



Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot

Reed Farrel Coleman

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"Coleman keeps the characters and the somber atmosphere but makes the book his own stylistically."

--Booklist

Police Chief Jesse Stone is back in the remarkable new installment of the New York Times–bestselling series.

It's been a long time since Jesse Stone left L.A., and still longer since the tragic injury that ruined his chances for a major league baseball career. When Jesse is invited to a reunion of his old Triple-A team at a hip New York city hotel, he is forced to grapple with his memories and regrets over what might have been.

Jesse left more behind him than unresolved feelings about the play that ended his baseball career. The darkly sensuous Kayla, his former girlfriend and current wife of an old teammate is there in New York, too. As is Kayla's friend, Dee, an otherworldly beauty with secret regrets of her own. But Jesse's time at the reunion is cut short when, in Paradise, a young woman is found murdered and her boyfriend, a son of one of the town's most prominent families, is missing and presumed kidnapped.

Though seemingly coincidental, there is a connection between the reunion and the crimes back in Paradise. As Jesse, Molly, and Suit hunt for the killer and for the missing son, it becomes clear that one of Jesse's old teammates is intimately involved in the crimes. That there are deadly forces working below the surface and just beyond the edge of their vision. Sometimes, that's where the danger comes from, and where real evil lurks. Not out in the light—but in your blind spot.

Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot Details

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From Reader Review Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot for online ebook

Eileen says

This is the best Jesse Stone book written since Robert Parker's death. I could not stop reading and Mr. Coleman captured the characters as Robert Parker would have wanted

Monnie says

As a huge fan of the late Robert B. Parker's work - first and foremost, the Spenser series and to a somewhat lesser extent, those featuring Jesse Stone, I was really, really hoping this one would be as top-notch as possible given that Parker didn't write it. It's the 13th Stone installment and the first by Reed Farrel Coleman following several by Michael Brandman.

But while Brandman came close to capturing Parker's voice, Coleman falls more than a bit short. That said, if I could give it 3 1/2 stars, I would - I certainly didn't *not* enjoy it. The story line, in fact, wasn't bad at all; all my disappointment is focused on Jesse's dialogue - not quite as crisp and blunt as usual - and page after page of exposition that just seemed a tad excessive.

This one begins as Jesse, the chief of police in laid-back Paradise, Massachusetts, reluctantly heads for New York for a reunion of his former Triple-A baseball team. His once-promising career forever sidelined by a freak injury years ago, he has decidedly mixed feelings about digging up old memories - memories that include the beautiful Kayla, his former girlfriend who's now the wife of an old teammate.

Just as the get-together gets going, though, Jesse learns that a young woman has been found back in Paradise, and the son of a leading town resident may have been kidnapped. Of course, he heads back (more than a little relieved to escape the New York festivities) only to find there may be a connection between his old teammates and what's happened in his adopted home town.

A handful of characters from earlier books make an appearance here as well - coworkers "Suitcase" Simpson and Molly Crane, for instance - but they, too, just don't quite reach the personality standards of older books. And, there's a cliffhanger ending which, I suppose, is intended to motivate readers to buy the next installment - but it was a big turn-off for me. Every time an author tries that technique, I feel manipulated, and that's not a feeling I enjoy.

My conclusion? This is a decent book that's worth reading on its own, but the relationship to Parker or Brandman is slim to none. So if you're looking for writing that's true to either of them, save your money.

Donna says

I love the character of Jesse Stone. He holds no punches and keeps everything close to the vest when it comes to an investigation. The difference between this book and the others in the series, is that this one has way too much description of things. It's actually overly descriptive. But it's a great story. A baseball reunion

has Jesse going back to a time when he was in the Minors. He loved/loves baseball. But not necessarily the people he left behind. He meets an old ex, old friends and a new lover. Things get complicated by a murder and kidnapping. Good story overall. The best thing about it was the ending....which left a promise of things to come. Rarely has this happened with this series.

Ellen says

Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot by Reed Farrel Coleman.

