



## The Witnesses

*James Patterson , Brendan DuBois*

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**James Patterson's BookShots. Short, fast-paced, high-impact entertainment.**

The family next door has a very dark secret.

The Sanderson family has been forced into hiding after one of them stumbled upon a criminal plot. Or so they think. No one will answer their questions. And the terrifying truth may come too late...

## The Witnesses Details

Date : Published July 19th 2016 by BookShots Digital

ISBN :

Author : James Patterson , Brendan DuBois

Format : Kindle Edition 144 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Witnesses for online ebook

### Sheri says

Aptly titled, fast paced, intense and suspenseful with a fully satisfying ending. I really enjoyed this one!

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### Monnie says

Ever since hearing about prolific author James Patterson's "BookShots" project, I've wanted to check out a sample. The concept, as I understand it from reading a couple of articles on the subject, is to produce thrillers that sell for \$4.99 and are no longer than 150 pages. Some are written by Patterson alone and others, like this one, will be joint efforts with co-authors.

From my own perspective, I truly believe book publishing, as I've known it for most of my life, is in a state of tremendous flux; hardcover versions, in fact, may well be in their death throes. So it is that I look with interest at any efforts to generate more sales. Several of my favorite authors appear to be trimming the length of their books and, in some cases, lowering the prices accordingly. Others are writing "prequels," or short stories/novellas designed to whet readers' appetites for the real thing. Just about everybody touts free sample chapters, often including them at the end of their other books.

BookShots fits into the any-old-port-in-a-book-selling storm trend quite nicely (though to be fair, Patterson says one of the primary purposes is to target people who prefer books that can be read in one sitting and/or those who don't normally read much at all). In any event, when Amazon made this one available at no cost, I jumped at the chance.

And I must say I'm impressed. Since I didn't start it until late one evening I wasn't able to finish before my usual bedtime, but an hour or so the following day was all it took. The story revolves around a family (mom, dad and two children) who have been stashed away in a safe house because at least one of them discovered a secret that likely will get them killed - any minute now. New details and background about how they got into the mess (and who might be after them) is revealed in each chapter, building up to an action-packed conclusion. Suffice it to say there's precious little extraneous material here; short, sweet and to the point is the name of the game.

For anyone interested, there are a number of other BookShots out there, including on popular Patterson series' like Alex Cross, Women's Murder Club and Zoo (visit [BookShots.com](http://BookShots.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) to check them out). As for me, especially since I enjoyed this one so much, I'm going to try those I mentioned as well simply because I'm very familiar with the original books. In short (pun intended), BookShots looks to be a novel idea (another pun intended) that's likely to do very well. Time will tell!

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### Victoria says

I found the first few chapters to pretty confusing. There were so many characters being introduced each chapter in different POVs but the chapters were extremely short (averaging a couple of pages) that I didn't get much of a chance to really get used to one character when suddenly the POV changed. The plot line was pretty predictable and I expected there to be a great plot twist, but there wasn't any jaw-dropping moment. It

was all bland and didn't hold my interest for long. Maybe this is my cue to take a break from all things related to James Patterson, because I've been having terrible luck with his books lately. :/

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### **Mike Kennedy says**

This is the second bookshot of James Patterson's that I have read. Full disclosure I got this book free through a James Paterson/Nook promotion. That said, it was a very interesting fast paced read. Centers around a family in protective custody, although the reason they are in protective custody is not revealed until the end. I would say that these short stories might be a good outlet for some of Patterson's book ideas, as he doesn't need to stretch them into full length novels. Keeping them short with one plot, at least in the two I have read, makes them much better. Over all not a bad short fast read.

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### **Chloe says**

This is my first bookshot and I love reading James Patterson books. It was a quick read with fast paced action . I did enjoy this book but felt the ending was too rushed .Hopefully will like the other bookshots better than this one

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### **Melodie says**

This was a super quick read. One of James Pattersons' new "bookshots", the story moves at breakneck speed. The Sanderson family is in a form of witness protection after an incident in Africa. We know someone is gunning for them, it's just a matter of when and how. There are several players in this drama and background is given as the drama plays out.

I liked this style.I was short on time and wanted a fast satisfying read. For me it all worked well.

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### **Jen says**

The Sandersons have to be the family I would vote as "Least Likely To Survive ANYTHING". They have no sense of self preservation. I highly doubt they could blink, breathe and chew gum while walking at the same time. I pity their keeper. If I was him, I would pop a round in each of their domes and call it a day. This was such a huge stinker. I don't care what happens next, presumably they manage to survive somehow, but I guess at the sacrifice of the guard. The chapters were short, the book is allegedly short, but it's too long for me. I'm done!

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### **Lewis Weinstein says**

It's not really by JamesPatterson and I find that misleading and off-putting, but it turned out better than I expected, and I think it was free. There are some tense moments in the plot, but none of the characters is adequately developed, which keeps the reader (at least me) from caring as much as I might have liked to.

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## Donna says

Ronald Temple, 21 year veteran of NYPD, retired due to health conditions brought on after the Twin Towers collapsed on 9/11. The family next door moved in 3 days ago. Ronald is convinced the mom, dad, and 2 children are terrorists because they arrived in a black SUV with few suitcases and are dark skinned. They also have a large driver who must be their leader. Actually, Lance and Teresa Sanderson and their 12 yr old daughter and 10 year old son are in the witness protection program after witnessing something at an archeological dig in N. Africa. An assassin has been hired to kill them and one wrong move will tell him where they are hiding.

