



The Beach House

James Patterson , Peter de Jonge

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Jack Mullen is a driven student of the law. His brother Peter is a servant of the rich, parking the cars of the Hamptons' elite --- and perhaps satisfying their more intimate needs as well. Then Peter's body is found on the beach. Jack knows the drowning was no accident, but someone's unlimited power and money have bought the cops, the judges, the system. Now Jack is learning a lesson in justice he never got in law school ... and his astonishing plan to beat the billionaires will have you reeling --- and cheering --- to the very last page.

The Beach House Details

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Author : James Patterson , Peter de Jonge

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From Reader Review The Beach House for online ebook

Dana says

I'm not a big James Patterson fan, but I liked this book. The short chapters are great! -seems like I read a book with short chapters faster because I think, "Oh just one more chapter won't hurt; it's only 1:00am and I can breeze thru another 3 before 1:30." ha!

My favorite quote from the book is on page 154, and I believe this is why Mr. Patterson wrote the book. Like me, he seems tired of the "rich" getting away with breaking the laws of the land because of who they are, who they know, or because of their Hollywood status. The quote is:

The judge looked up from his bench as if to survey the courtroom. "These are dark times for our system of criminal justice. Recent verdicts in so-called high profile cases have led to the broadly held conclusion that there is justice in this country only for those whose wealth or celebrity can buy it for them. I have sat on this bench for the past forty-four years, since President Eisenhower saw fit to appoint me. In all those years, I have never been as distressed by the so called administration of justice in this country as I am today."

I recommend the book but be ye warned of the language.

Erin says

Maybe it's because I haven't read a James Patterson book in a while, or maybe it's Peter De Jonge's influence (I haven't read anything by him before), but this story didn't impress me the way most of Patterson's novels -- especially the Alex Cross stories -- have.

The story seems rushed, a feeling that's aided by the extremely short chapters. To my knowledge, Patterson has never written Mitchner-length chapters, but he at least used them to build suspense. For instance, you would get to a particularly interesting part in the story, something shocking would happen, and then the chapter would end -- the break in text worked as a tension builder. But the majority of chapters in this story are no more than a page long, and there aren't that many suspenseful parts.

Again, I'm not sure whether this is something about Patterson's writing that I failed to notice before or can be chalked up to De Jonge's influence, but either way, I think I'll stick with the Alex Cross novels.

Jim says

Slotpleidooi gaat in eerste instantie over gerechtigheid en hoe sommige rijken gerechtigheid kopen. Ik denk dat dit boek van alle tijden is omdat alles wat er in voorkomt altijd al bestaan heeft! Weeral een pareltje van de hand van James Patterson!

Maria Ulery says

I can't believe it took me so long to read this book, I started loving to read late in life only about 2 years ago so I am very behind! Anyway I was going to the beach so I thought it appropriate to take this book Beach House with me and I absolutely love James P and murder mystery books. The Mullen family has had a very bad week by the beginning of the book, the mother passed away years ago, and by the first half of the book 2 more family members are gone. Didn't want to give away spoilers! But it is very descriptive, great plot, characters, everything is in its place basically and makes for a great fast read as I read it in 3 days on vacation! I absolutely loved the ending lets just say what goes around comes around. if you have not read it, read it!!! 5* all the way, another great one by one of the best!!!!

Kaya says

“As I get closer to the beach, I think for the first time about who might be waiting for me. It wouldn’t have been hard to figure out whose voice was on the car phone. All I had to do was open the glove compartment and look at the registration, but that would have spoiled the surprise.”

This book was a pleasant surprise. I didn't like it as much as I wanted due to some strenuous plot points, but it still was a satisfying read. Thriller elements are exciting, the protagonist is likeable and it is so easy to hate antagonists. Basically, Paterson has done everything right considering the plot and the pace.

Peter is found dead at the beach in the Hamptons and the officials are calling it a suicide. Nonetheless, his older brother Jack, the law student, believes it was murder. He has numerous arguments for this belief - Peter was an excellent swimmer, his corpse was covered in bruises, which were unlikely caused by the ocean waves and a competent coroner who did the autopsy confirmed that Peter didn't drown. Unfortunately, the police doesn't agree with Jack and still calls his brother's death a suicide. Jack has no other option than to build up a team of people who agree with him and try to solve the crime. The question is which ruling will the general public and the court support?