I was browsing through the CD's at the main Clearwater Public Library when my eyes saw a gold mine. A Jesse Stone book on CD. I thought I had read all there was to read of that fabulous Chief in Paradise but this was actually written by another. So I thought I would give it a try.

Sensational! Mr. Coleman has it and I love it. He has captured Jesse Stone, Molly and Suitcase along with all the needed ingredients to hold my interest throughout the entire book. In my opinion Mr. Coleman has taken Jesse Stone to a new level bringing out the depth of his character and by eliminating the obsession R.B. P. had with the word "said".

Highly, highly recommended.

Eric_W says

Of all Robert Parker's creations I like the Jesse Stone series the best. A couple of authors have attempted to continue the series, including Michael Brandman and now Reed Farrel Coleman, author of the Moe Prager series. I haven't tried that series but will. I know some people disagree, but I think Coleman has better captured Jesse than Brandman. The interaction between Molly and Jesse is spot on.

We get a little more back story on what happened to Jesse in the minor leagues as he agrees to go to NY for a reunion with his old teammates at the invitation of Vic, the player who stole Kayla, Jesse's girlfriend following his injury. Seems Vic needs Jesse's help on a matter, but before he can reveal what it might be, Jesse has to return to Paradise where a girl has been murdered; one that involves Vic (perhaps a bit too coincidentally.) And the girl Vic had brought along as "entertainment" for Jesse turns out to be -- well, you'll just have to read the book to find out.

The only thing I didn't like much was the last couple of paragraphs. That kind of open-ended contrivance seems trite.

Margaret says

I found this totally depressing. The characters were from the Jesse Stone series, but the style lacked the spark of Robert Parker. It was much wordier and longer. I felt like I had been wallowing in the sewer for a long time, and then the threat on the last page. I doubt I'll read any more of this series.

C Baker says

Intensely disappointing is the only way I can describe my feelings toward this Jesse Stone novel. I was really enjoying the direction the previous "ghost" writer was taking the Jesse Stone character and to me it seemed to be in the same direction that Robert B. Parker was taking the character as well. Michael Brandman put his own unique advancement on the character, but it fit. In fact, it fit extremely well.

As a continuation of the story this novel and how it depicts a completely alcoholic and unsympathetic Jesse Stone is totally unbelievable if this is supposed to be in chronological order. It simply does not fit at all. Maybe had this been the second or third book in the series where Stone just couldn't shake off the booze it might have worked. At this point it just is a complete head scratcher. It is a shame nobody in Parker's estate seems to have thrown the red flag and had the author change the characters and location and make it about another character so it doesn't stain and mar what to this point has been a very enjoyable series.

And even the other characters like Molly Crane and Suitcase Simpson are unrecognizable. This book shows no respect for the series. And it frankly made me angry reading it. It was an unenjoyable experience.

As a standalone novel, this would have been an okay story. I thought the Mr. Peepers character was so absurd as to ruin the book, even if it weren't a Jesse Stone novel. I do like to have characters that even if they are over the top, are at least somewhat believable. Mr. Peepers is not.

I have read every single one of Robert Parker's books and every single one of the continuations. I really enjoy the characters and Parker's style which other authors writing the continuations of the series mostly get. This author obviously does not.

Please do not publish the clearly set up sequel to this book. I DO NOT WANT TO READ IT. THIS IS NOT JESSE STONE. IT'S AN IMPOSTER.

Tim says

Loved this story until its ending which could and should have been more inspirational. 8 of 10 stars

Evelyn Wilson says

Murderers out there that are truly heartless. Hired guns.

Page 21 . . . And that voice of hers . . . it grated on you like the constant buzzing of mosquito wings.

Page 27 . . . Blanco's smile was cold enough to chill the wine. "He fucked you like he fucked you and you still defend him. I don't get it."

Read Page 28 . . .

Page 47 . . . Every murder victim deserved justice, needed an advocate. Just as every living citizen was entitled to equal protection under the law, so, too, were the murdered entitled. . . .

Page 54 . . . Then the gut-wrenching shriek or the breathless repetition: Oh my God. Oh my God. Oh my God . . .

