



## Robert B. Parker's Fool Me Twice

*Michael Brandman, Robert B. Parker (Creator)*

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One girl is a teenage dose of pretty poison. The other is a movie starlet on the run from a violent past. These two cases collide in Paradise and Jesse Stone is trapped between them.

## Robert B. Parker's Fool Me Twice Details

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## **From Reader Review Robert B. Parker's Fool Me Twice for online ebook**

### **Janie Johnson says**

This book #11 in the Jesse Stone Series by Robert B. Parker, and so far my favorite. Unfortunately Robert B. Parker passed away in 2010 and this book was written by a ghost writer, Michael Brandman. I think he does a great job keeping the essence of Parker's writing in this continued series.

#### **Synopsis**

Autumn in Paradise, Massachusetts, is usually an idyllic season?—but not this time. A Hollywood movie company has come to town, and brought with it a huge cast, crew, and a troubled star. Marisol Hinton is very beautiful, reasonably talented, and scared out of her wits that her estranged husband's jealousy might take a dangerous turn. When she becomes the subject of a death threat, Jesse and the rest of the Paradise police department go on high alert.

And when Jesse witnesses a horrifying collision caused by a distracted teenage driver, the political repercussions of her arrest bring him into conflict with the local selectmen, the DA, and some people with very deep pockets. There's murder in the air, and it's Jesse's reputation as an uncompromising defender of the law—and his life—on the line.

I have to say that I was concerned about continuing this series once I found out that Parker passed away 6 years ago, and that he had a ghost writer for the last 4 books of the Jesse Stone series, but so far they have been great. They are still very fluid and quick, easy reads. I love how we have a small town setting with big city problems. I love all the different cases going on in the book at the same time, keeps readers entertained and keeps the story from becoming boring. I find the whole series to be very engaging from first page to last.

The main characters continue to grow and develop very well and I love witnessing that with each new book I pick up. I love Jesse's character the most. He has many different issues, but with that, he also has plenty of wit and sarcasm that keeps him quite realistic and very likable. There are always plenty of new characters introduced in each book of the series. plenty to like and plenty to dislike as well.

I look forward to continuing this series and finishing it. I can't recommend this series enough to anyone who is a mystery buff, or a Parker fan.

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### **Bill Bickley says**

I love the Jesse Stone character and for obvious reasons, I picture Tom Selleck speaking in monosyllables as I read. I love this derive and even though we've lost Robert B. Parker, Michael Brandman does a yeoman's job of continuing the story line. These books are a quick read and hold one's interest very well. I wholeheartedly recommend Fool Me Twice.

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### **Monnie says**

As usual, it didn't take long to finish the latest in the Jesse Stone series - I'd estimate somewhere around three hours all told, in fact. Some of that I'll chalk up to all the short sentences (think: "Yep." "Nope." "I do."), each of which, as is book-writing protocol, starts a new paragraph. A single conversation between hero Jesse Stone and a single other character, then, easily can use up an entire page.

I must say, though, that author Michael Brandman has captured the essence of the late Robert B. Parker's style (as he did in the earlier *Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues*). I'll even go far enough to say that he does it better than Ace Atkins, who was chosen by the Parker family to carry on Parker's highly successful Spenser series. Even though Jesse always seems to me to be Spenser in cowboy boots, there are differences - and, IMHO, Brandman does a better job of picking up on them. That's no accident, I'm sure, since he either co-wrote or supervised writing of eight of the Jesse Stone movies that starred Tom Selleck. In any event, he knows the drill.

In this one, Stone first has a run-in with a belligerent teenager who insists on texting while driving even though it's illegal (how's that for keeping things current). Since she's the spoiled child of wealthy, well-connected parents, Stone is forced to deal with the politics of small-town Paradise, Massachusetts, as well. Then, when a motion picture company brings a production to town, Stone is charged with solving a related murder. In between, he uncovers a long-standing scheme to overcharge Paradise residents for water.

Does everything get resolved in the end? This is Jesse Stone, for goodness sake, so the only thing left somewhat in the wind is Stone's not-so-vague feelings of discontent and loneliness. All in all, the book is a fun experience - if nothing else, it's a good way to wile away a Saturday night when you've got nothing else to do.

