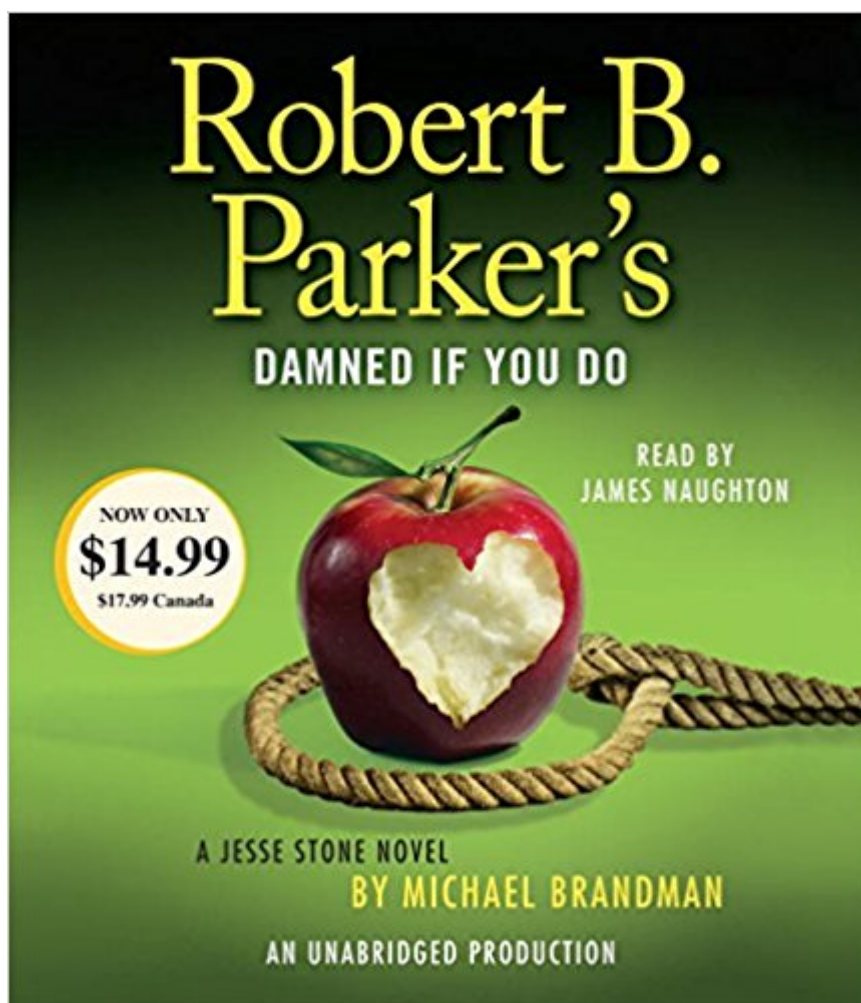


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# Robert B. Parker's Damned If You Do: A Jesse Stone Novel



## Synopsis

The woman on the bed was barely out of her teens. She wasn't exactly beautiful, but she'd tried to make the most of her looks. And now, alone in a seedy beachfront motel, she was dead. Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone doesn't know her name. Whoever she is, she didn't deserve to die. Jesse starts digging, only to find himself caught in the crosshairs of a bitter turf war between two ruthless pimps. And more blood will spill before it's over.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The girl is young, pretty, and looks vaguely familiar to Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone. She's also dead. She checked into the decaying bungalow resort with cash and an alias: undoubtedly, a working girl. Jesse feels he at least needs to determine her identity to avoid the indignity of an unmarked Jane Doe grave. The man who might provide a starting point is Gino Fish, the Boston crime boss. Gino claims to know nothing, but he sends a pimp named Thomas Walker to Stone. Meanwhile, Stone is dealing with a nursing-home runaway who happens to be an old friend with midstage Alzheimer's. He's being mistreated, but how do you take down a billion-dollar health-care conglomerate? In the end, Jesse has a more favorable view of the sex industry than he does of some health-care purveyors. Brandman, who worked closely with Parker on the Jesse Stone television movies, does a fine job moving the Jesse Stone series forward. He continues to be the gold standard for mystery writers attempting to preserve the Parker brand.