Page 78 . . . Jan Penworth took a deep breath but didn't say anything.

Jim Penworth smiled a wounded smile at Jesse and said, "Hardest day of our lives. Martina's an only child . . . was an--she--" He stopped talking.

"It's going to get harder. I want you to understand that there's no way for me or Molly to make this part any easlier on you. We wish we could, but I won't lie to you. I won't ever lie to you."

"thank you," Jan Penworth said, her voice barely audible. . . .

Page 93 . . . "Does it get easier, Jesse?"

"For me, no. For you, I hope it will with time. Someday you'll stop thinking of Martina as a murdered girl who was stolen from you. Someday you'll just remember that you and your wife made a great kid and you'll miss her." . . .

Page 95 . . . Don't worry. I don't investigate things based solely on hunches. We'll follow the evidence, no matter where it leads. Your daughter's life is worth more than my pride. And Healy cares even less about my hunches. He's been at this a long time. We're going to try our best to find out what happened and why." . . .

(THE SPIDER MOTORCYCLE IDIOT GANG MEMBER IN THIS BOOK IS NOT THE SAME SPIDER FRIEND OF SUNNY'S !!!!!)

Recall --- this is Reed Farrel Coleman's 1st time writing Robert B. Parker's Jesse Stone books)

Page 311 . . . "Sorry," Stroby bowed his head. "To what end are we repeating ourselves?"

Page 312 "Because I'm looking for something."

"What?" Stroby said.

"If I knew i, "d tell you. Part of police work is teasing information out of people. Often it's information they don't know they have. there are times it's information we don't even know we're looking for. that's what we're doing here." . . .

Page 365 . . . taking about the GRAY GULL. Obviously COLEMAN has not read or needs to re-read "NIGHT AND DAY" by Robert B. Parker Copyright 2009 (this book is Copyright 2014) as SPIKE bought the Gray Gull. The SPIKE that is friends with Sunny Randall.

Page 391 . . . Have you spoken with the dead girl's parents?"

"A few days ago."

"What was that like?"

"Like living their girl's death all over again," he said. "Closure is overrated."

"Closure doesn't exist."

Paula Dembeck says

Reed Farrel Colemann is the second writer to take over the Jesse Stone Series since Robert B Parker's death in 2010. Parker had published nine Jesse Stone books and Michael Brandman added another three, many not

well received. In picking up the series, Coleman has chosen to keep Parker's distinct short chapters and snappy dialogue but place his own distinctive stamp on the work by continuing to develop the characters. This is the first of his Jesse Stone books and I for one am pleased he has taken it on, breathing new life into a character and a series that has many fans.

This story reaches into Jesse's past to pick up on a time that is often the focus of his ruminations. It is the time he played shortstop for the Albuquerque Dukes, the Dodgers Triple A Club. He had dreams of entering the big leagues until he was felled by a career ending injury. It happened during a double play, when a ball thrown by his teammate Vic Prado and a runner's hard slide into second base resulted in a collision that took out Jesse's shoulder and ended his dream. Vic went on to reach the big leagues and become an All Star, taking with him Jesse's beautiful girlfriend Kayla who he married. Vic has done well for himself and is now a wealthy venture capitalist living the high-life. But he is also mixed up with childhood friends who are part of the seamy side of the financial world. Things are about to fall apart unless he moves quickly. Vic organized the reunion as a way to reconnect with Jesse and get his help enacting a plan to extricate himself from his troubles.

Jesse never felt close to Vic although they were roommates. He is not even keen to attend the reunion, although the all-expenses paid trip to New York promises superior accommodations and good food. But he has decided to go for old times sake, in hopes the reunion finally helps him close the door on this chapter of his life.

When he arrives in New York, he finds it is not just Vic who wants to get him away from the others to talk. Kayla has also approached him for some quiet time away from the ears of others. She has even introduced Jesse to her friend Dee Harrington, a beautiful woman who she knows will hold Jesse's attention until she can get to him. Jesse is immediately attracted to Dee but things are just getting started when he is called back to home to investigate a murder.