This is my first book from Patterson and a great first impression is present. With an amazing start, Mr. Peterson without a doubt knows how to evoke emotion. Sadly, great first impression is ruined by insta-love. To be fair, all women in the book were bleakly portrayed. I hated Dana especially. The lighter point was the trial, that was intense and kept me on my toes. Eagerly, I wanted for Jack to have his justice. The plot keeps your interest right from the beginning and from that moment the book is a true page burner. Though, there is a simple story line consisted of showing money as an instrument of power and the ease that rich have in covering up their horrible acts, in the end, it's a straight-forward detective book for major part of the novel and a few plot twists only heightened the intensity. I love a good revenge story line, and it is present here.

“Spend your money thoughtfully & secretly, you walk free. That was the way it was in america these days. Who knows? Maybe it had always been that way”

As you read about narrator's struggles, it's impossible not to feel those difficulties yourself. They feel genuine and realistic, and you almost instantly fear like the similar kind of injustice can happen to you. You feel Jack's helplessness, bitterness against the law system and you just can't wait for him to teach the bad guys a lesson.

I'm pretty sure not even Jack understands himself. While I did like him, he kept contradicting himself too often. Not that I mind that he couldn't gather his emotions, he had a right to be a mess, since his most important person in the world died, but I was really annoyed by some of his actions. That made me realize that I only like this book because it's plot driven. If the characters were in the centre of story, I would probably throw this book in the trash, since they weren't very well developed.

"Carmina was a great woman," the Mudman told me the first time I interviewed him. "One of my best friends in this miserable world. But I was never in love with her. So why would I kill her?"

Jack worked on an interesting case before his brother's death took its toll. I really wanted to be more included in Madman's case. It's hard for me to admit, but in the start, I was more invested in his destiny, than finding Peter's killer. Even subplots were remarkable, so you can see why I was so amazed from the start.

Jack forms a bond with the private eye Pauline with who helps him in his mission. While their relationship was supposed to be low-key and serve as a romantic relief from the complex plot lines, I found it extremely forced and platonic. They kept going on my nerves that much, that at some point I started skipping pages whenever they shared a scene.

"Now I appreciate that for those of you who have stayed with me this far, there's nothing too surprising about this romantic development. You probably saw it coming. But I didn't."

On one hand, Peter had quotes like this where he's so surprised by this relationship development, and on the other side, he often forgets about his brother, because his focus is on Pauline and that didn't sit well with me. I'm sure it wasn't intentional, but that relationship undermined his pain, which was outrageous.

Squid McFinnigan says

Ripping tale, pumped out at huge speed. Loved the characters. What more do you need in a good read?

Liz! says

i read this only because there was absolutely nothing left to read and no way of obtaining anything else to read. it served to remind me why i have never, and will never again, read a james patterson "novel." (term used EXTREMELY loosely.) why are all his chapters 3 paragraphs long? why does anyone buy his books? the great mysteries of life.

Aubrey says

It's probably not fair for me to review this book, since I only made it 70 pages in. I just was not interested! My mind was wandering and I'd have to read the page again! I won't know if it's the author or just the book because I don't really feel like picking up another one of this guy's books. Plus, there was a lot of swearing going on too. Just didn't like it!

Kandice says

This is my first James Patterson novel. This is my last James Patterson novel, unless someone can convince me to give him another shot.

This book was T-E-R-R-I-B-L-E!!

I downloaded the audiobook from my library and I'm having trouble returning it; computer glitch or my library doesn't want it back? I'm guessing the latter.

This was the first audiobook that I've read (and I've read a lot) that has musical sound effects to compliment the narrator. You know that "dum dum" sound on Law & Order that plays between scene changes? Yeah, well this book had its own "dum dum" (eye roll).

The story itself was disturbing and so unbelievable -- (view spoiler)

"DUMB DUMB"

Harish Challapalli says

Huh!! I wasted almost a week for this book!! I could not switch to other book and at the same time this was not very interesting!!

If u want to waste some time read this book

LARRY says

As posted in [<http://www.amazon.com>]:

This is my first book that I've read of Patterson's. I saw his list of books and found it interesting that he co-writes with other authors. However, it doesn't seem to be a bad idea. With *The Beach House*, I found it to be interesting how fast you can read through a book with small chapters. It turned out not to be such a bad idea.

Peter Mullen is found dead at the beach in the Hamptons. The officials in the town are calling it a suicide. However, Jack, the older brother who is studying law, believes it was murder. One, Peter was an expert swimmer and knew the "laws" of the ocean. Two, when Jack saw Peter's body, he was covered in bruises. Three, a competent coroner who did the autopsy confirmed that Peter did not drown.