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### **Rbucci says**

I think what I like most about these books is that everything is solved and you can see things moving in positive directions. This book was no different. Jesse Stone sees the problems and tries to find positive resolutions.

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### **Kevintipple says**

After the death of author Robert B. Parker, Michael Brandman took over the "Jesse Stone" series. The first one Robert B. Parker's Killing The Blues was a fairly good book. It certainly was not Robert B. Parker, but the book was good and there was the suggestion that Michael Brandman had plans to push the boundaries a little bit. Unfortunately, this novel is simply nowhere as near as good while it reads like discarded pieces of a movie script due to the lack of depth to characters or scenes. The book features three equally weak storylines that are way too predictable for any mystery reader.

The primary storyline is about threats against actress, Marisol Hinton, who is in town to film a movie. Her marriage to another actor is collapsing due to his ego, his lack of movie roles, and his heavy drug use.

The two secondary storylines involve water usage and rates and the spoiled teen of a rich family who is acting out.

In a sense, all three storylines in this latest Jess Stone novel are about folks acting out in one way or another. In all cases, those involved get dealt with in easily predictable fashion over the course of the 278 page novel. A novel that features very little scene description, nothing new in the Jesse Stone character, and weak storylines that seem to have come straight from a discarded movie script of the now cancelled series. On a positive note, the mentions of Jesse's ex-wife, Jenn, are kept to a bare minimum giving the impression that Jesse is slowly moving on.

Going back on the promise of a slightly edgier Jesse Stone, Robert B. Parker's *Fool Me Twice: A Jesse Stone Novel* is saccharine even for this series. One knew that it would be all but impossible for anyone to continue the Jesse Stone series as written by Robert B. Parker. One hoped that Mr. Brandman would not make it the series even lighter in terms of storylines, plots, settings, etc. Thanks to an absolute minimum of scene setting, limited dialogue that often reads forced, and three storylines where the resolution is obvious from early on, this read is a very disappointing step backwards and not anywhere near the level of the last book.

Robert B. Parker's *Fool Me Twice: A Jesse Stone Novel*

Michael Brandman

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### **Jill Manske says**

I loved Robert B. Parker and was really sad when he died. Aside from the fact that we lost a great writer, I grieved for the loss of books he had yet to write. Then along came Michael Brandman. There are subtle differences in his style, but he mostly stays true to Parker and his characters. This is one of his better efforts. Brandman brings his insider-knowledge of the world of entertainment and his expertise in film-making to enrich the storyline and make it more believable. One of the differences between Parker and Brandman is that Brandman seems to be gently helping Parker's characters mature. While none of the Parker characters will ever be flawless, Brandman is helping Jesse Stone gain better control of his life - love life, drinking, etc. He's still the same smart-mouthed cop that Parker created. But his edges are smoother and he's even more likable. I hope Brandman continues channeling Parker and creating more great stories.

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## Trish says

I like the new Jesse Stone. Brandman's version of Stone has him less screwed up and more comfortable in his own skin. Less booze, no pining for his slutty ex-wife, (which never played too well with me in the first place), yet the same sardonic, sure of himself investigator. I wasn't sure Brandman was going to work as a stand-in for the late Robert Parker, but I was rooting for him (or somebody) to keep this great character going. With this book, Brandman not only takes up the Jesse Stone baton, but makes him a stronger, more self-assured character with the same 'against the grain' streak of independence and snappy dialog. Like most Parker books this one is a quick read, but thoroughly enjoyable. Michael Brandman has an excellent grasp of this character and is a fitting heir to channel Robert Parker's Jesse Stone.

Now having anointed Brandman as the heir to pick up the Jesse Stone mantle, there is still room for improvement. As another reader pointed out, Brandman's weapons knowledge is embarrassing. Brandman's version of the relationship between Molly and Jesse is off. Molly normally gives Jesse a feminist attitude about getting coffee and a multitude of other things, but you could always read between the lines to see the real affection she has for the man. In this book, she just seems cranky. Another issue is the cat! Stone is a dog person! Never the twain shall meet. Get the man a big rescue mutt of some sort, preferably a Golden Retriever. No frou-frou lap dogs and no cats. Jesse Stone was and should always be a dog person. So while Michael Brandman has come a long way from his first Stone novel, further tweaking may be necessary before I can no longer distinguish the Brandman version from Parker's original.