As Jesse makes his way back to Paradise, he is mulling over some disturbing information he picked up at the reunion -- that his career destroying injury was not an accident but was intentional. The thought sends him spiraling into a series of "what ifs" that brings to the surface demons he has been fighting for years, demons that continually remind him how his dream of a baseball career crashed and burned.

Back in Paradise Jesse begins the investigation into the death of Martina Penworth, an eighteen year old student at Tufts who was found with two bullets in her body in the old Salter mansion. Her boyfriend Benjamin Salter, the youngest son of wealthy Harlan Salter IV, is the natural suspect and is missing, although his car is still parked outside. It is not long before Jesse and his team realize that Ben has been kidnapped.

Vic Prado has been running a successful Ponzi-like scheme for years and had attempted to take over one of Harlan Salter's mutual funds. He had made Salter an offer, but Salter, furious at Prado's bold, cocky and arrogant manner refused. Prado in turn applied pressure to get his way and further infuriated Slater, who enlisted lawyer Monty Bernstein to help him exact his revenge for Prado's presumptuous ways. As Stone's investigates the case, it becomes clear that Ben Salter's kidnapping and the murder of the young girl are both connected to Vic Prado. The entire scenario provides Coleman with the opportunity to introduce a very scary hitman known as Mr. Peepers and to leave a clever hook that will lure readers to his next book.

Parker's writing was notably spare, whereas Coleman's takes more time to tell his story, includes more dialogue and fully fleshes out his characters in the process. Coleman writes more about Jesse's drinking, the demon who threatens to take over his life. As a writer, Coleman is better able to describe the pull of alcohol and the rituals that Jesse and other alcoholics use before and while they drink, not just the brooding self-reflection and the lies they tell themselves.

Coleman also lets his story unfold from many voices, giving us a number of points of view. Including his characters in the telling of his story helps readers better understand their motivations and their behavior. It makes for a much more complex and nuanced story of a crime and the people who are part of it.

Coleman also shows us a side of Jesse we seldom see, the more brutal side of Jesse we know is there. Jesse is not an emotional man, he keeps that side of himself hidden from others, but it is there, especially when he sees behavior he deems absolutely unacceptable. In this case, Jesse exacts a brutal beating on a scumbag of a man who is abusing a woman has her living in fear.

Coleman's plot is complex with more characters than we usually see in a Parker novel. But he does not overload it, skillfully maintaining the intensity and the tension until he brings the story to a chilling conclusion.

And in a humorous aside, I'd like to award Coleman additional points for losing the cat Mildred who never fit in with Jesse's persona. Everyone knows he is not or ever could be, a "cat kind-of-guy".

Thanks Mr. Coleman for a complex story and a great read. We've been waiting for you.

Nanci Rathbun says

What a pleasant surprise to find Jesse Stone again! Coleman has picked up the reins from the late Robert B. Parker and brought the series back to life. Stone is the same tough, flawed, likeable guy that Parker created, with perhaps a little more introspection - but not so much that the story turns sappy.

I enjoyed the twists and turns of the story, although the switches in point of view were a little hard to follow at the start. Once into the third chapter, the minor confusion resolved and I was able to sit back and enjoy the multiple threads that Coleman wove very skillfully into the novel. And the ending! Well, all I can say is that the momentum built until I had to leave my own project and finish reading *Blind Spot*. Coleman tied up all the plotlines in this one and left me on edge for the next. Well done!

Alex Cantone says

Blind Spot opens with the chief of police in Paradise, Ma., Jesse Stone, in New York for a reunion with men he played baseball with in his youth, before succumbing to injury. Not only did it rob him of his opportunity to play for the Dodgers, he also lost his girlfriend Kayla to his teammate Vic Prado, who is hosting the reunion. Coasting off his sporting achievements Prado fronts a business empire for crime boss Mike Frazetta, and needs a word with Jesse in private. Kayla is there of course, but Jesse Stone only has eyes for her friend, Dee and they quickly leave the venue.