However, none of the officials agree with Jack and still claim that Peter had committed suicide. Meanwhile, Jack gradually builds up a team of people who agree with the fact that Peter was murdered. Of course, the tide turns and everyone starts to say that Peter suicided. Just who or what has made these people changed their minds?

Jack and a few people (his grandfather, his new girlfriend...) seem to be losing the battle. All seems lost when the court rules Peter's death as suicide. That is when Jack and his people become desperate. They hold their own televised court when they come across some incriminating evidence.

Do the rich really buy their way out of crime? Can they buy "facts" or have them altered and get away with it? Do the rich really control the courts? Jack and his people are rich but they aren't poor. Can they be bought out?

The question is which ruling will the general public and the courts uphold? The original court's ruling or the "kangaroo" court's ruling?

The Beach House is an interesting story about how the court and the rich cornering a man when he'll have no choice but to fight back like a feral animal. And when he does, all hell breaks loose.

Ryne Barber says

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Book Review - The Beach House by James Patterson & Peter De Jonge

The Beach House

I'm going to get right into it, without any skirting around - if you've never read a James Patterson novel, here's a great place to start. I've only read one other book by him, but The Beach House impressed me so much that it gets an ultimate recommendation.

It's not that Patterson's thriller breaks a lot of ground in the suspense/thriller literary genre, in fact opting for a simple storyline touching on themes of money as power and the ease the rich have in covering up their dirty deeds. After his brother is murdered by a rich and powerful family, main character James sets out to get revenge and uncover the truth after the family is able to convince the police that the death was a suicide. It's a fairly straight-forward detective case for most of the novel, until a few twists in the plot push the intensity and mystery higher.

But what stands out as a great achievement, and factors into an extremely pleasurable read, is the voice of James. As he narrates, the reader grows closer and closer to him, almost to the point where we're so associated with James that we are as hard-pressed to uncover the truth as the characters in the story are. Patterson paints a vivid picture of each character, especially the rich family's history that leads to the reader's constant emotional attachment to James and his brother. Effectively moving and comedic at the same time, Patterson's main character gives The Beach House a much more invigorating tale.

And as we work our way into James' revenge, the plot escalates so well that it's a relief when we finally learn how James will uncover what he knows is true. It's not much of a surprise, but the elaborate and believable setup that Patterson stages is suspenseful enough to keep the reader flipping every page until they finally get to the inevitable conclusion.

Patterson does sometimes switch from James' narration to a third-person perspective, though, and it diverts our attention from James enough to be a bit bothersome. Towards the end, we find that the character that we

follow in these third-person parts is actually a pretty minor character, adding a bit of frustration to those of us who want to read more of James' thoughts (or was I the only one in love with his personality?)

But that's only a minor quibble. The fact of the matter is, The Beach House is an excellent novel full of intrigue, emotion, and mystery. It may be formulaic, but the perspective from which it's told held my attention so raptly that I couldn't put the book down. And even though the "whodunnit" part of the novel is solved early on, James' solution is much more entertaining. A great book for those of you with an insatiable appetite for crime drama, with a good, if a bit trite, critique on the power of the rich.

Heather says

Loved it!

Mimi says

My biggest problem with a book like this is not knowing who really wrote it - did Patterson & De Jonge really co-write the book or did Patterson give De Jonge the idea and did De Jonge in turn write the story. Oh well -there's no denying the commercial aspect of the publishing business I guess!

That being said, this book helped me through some rough times as I began it while was in the hospital being fed intravenous antibiotics for a massive infection. It kept me busy without having to worry about complexity of plot while being interrupted often for blood tests and other things that go on in the hospital. It is a fast-paced, easy read about triumphant vigilante justice...and, of course, they all "live happily ever after" (sort of). Having lived my entire life on Long Island, I especially enjoyed the setting. Whoever did actually write the book, spent a great deal of time delving into the Long Island experience - from life out on the South Fork (Montauk/ Amagansett), to places such as Ronkonkoma, Manhattan and the Long Island commuter's experience. Very realistic in that respect.

...And I guess public access TV is more than just for stuff like "Wayne's World" :-)! This would probably make an entertaining movie with the right cast (at least a made-for-tv movie).

Aaron says

When his brother Peter turns up dead with a strong suspicion of suicide, law student, Jack Mullen decides that it is time to figure out what really happened. His brother would never have committed suicide, particularly since the body looks like Peter was beaten to death.