Normally, I don't like novellas because they seem so short, but I like James Patterson and I wanted to give this one a try. I'm sure glad I did. There wasn't time for much character development, but the story was very fast paced. I enjoyed it. Didn't take long to read.

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## Matt says

In another of the BookShot short stories, James Patterson and Brendan DuBois craft an interesting tale that will keep the reader wondering until the closing chapters. The Sandersons have been temporarily relocated from their California home to the small community of Levittown, New York. Their neighbour is leaving nothing to chance as he sits in his wheelchair and gawks at them, spinning outrageous tales. Inside their home, the family is miserable; unable to communicate with the outside world or connect to something as rudimentary as the Information Highway. It all stems from their recent time in Tunisia, where Mr. Sanderson was on an archaeological dig as part of his ongoing scholastic work with Stanford. Was something unearthed that was best left interred? Or, could it have been Mrs. Sanderson, whose experience writing guidebooks led her to snap some photos of a meeting she was not supposed to see? No one is sure, but their security agent runs a tight ship and they are herded around like cattle. There is a hit put out on the Sandersons and a trained killer is slowly pulling together leads to find them. After a single mishap, beacons are alerted on both side of the law and it's a rush to get to Levittown to deal with the breach. Who gets there first is anyone's guess, but either way, the Sandersons won't be around for any town bake sales this autumn. A decent story that glides along well enough to keep the reader entertained and turning pages.

While not my first BookShot, this was the first collaboration between Patterson and DuBois that I read. The authors take an interesting premise, a family in some form of witness protection, and spin it into something a little more enticing. The nosy elderly neighbour with a history of police work, sure that ISIS has moved in next door; the hitman sent to get rid of the target as smoothly and efficiently as possible, but who encounters some roadblocks; and the agency that vows protection covering its assets as best it knows how. While the story did flow well, I was not left with an indelible feel for any of the characters or felt compelled to crack the mystery behind the central protectee, though it was interesting to see in the end. The pace was quick enough and the varied characters offered something to keep the plot moving. Would I read another of their literary concoctions? Likely, but I am not shifting this to the top of my BookShot favourites list.

Kudos, Messrs. Patterson and DuBois on crafting this short story. I look forward to see what you both can do in the future, either in the BookShot world or independently.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:  
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

## **Sarah says**

3.5 stars

I used to be a huge James Patterson fan in my early twenties and have read many of his books. Sadly I haven't read as many as I would have liked to over the last ten years are so but when a friend told me that The Witnesses was free to pre order and it was only a short novel, I couldn't resist downloading it and bumping it up my to be read pile.

The Witnesses is a short story involving a family who are in some sort of witness protection due to some material that the daughter read that she shouldn't have. The family are trying to live a normal life though they have an agent living with them to over see their safety.

Next door is one of those neighbours who likes to think by watching everything that is going on in the street that he is protecting everyone and probably doing his bit for the neighbour hood watch. I think his imagination probably goes into over drive at times and I certainly don't think his neighbours appreciate him spying on them.

The story flicks between the Sanderson family as well as the neighbour and what he sees. Due to the son doing something he shouldn't, information leaks out as to where they are which puts all their lives in danger. From this point it certainly makes it more exciting.

Even though it is a short story it still grabbed me quite quickly, my main issue was the ending, for me it was to neat and tidy and I felt that it was rushed somewhat which did spoil my overall enjoyment. I'm sure over all that The Witnesses will go down well with the authors fans but I don't think it is his best work personally.

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## **Carianne Carleo-Evangelist says**

Contestant for worst book ever. Glad it was a free Kindle book as it was worthless. It wasn't so much a story as a stream of random people's thoughts. I've tried three or four of the Bookshots and they're a mixed bag, this one isn't even mediocre.

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## **Queen Gem says**

James Patterson didn't let me down on this mini action packed book! I was engaged in every twist & turn of this book and literally hated putting it down to work on other things. I love the concept of these new bookshots because you can read book in one sitting almost & still get an amazing action pack thrill!

I rated this book 5 stars because I loved not only the storyline but characters kept me engaged from the nosey old ass neighbor Ronald to Jason the overprotective bodyguard & his hidden secret. We surely can't forget about the hit man who was not leaving anyone or anything traceable to him. Again I say a great quick action packed book with no regrets!

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## **Elaine says**

I would love this to be longer, more like novel length, allowing stronger character development and suspense.

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## **Brenda says**

Lance and Teresa Sanderson and their two children Sandy and Sam were hiding out in a small apartment in Levittown with Jason as their constantly vigilant bodyguard; the terrible rush to take them to safety had had the family terrified – but now they were mostly just bored. Sam built his dinosaur models, while Sandy read everything she could lay her hands on. Teresa was frustrated without the use of the internet, which was of course, forbidden. Lance, a professor of archaeology tried to keep the family happy while wondering how long they would be incarcerated – and why...

In the meantime the plot to find them escalated. But who was after them? And why? What would be the final outcome for this family?

*The Witnesses* is another in the BookShots series by James Patterson. This one wasn't as good as others I've read; a lot of characters in the mix, though the main ones were well crafted and likeable. That said, it was a quick, easy and entertaining read which I recommend.

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