Meanwhile in Paradise, Ben Salter, youngest son of businessman Harlan Salter IV is abducted from a beach house and his girlfriend killed. Is there a connection? When Ben Salter is found, injured but alive, Harlan IV gets his lawyer, Monty Bernstein, to hire someone "to make people suffer." Jesse suspects a business deal gone foul, but it takes a lot of misdirection before he gets to the bottom of it.

I confess I had never heard of the late Robert B Parker before reading two novels by his ghost writer Reed Farrel Coleman, which had left me impressed, and the for the first couple of hundred pages I seemed doomed to disappointment, just as Jesse Stone seemed wrapped up in his own disappointments and unfocused on the task at hand. The men were either baseball tragics – a former player who had made the big time while others had fallen short; or tattooed bikies ready to break other's faces; the women too glamorous and ready to test the bed springs after a first drink or a handshake.

I was ready to set the book aside, and then came the character that turned it all around: the contract killer; a short, unremarkable man driving an unremarkable car in the blind spot of others. Clever stuff, with a chilling ending.

Una Tiers says

Robert Parker was one of my favorites. This author makes an initial impression that is almost viable in terms of dialogue, but the Jesse banter quickly falls off into something tired. He overworks the plot on Suit. Three characters have almost identical relationship traits. The violence was beyond the Parker punching and kicking.

Kevintipple says

Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone only went to the reunion in New York of his old triple-a team to get rid of the past. One play on the diamond ruined his shoulder, ended his prospects of ever playing for the Dodgers, and ended his relationship with the stunningly beautiful Kayla. It was an all-expenses paid trip by way of Vic Prado, former roommate, and the man who took his girl and who was part of the double-play that ended Jessie's career. The past is not a friend that Jesse wants to visit, but the reunion is a way to deal with it.

Everyone involved, including Kayla, seems to want a private word and to be working some kind of agenda tied into memory lane. The only bright spot in the whole deal was the incredible Dee. Dee may be friends with Kayla and Vic, but Jesse won't hold that against her as he likes her quite a lot. He would have definitely spent more time with her, and clearly that feeling was shared, but a murder and possible abduction back in Paradise means he has to cut the NYC weekend short and get back home to Paradise, Mass.

Martina Penworth is very much dead having been shot and killed in the old Salter family home on a bluff near the yacht club. Built in 1888 the Victorian style house is little used these days except for the occasional romantic interlude. The youngest of the family dynasty, Benjamin Salter IV brought Martina to the house for just such an event. Now she is dead, he is missing though his car sits in the driveway. Either he killed the young lady or he was abducted for ransom or something. Either way, Jesse needs to get back and take charge of a case that will grow more complex by the minute.

Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot: A Jesse Stone Novel marks the takeover of the Jesse Stone franchise by talented author Reed Farrel Coleman. Known for his excellent Moe Prager series, Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot bears his stamp of authority with multiple storylines, complex characters working multiple agendas, and his interpretation of how the Jesse Stone character is to be going forward. While it carries all the usual hallmarks of limited dialogue, short chapters, and returning characters, it also manages to work complexity and nuance into the well established Jesse Stone character as well as nearly everyone around him.

In short, this is quite possibly the best in the series in quite some time and does the series proud. Robert B.

Parker's Blind Spot: A Jesse Stone Novel by Reed Farrel Coleman breathes new life in a series that was languishing. It is well worth your time.

Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot: A Jesse Stone Novel

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Peter Cohron says

Decades ago, looking for more and more authors who wrote good detective novels, I discovered the disciple of Raymond Chandler, Robert B Parker. His stories were not the whodunits I love, but his style and characters caught me. I was a Spenser, Sunny Randall and Jesse Stone fan.

With Parker's passing, the estate has permitted authors to mimic Parker's minimalist hard-bitten style and keep the characters going. Some of these efforts have been more than passable. BLIND SPOT is not one of them.

It neither mimics the style nor keeps true to the characters' past development. Just familiar names with a few familiar moments in an otherwise drab novel.

How drab? There is a twist at the end specifically designed to bring me back for the next book. Though a little bit tantalized...

I think not.