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## David says

This one almost gets four stars just for being a successful continuation of the Jesse Stone series following the death of Robert Parker, the original author. ALMOST...

Brandman does an excellent job of recreating Parker's dialogue heavy, Stone stares at someone and gets and leaves type encounters. If you read Parker you know that all of his books are quick reads because they are mostly dialogue.

Brandman also successfully gets the reader into the Jesse Stone character and his dogged determination to do what's right in the face of political and social pressure.

As usual, there are several issues going on at once, which is one of the things that makes this series realistic. Rarely does a police chief deal with only one issue at a time.

So-- why does it fall short of four stars?

Unfortunately, Brandman continues Parker's morbid preoccupation with describing the food being consumed-- whether it be a cheese danish or a gourmet meal. It is almost as if both authors don't know how to put a story together without a few filler sentences about food that don't add much to the story. Does it matter who eats a breakfast burrito and who has the cheese danish? (page 38) Do we really have to know Jess tears into a porterhouse steak only a page later (yes, page 39) Okay, when he eats a gourmet meal that probably needs to be included, and perhaps we need to know the bad guy is living on frozen pizza.. but at

times.. this just seems like uninteresting filler material. Obviously, I'm no gourmet..

Another problem was that the author doesn't seem to know much about guns. At one point he mentions a Beretta .38 auto.. Browning made a .38 auto like in the 1920's or 1930's, but it is a pretty rare thing.. I don't think Beretta makes a .38 auto, I think he meant a .380 auto which is, essentially, a short 9 mm bullet. Well, maybe that was a typo.. but then he mentioned a Colt Commander .45 mm... Sorry.. it's a .45 auto.. not milimeter... So, he gets a bit messed up. Shouldn't publishers have at least one editor on staff who knows guns to run the gun stuff by???? Now maybe those guns exist, but if they do, they are a rarity.

Stone's soft-heartedness shines through, but this time around, the brokenheart over his relationship with Jenn, or Sunny doesn't come through as strongly. The television movies were quite morose and almost depressing and the author doesn't really recreate that particular tone quite as well as Parker did.

However, this was a well-written, fast paced book full of interesting characters and ideas and I enjoyed it and wish Brandman well with future endeavors. I just hope he manages to minimize the food talk and gets the guns right in future titles.

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### **Lynn says**

When it was announced, after the death of Robert B. Parker, that someone else (Michael Brandman) would take over writing the Jesse Stone books, I was terribly afraid that the series was would become awful. Happily, this second Jesse Stone book by Michael Brandman proves that the series is almost as good as before Parker's death. In this story, Jesse is trying to discover the killer of an actress who was in Paradise to film a new movie. The writing is terse, funny and the story is great. There is a bit more description than in the original books, but I still really enjoyed reading this. It was almost possible to forget they were being written by another author. (Although Brandman is the scriptwriter/producer for several of the Jesse Stone films.) I will look forward to the next in the series.

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### **Mark says**

The movies come to Paradise, followed by trouble in guise of a husband that got his marching orders from his famous movie star wife.

There also seems to be a bit of trouble with the recent water bills, somebody seems to make some extra money by charging people some more.

There is this high school girl that runs into trouble and Jesse Stone's radar for personal drama's. She does so thrice and gets Jesse Stone's attention.

The usual suspects are there as well: Molly always ready with an answer, Suitcase the smart cop who learns a lot about policing and humanity from his teacher Jesse Stone, Healy from the state police who always fancies a bagel, Rita Fiore the lawyer who is far more than a set of great legs & the Apache Cromartie doing Stone a favor.

Like all Jesse Stone books all strings get tied up at the end by the laidback attitude of police chief Jesse Stone. But what is mostly lacking is the brilliant wit of Robert B. Parker in the dialogues, and that is sadly one of the best parts in the books. But still a decent & easy read, even if I wished that Brandman would rather do

a few scripts for new Stone tv-movies than write a book.

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### **Evelyn Wilson says**

I did not realize I had missed 3 Jesse Stone books so I bought them via nook B & N today. this is one of them so I read them slightly out of order. This is #11 but I have already read Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot #13. That is okay as I realized it since I have read them in order and knew what was suppose to be going on. Molly is missing in #13, bad, bad, bad lolol Movie start, dip shit husband not working, on drugs (sound familiar, SHIT, SHIT, SHIT)

Page 12 . . . "You do know it's illegal to text while driving?"

