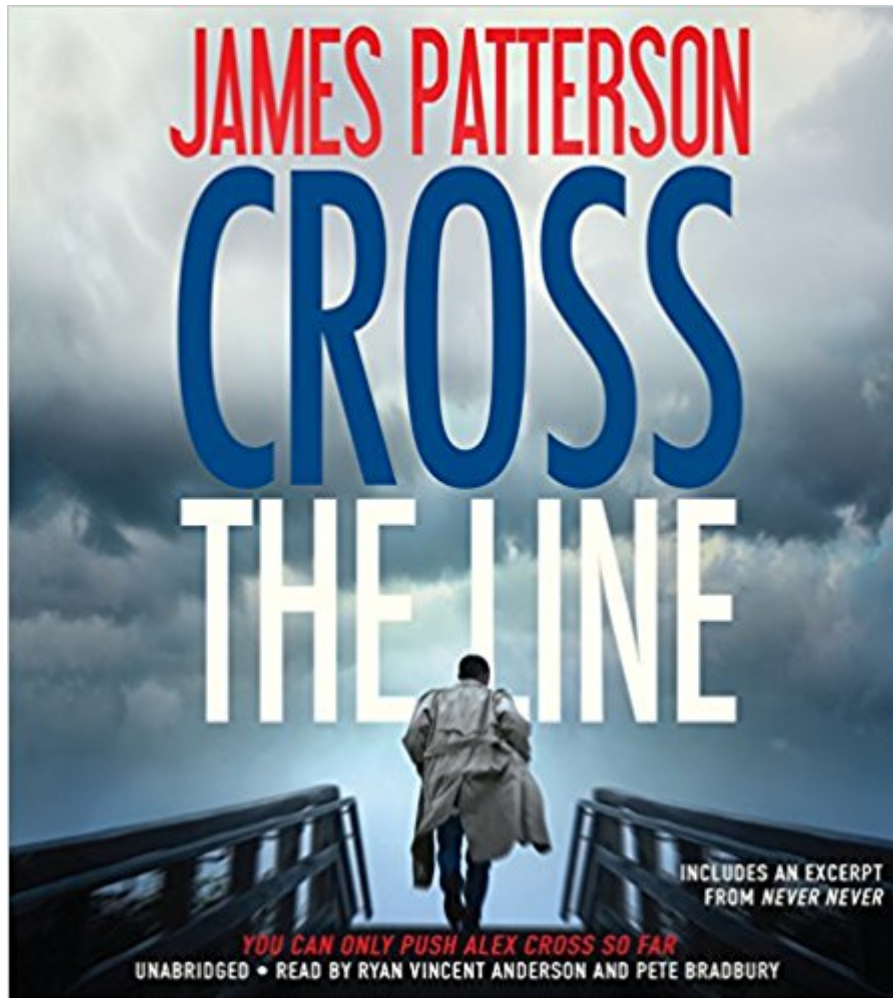




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## Cross The Line (Alex Cross)



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"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 • "James Patterson is The Boss. End of."--Ian Rankin --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

James Patterson received the Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community as the 2015 National Book Awards. Patterson holds the Guinness World Record for the most #1 New York Times bestsellers. His books have sold more than 325 million copies worldwide.

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 an 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.

I am giving this Alex Cross book for one reason only!! Does James Patterson think that the majority of his readers are stupid? In May, I ordered and read Cross Kill, a Bookshots story about Alex Cross and his "dead" nemesis, Gary Soneji. I apologize to anyone who has not read it but I have to mention the end of the Bookshot in order for you to understand my confusion. At the end of Cross Kill, John Sampson has been severely injured by bullets and is in critical condition, not knowing whether he will live. Alex Cross has been arrested for murder and is taken into custody. Now one

would think that at the beginning of Cross the Line, the author would have brought closure to the serious situations that Sampson and Cross are in. But no. The book begins and there is no mention of how Sampson recovered or how Cross was exonerated. I find this totally ridiculous. If someone has an explanation that I am not aware of, I would appreciate a response. Other than that huge mistake, the book is rather good.

First, I wasn't overly fond of the book description given on . For example, it says: "What should be a time for [Bree] 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." Yet at no point is Alex's relation with Bree endangered; rather, they grow closer. And there are the usual heartwarming asides about Nana Mama and Alex's children Damon, Jannie, and Ali. But, secondly, this book is very complicated, as some of Patterson's are. There are three principal storylines: unauthorized mercenaries attacking cartels engaged in drug and human trafficking; some seemingly road-rage murders; and a drive-by shooting taking out a chief of detectives, his CI, and a person they try to frame. Somewhat frustratingly, who's doing what baffles Alex, Sampson, Bree, and their FBI associates for most of the book. However there are furious engagements throughout, and the book is a great action-packed adventure for those committed to "hang in there" and, as closely as possible, follow the many twists and turns, while forgetting about those that are just too puzzling.

This book was really strange for me. Before starting it, I read the cover synopsis as I usually do. From reading that, I thought this book would be a lot more intense than it actually was. I was expecting major conflict between Alex and Bree and Alex's life to be severely threatened. Maybe it is just me, but I don't really think I got any of that out of this one. That being said, I did enjoy it. It was nice having another Alex Cross book that wasn't a book shot. There was plenty of action, and the storyline was actually interesting. I think my reading experience may have been lessened just from me expecting something more intense to happen. I am upset by that, because there was actually a lot going on, but I was just expecting more. This is probably my own fault, and I wasn't looking forward to conflict between Alex and Bree at all. You'd think I would be happy that it didn't happen. If you are a fan of Alex Cross, you will enjoy this read. Maybe just don't read the cover synopsis like I did. 3.5/5 Stars

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