--Wes Lukowsky --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"No one understands what makes Bob Parker's Jesse Stone tick better than Michael Brandman, who help bring him to television.... I know Michael is just the writer to carry Jesse into the future."--Tom Selleck "Brandman nails Parker's compressionist prose."-- "Booklist "on "Robert B. Parker's ""Fool Me Twice" "Brandman perfectly reproduces Parker's style in this impressive continuation of his series featuring Jesse Stone.... As with the originals, the pleasure lies more in the easy, banter-filled writing, balanced with the lead's apparently limitless compassion, informed by bitter experience."--"Publishers Weekly" on "Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues" "Part of a grand tradition..."--"USA Today" on "Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you're expecting the character richness and development that was a trademark of Robert Parker, you will greatly disappointed. At times it even seems that Michael Brandman had barely read the previous books as some of the character interaction (example: between Molly and Jesse Stone, Jesse and Gino Fish, Jesse and Luther Suitcase Simpson, etc...)is the opposite of how Robert Parker had developed these relationships and reactions over the years. Plot is THIN and poorly developed. It's a far cry from Robert Parker--may he rest in peace. I feel cheated, saddened, and greatly disappointed. The original seems to have written for the pleasure of telling a richly woven story of the friends in his head...now it seems like this just a book written for the money by an interloper. If you are a Robert Parker fan, and if you haven't bought it yet....DON'T.

I have been a fan of Parker's books for a bout 12 years and have read everything except the weightlifting book. When he died, I was saddened, but continued to read the books by those imitating the style. While good, and fairly true to style, they are not quite the same."Damned if You Do", however is a major disappointment. It would make a long short story. Parker's books were always short, but the taut dialog and the long developed characters made them great. This book is very short, so charging full price is criminal. There is no character depth developed, including Jessie's. No back story - baseball, alcoholism, marriage, past loves in town. Daisy is mentioned once as having made a sandwich. Bad guys we have grown to like are minor Even the other police officers are ignored.I will stop reading this series and hope the other authors can keep getting close. I suspect I will discontinue each as they get further from the original.The sad end to a great series.

I had enjoyed one "Robert Parker" novel by this author, and I dearly love the Jesse Stone novels

(and even learned to put up with the changes to watch Tom Selleck play him on the tv movies). But his novel was not true to the characters, and the writing wasn't up to his last attempt. The plot was fine, and Jesse sticking his nose into a problem and bending the rules IS Jesse Stone. However, the subplot became the main story and throughout the novel the main story was shaky and jerky. Then all the loose ends are sort of tied up....but you don't feel relief. My biggest complaint is with the supporting characters, who not only helped Jesse become Jesse Stone but made us love Paradise. This Molly is snarky and annoying, and very two-dimensional. Robert Parker made her complex and interesting. And what became of Suitcase Simpson? He's been regulated to a walk-on role with no depth at all. So this is a one-man show, and it hurts not only the flow of the book, but makes it very easy to walk away from it altogether. I doubt if I'll fall for this again. I think it's time to accept that Robert Parker is gone. If these authors want to publish on their own, so be it. But leave Robert Parker off the jacket and stop riding on his name.

In Michael Brandman's 3rd venture into the world of Jesse Stone he finally gets his stride going. Some other's have pointed out that he is no Robert B. Parker and this is true but Brandman is settling into the Jesse Stone series nicely. As a Parker fan from the Godwolf Manuscript I am not sure that Parker was always up to his A game in the Jesse Stone series (or Sunny Randall series either for that matter) when you compare them to Spenser. In the second of his Jesse Stone books, Fool Me Twice, I really dinged Brandman because of his abrupt ending. As if he; A) just got tired of writing and just stopped suddenly or B) ran into a publisher deadline and just decided to end it. In Damned if You Do Brandman fixes this shortcoming and really finishes the book nicely in a very Parker-like style. Kudos to him on that. For me the book started a bit slow and confusing as if it was looking for a plot. (Spoiler Alert!!) It was as if Brandman couldn't decide if the primary plot was the dead hooker in the hotel or the patient abusing healthcare community. Turns out that it was both and Brandman develops both nicely and wrapped up all of the loose ends very well. Brandman didn't step into Parker's shoes in the Jesse Stone series as well as Ace Atkins stepped in and took over the Spenser series. As good of a character as Jesse Stone is, he never was a Spenser even under Parker's pen. But then again very few literary detectives are Spenser so it is easy to forgive Jesse Stone. I think that Brandman has finally found his groove and will be looking forward to his next Jesse Stone offering. Well done Mr. Brandman.

Loved the way Parker (Michael Brandman ) writes. Can't get enough. Have started the last book. Jesse comes across as a regular guy, but very determined to bring justice to the dead. Nothing

stops him. Too bad real cops aren't like him. There'd be less injustice in this country.

Robert B Parker books not written by Robert B Parker are usually a disappointing a read for me as they lose his take on the main character. Their personalities are definitely not the same with the new authors. In addition, the main characters sense of humor is forced or not there. Not a genuine feel at all. Now I have read Ace Atkins novels and they are a good read. The problem is this. It is hard to mimic Robert B Parker or any author if you are not them. And true fans will be able to pick up on the subtle and sometimes not too subtle differences. I have not had the opportunity to read any of Reed Farrel Coleman or Micheal Brandon personal novels so I cannot comment on their products.

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