...

"Have you any idea who I am?"

dickwad . . .

"Recklessendanement. Running a stop sign. Texting while driving. Resisting arrest. Arrogance." (Jesse forgot she was going 50 mph in a 25 mph zone!)

Page 149 . . . "I'm guessing Princeton. With your extraordinary people skills and your incredible charm, you had to have graduated from Princeton."

"Fuck off," Wellstein said. (FBI AGENT)

Page 159 . . . "Buddy Fairbanks is the name of the character that Ryan Rooney played in Tomorrow We Love." . . .

Page 160 . . ."How do you say 'Good luck' in Apache," Jesse said.

"Go get 'em, kemosabe."

Page 162 . . . He was naked, and his body had been smeared with what appeared to be honey. Red ants swarmed all over him, and angry welts were already visible beneath the honey glaze." . . .

Page 166 . . . "I could have your balls for this."

"I don't think so."

"What makes you so sure of yourself?"

"Your job is to quell the media furor. Exacerbating it would be a bad idea."

"So you set me up, too."

"I'm just a small-town cop. Mostly I write parking tickets."

"You're so full of shit, Stone."

...

Page 181 . . . I can't rid myself of the image of the one and a half gallons of clean water it takes to flush away less than an ounce of piss. . . .

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## **Paula Ratcliffe says**

This book follows Jesse Stone as he tries to help a troubled teen stay out of trouble and investigate a crime from the water company along with dealing with a movie being made in Paradise which brings all sorts of issues to the small town. When Marisol Hinton shows up in town she unknowingly brings her ex-husband determined to rid himself of the actress by taking her out in order to claim her will and all the money she owns along with it. What he doesn't count on is Jesse Stone and people Jesse knows helping find Marisol's ex-husband.

This book is in typical Jesse format trying to keep peace while helping out where he can with whatever he can assist with. It's fast moving chapters and the story really pulls you in wanting to see what Jesse will do next! I really like this series and feel like the author is the same caliber as Robert Parker was. He writes with the same style and grace that Parker did. Can't wait to see what is next for Jesse Stone!

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## **Simon Peters says**

The awarding of no stars is NOT an oversight.

The sad thing is that the idea of extending the Jesse Stone series after Robert B Parker's death comes across as a cynical money grabbing exercise judging by this feeble imitation of Parker's work. Brandman is described as an award winning producer of 'more than thirty motion pictures'. Let's be clear - these are television films, not films you might see at the cinema. He has won 2 ACE awards - the American Cinema Editors Association gong, and two 'Bronze Wrangler' awards; no, I don't know either - something awarded by the Rodeo Riders of America?

Anyway, I am sure Brandman is a fine producer; what he isn't is any sort of fiction writer. Characterisation is non-existent. Dialogue has all been written by a man with a tin ear, and the story is ludicrous. Parker's dry ironic humour is missing completely, and the story is a feeble one.

If you treasure the work of Parker, as I do, give this pale mimicry a miss; it sullies his memory, and will ultimately degrade the rest of his oeuvre. Let Brandman make up his own stories and take his own risks; this trading on another's reputation is shameful, and given the size of Parker's name on the cover, is, I feel, an exercise in misleading unwary fans of the great man's work.

Avoid.

Robert B Parker

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## **Fred says**

when Robert Parker wrote books about the character Phillip Marlowe in Raymond Chandler's treasured books I wondered if he could pull off the feat of duplicating the master's style, and was surprised that he did a workmanlike job, I liked those books.

Now Brandman has attempted the same feat. this book is pretty good, because it is written by a guy who wrote scripts for the Jesse Stone movies, and had some conversations with Parker before his death, and has a

feel for the dialogue style of Parker. He did very well with that part, and only fair with the descriptions, but this book captures the essence of Jesse Stone, and was a good read. One other attempt at writing a Spencer novel was awful, but this one will please the aficionados of Robert Parker's Jesse Stone books.

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### **Michelle says**

I do recommend this book, is the quickest read ever, and I love Jesse Stone's novels. I hope Michael Brandman continues to bring more of this wonderful series. I can't wait for his next book.

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