On the night in question, Peter had been hired to work as a valet at a huge Memorial Day bash on the Long Island estate of the extremely wealthy and influential Barry Neubauer and family.

Jack brings in the help of his grandfather, a private eye with whom he starts to build a relationship, and a small group of locals to try and prove that Peter was in fact murdered and that there is a major cover-up with a surprising and disturbing sexual twist.

Jack and his cohorts are forced to take extreme measures when the official inquest turns up a confirmation that Peter died either by suicide or accident. While this brings the novel into the area of outlandishness, it is exciting and interesting. I know it left me cheering along as Jack stuck it to those who had caused him and his family (among others) so much harm.

I could feel de Jong's influence a bit on this one as some sections had rambling characters and a feeling of just running on, which is rare for Patterson in his short and concise sentences and chapters. It did not make the book one that I would rather have passed up, but at times, it left me wanting to scream, "All right, already! I get it!"

Kelly says

I can not stand James Patterson. Only one book, that I have on this list was actually worth reading of his. This book is so simple that it actually insults my intelligence, but that is just his writing in general. If you want to sit on the beach with the water hitting your feet and be able to read a book fast without having to think, this is your book. Actually this is all his books

Wendy says

Jack Mullen is a brilliant Columbia Law student when his younger brother, Peter, drowns in the ocean off East Hampton. They grew up on the beaches of The Hamptons and Jack is convinced that Peter's death was no accident. There's just no way Peter would have gone for a late-night swim while working at the \$40 million beach house known for its elite parties where he parked cars and such since he was thirteen. Chief Detective Frank Volpi insists Peter's death was either an accident or suicide. But Peter's body was horribly bruised and he'd just bought a \$19,000 motorcycle. Jack insists, "You don't wash a motorcycle twice a day when you're contemplating suicide." The rich and powerful Neubauers, who own the beach house where Peter drowned, know more than they're telling. Along with his grandfather, a close colleague and five life-long friends, Jack takes on the high-and-mighties of East Hampton to avenge his brother's death. This is more than just a web of lies and deceit. There's love, power, revenge and the Mullens Family. "They're the working-class Kennedys of Montauk. The same good looks and charisma, the same Irish Catholic blarney, and the same tragic curse."

Although some of the storyline was a bit far-fetched, I boosted my rating to 4-stars for the revenge and characters. I love a good revenge storyline. Nothing pleases me more than watching the guilty squirm. Some of the main characters are very well developed, as well. Some had real faces to me, like Jack's grandfather, Mack. I saw him as 100-percent actor Wilford Brimley (Cocoon, The Firm): kind, sincere, intelligent, firm, honest, very straightforward.

Journalist Peter de Jonge collaborates with Patterson here as well as in the 1996 golf fantasy "Miracle on the 17th Green." Together again, they spin quite a tale.

Adam Light says

I am not a big Patterson fan, but I enjoyed this one quite a bit. I read it while stuck in a traffic jam for three

hours. I don't think I have ever read a book that quickly. A page burner.

?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says

Another good mystery. I really enjoy Patterson's book. They keep your interest right from the beginning.

Sarath Krishnan says

It is after such a long time that I take a book in my hand, so long really. A really terrific narrative...

I like books which can be completed reading within a single sitting, so I give 100% to this story. I can't give a straightforward single reason on why I like this. There are those who like murder mysteries and detective fiction because of the thrilling narrative, and there are those who consider them as third-rate comparing to the 'intellectual writers' (sincerely, I don't know who are they). These people may say, there is no value to popular fiction other than reading and then throwing it.

However, I consider popular fiction especially the current one, really thought-provoking; it is not just a story of revenge of the hero for his brother's death, rather, the author painstakingly narrates the decay in the society, child abuse, pornography, drug abuse, the illicit relationship between the authorities (including judiciary and police) and the bourgeoisie. These are given not as a casual happening but a characteristic feature of the capitalist society.

The only idea which I had some objection is the way the narrator treated the HIV/ AIDS issue. He could have well given another climax or feature for the antagonist's characterization instead of saying he spreads HIV virus though it is required for the successful ending of the story. Why I have this opinion is because the society already has a stigmatized view that having a close acquaintance with the patients may result in becoming a patient ourselves. This will be crucial in societies where there is no great knowledge about the disease and often HIV patients are treated as outcasts.

Apart from this social concern, I am completely for the book.
