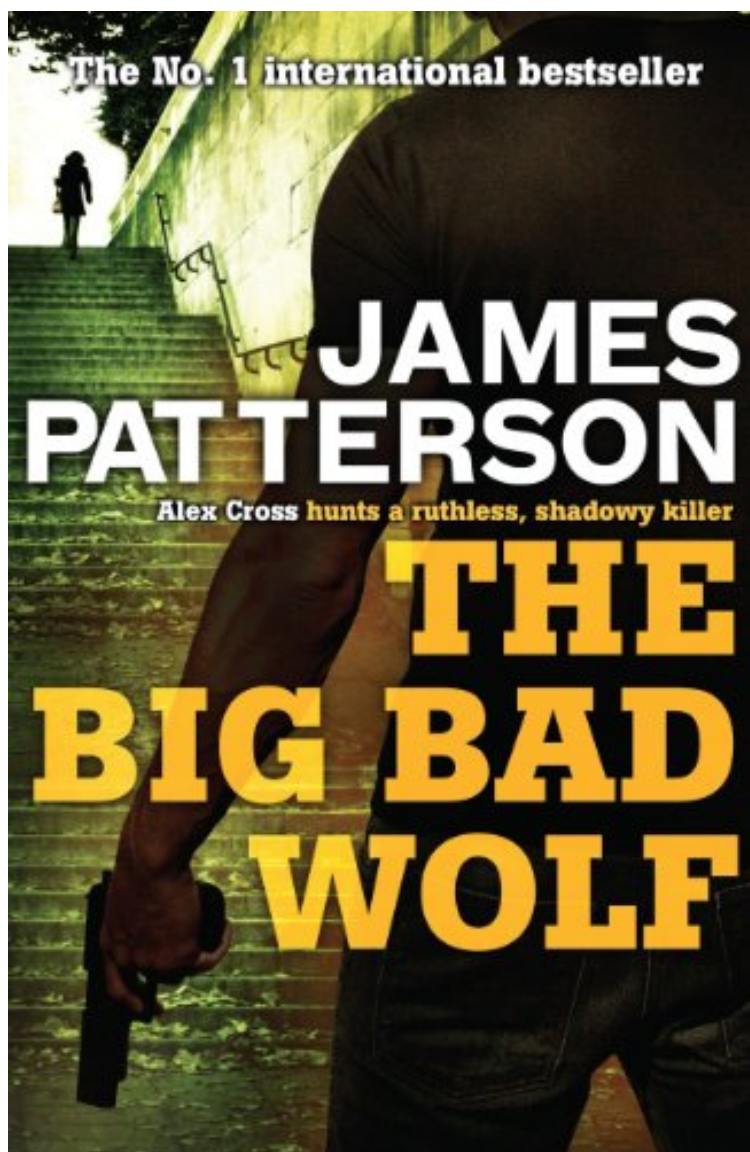


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The Big Bad Wolf



Par James Patterson
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ventes : #118580 dans eBooksPubli le:
2011-05-12Sorti le: 2011-05-
12Format: Ebook Kindle

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Par James Patterson : The Big Bad Wolf before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Bad Wolf:

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Description : Description du produit Alex Cross' family is in terrible danger--at the same time that his new job with the FBI brings him the scariest case of his career. A team of kidnapers has been snatching successful, upstanding men and women right before their families' eyes--possibly to sell them into slavery. Alex's knowledge of the D.C. streets, together with his unique insights into criminal psychology, make this mindbending case one that only he can solve--if he can just get his colleagues to set aside their staid and outdated methods. With unexpected twists and whiplash surprises, this is another brilliantly irresistible novel from America's bestselling suspense writer.

Prsentation de l'diteur Alex Cross's first case since joining the FBI has his new colleagues perplexed. Across the country, men and women are kidnapped in broad daylight and then disappear completely. These people

are not being taken for ransom, Alex realizes. They are being bought and sold. And it seems *The Wolf* is the master criminal behind this terrible trade and who is bringing a new reign of terror to organized crime. Even as he admires the FBI's vast resources, Alex is impatient with the Bureau's clumsiness and caution when it is time to move. A lone wolf himself, he has to go out alone to track his new prey and try to rescue some of the victims while they are still alive. As the case boils over, Alex is in hot water at home, too. His ex-fiance, Christine Johnson, comes back into his life - and not for the reasons Alex might have hoped.

From Publishers Weekly
In a recent column in *Entertainment Weekly*, Stephen King cited Patterson's thrillers as the example of "dopey" bestsellers. We hope that doesn't mean that those who enjoy them are dopes, because this new one is vastly entertaining. Alex Cross, Patterson's black lawman hero, has left the D.C. police force for the FBI. But Cross was a star cop, so when the Bureau becomes aware that attractive white women are disappearing at an unusually high rate in the nation's capital, Cross, despite still being in training at Quantico, is brought onto the case and is personally mentored by the Bureau's director, earning the ire of some Feds but the support of others. Behind the disappearances is a sexual slavery operation run as a sideline by one of the more believable and most compellingly evil villains in the Patterson universe, the Wolf, a mysterious former KGB man who's now the world's top mobster. The narrative throughout is swift and varied, as Patterson cuts among the diabolical schemes of a Russian magnate who may be the Wolf, the plight of several kidnap victims, the dogged pursuit by Cross and company of the Wolf, and the hideous designs of the members of an encrypted computer chat room who pay the Wolf fortunes to snatch women who fit their fantasies. And there's domestic drama, too, as the mother of Cross's young son, Alex, decides that she wants her boy back. Full of plot surprises and featuring a balanced mix of intrigue, hard action and angst, the novel, on which Patterson notably does not share cover credit, grips from start to finish. The Alex Cross series remains Patterson's finest, and this is the finest Cross in years. Maybe we're dopes, but we're smiling ones.

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From AudioFile
In the midst of his FBI training, former Police Detective Alex Cross is called in to investigate *The Wolf*, an ex-KGB agent turned master criminal, with links to the Russian Mafia, who uses the Internet to fulfill the fantasies of some of the sickest sociopaths in recent popular fiction. Each of these well-heeled villains pays megabucks to have his current obsession, male or female, stalked, kidnapped, and delivered--to him. As the complex plot unfolds, narrators Peter J. Fernandez and Denis O'Hare offer a variety of stunning characterizations. Alex has clarity and energy, *The Wolf* is vicious and sadistic, and the cyber-weirdos, particularly Mr. Potter and the Art Director, are despicable. Patterson's plot, rife with imprisonment, torture, rape, and murder, gives Fernandez and O'Hare plenty to sink their teeth into. S.J.H. AudioFile 2004, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine