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In his bid for justice, a courageous law-man aims dead center when he is called home to settle deadly scores.

Across the ranchlands and cities of his home state, Rory Yates's discipline and law-enforcement skills have carried him far-from local highway patrolman to the honorable rank of Texas Ranger. A tough case in Waco has jeopardized Yates's chances at promotion, and he decides to take time off to recharge with his family in their small-town hometown, Redbud. He arrives and finds a horrifying crime scene-and a scathing accusation: He is named a suspect in the murder of his ex-wife, Anne, a devoted teacher whose only controversial act ever was deciding to end her marriage to a Ranger.

At Anne's funeral, Yates moves the congregation to tears with a beloved hymn. Anne's new husband, Calvin Richards, is there, and Yates has questions that no one else seems to be asking. The investigation is out of his jurisdiction-plus he is a chief suspect-but Rory's drive to learn what happened isn't about self-preservation. For himself, for Anne, his hunt for justice transcends all boundaries.

When the killer strikes again, Rory's urgent search bursts across state borders onto the national scene. He risks his badge, his pride, his reputation among everyone he loves, and even the trust of the woman he's recently begun seeing, to pursue the only thing that matters. Yates follows the Ranger creed-never to surrender-into the inferno of the most twisted and violent minds he's ever encountered. That code just might bring him out alive.

Texas Ranger Details

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From Reader Review Texas Ranger for online ebook

Paula Phillips says

I wasn't sure what this book was going to be like as a couple of the writers' that James Patterson joins forces with touch and go. Some of them I have loved like Maxine Paetro and others have been not so great. This particular one, I really enjoyed as we are introduced to Rory Yates who is a Texas Ranger. Rory gets a call from his ex-wife Anne telling him to come home as her life is in danger, she has been getting threats and now believes she is going to be killed. Rory guns it back to his small hometown only to find he is too late and Anne - the love of his life is dead. Rory believes that Anne's current beau Cal is the killer but will soon realize he isn't the only one grieving her death. Being a handsome guy and lead footballer, Rory had his pick of the girls and this book soon becomes the girls who dated Rory are being hunted down. Is this a vendetta against Rory himself or is someone trying to set Rory up to take the fall? What happens when the new girl has Rory's attention? Will the killer go after Willow as well? Can Rory save the ones he loves that remain? The other storyline that runs through this book is that Rory's father is ill and dying. What I loved too about this book is that Rory had a supportive family and tight-family unit. I am now looking forward to seeing if this pair creates another book with Rory Yates and the Texas Rangers.

Brenda says

Many hours away and on a case, Texas Ranger Rory Yates finally managed to call his ex-wife, who had left several messages. She was frightened; she was being harassed – Anne asked could Rory come home. Although Rory and Anne's marriage had been strained because of his job, they were better friends after the divorce. So it was natural that he would head back to his old home town of Redbud, to help Anne through whatever was happening to her. But he was too late – Anne was dead; and her murder was brutal.

Rory was refused any contact with the investigation and he believed the cop in charge wasn't doing a competent job. When a second murder occurred, he decided, against orders, to do his own investigation. Rory needed answers.

In the meantime, Rory was surrounded by people who cared – his parents, brothers and their wives plus Anne's parents. All understood what he was going through and encouraged him to find the solution to who had shattered lives. But could he? Would he? His decision could cost him his position in the Rangers; he didn't want that, but knew he needed results more.

Texas Rangers by James Patterson is a blend of fast-paced action, and slow, emotional downtime. Rory is a stubborn, tough cop – perfect for the elite of the Texas Rangers – but he has a soft and gentle side to him when it concerns his loved ones. An enjoyable read, *Texas Rangers* is a crime/mystery novel I don't hesitate to recommend.

Donna says

Texas Ranger Rory Yates has been banished to McAllen, Texas because he shot and killed someone in Waco. After catching a bad guy in McAllen, he's back on the good list of law enforcement. He gets a call from his ex-wife in Rosebud, TX and he's immediately on his way to her side. She's terrified due to receiving threatening calls. Unfortunately, when he makes the several hour drive, she's been murdered. He's been cautioned not to get involved with the investigation but what's a Texas Ranger supposed to do?

I live near Waco so this book immediately had my attention. I've always been in awe of the Texas Rangers so that struck a chord too. And there's a country western singer in the book too. Rory is a hard nosed lawman who has a soft spot for his family and the women he loves.

The short chapters are true to Patterson style but I got the feeling that the co-author probably wrote most of the book. The ending had a nice twist when the killer was revealed. I think Rory Yates' character could grow on me.

Donna Hines says

This is the James Patterson I've come to love and know so well as his writing was superb, richly detailed, immensely spellbinding, with plenty of nonstop nailbiting action as the Texas Rangers are on the hunt for the killer. Co Author Andrew Bourelle did a remarkable collaborative effort and it shows!

Rory is a Texas Ranger who has been accused of his ex wife's Anne's murder but he does not go out without a fight. He will settle the score for that I assure you!

With his job on the line, his career on stand by, his life tattered he pursues the killer to the ends of the Earth. Never surrender -Dead or Alive- Don't give in!

Dare I say, shoot first ask questions later for this group of only 200 in the entire state of Texas.

Yates, is eventually cleared but the damage is done and now he's on the hunt for the real killer who he believes may be his ex wifes boy toy Cal.

Rory Yates is portrayed as the hard knows Texas stronghold type while a softer gentler side is seen in his relationships with others especially his love interests.

But don't dare double cross him nor take away those he loves as 'The Thunder Rolls'

Callin'Baton Rouge may just be a song to some but to others it's a way of life. Lord knows I love my Garth Brooks.

How would a cop handle a case so close to his heart?

After all divorce is a physical act but mental is another story as he still has deep seeded feelings for his wife and raced to be with her only to find her dead.

Perhaps I'm partial to the setting (as I have Texas relatives) as we all know everything is bigger in Texas and guns go hand in hand down there. I also am lifelong fan of Garth and James Patterson and the up and down Patterson Express we all know to love and or hate.

This one for me was on the money and had enough intrigue, suspense, thrills to keep this ball rolling with crashing force in the end.

So for those who enjoy the rough and tumble and not the tumbleweed so drips this one is for you.

The real killer will astound you and shock the crap out of you ... Just sayin' be prepared as I had no idea till it all played out.

Wow!

Amazing - Wild Ride!

Pamela says

This book was written by the other writer, not Patterson. It does not have the quick snap of mystery, and murder that his books have. I loved a series on television , that had a main character named Raylan. He was a quick draw, ranger, a man who did as he pleased ,as long as he got the job done, and slept around. This book has Rory a fast draw Texas Ranger, who has a tendency to go outside the rules when he thinks he is right, and sleeps around. He takes a call from Anne ,and she is three hours away. and his ex-wife. She has been getting threatening calls and worse, and wants to know if he can back to his hometown to help. Now this is someone he regrets loosing, and still loves. He can no longer reach her by phone, so he asks the local police to check on her. I won't ruin it for anyone, but it just seemed Rory, though a nice loving guy to his family, could be with a girl at the strangest times, and then a few days later meet another. There were some false leads but they did not match the murders. It held my interest to a certain extent. I would consider this light reading. I felt it needed more Texas Ranger action, not the fights he got in with rivals, or good old boys. when he was doing his job, then he was impressive. It was not hard to figure the murderer out, because the little town was only so big. The ending bothered me as well. He does something completely irrational to the suspect, that caused them lots more trouble., and endangers the person he is with.. I did like the close community feel, and his parents, and brothers. 3 stars

Natalie Mullan says

You never know with any certainty what the latest James Patterson is going to deliver but this is one you can add if you enjoy his work. Set in Texas, Ranger Rory is an easy to engage with, believable character. The story has the requisite twists and turns, even a few unexpected ones. This is a solid 4-star Patterson, not a literary revolution or for the discerning but an easy, enjoyable read and worth the time.

Kelly Hager says

This is the first James Patterson I've read in a long time (I'm actually not sure of the last book of his I've read, but it's been at least five years and maybe closer to ten).

Like all of his books, this one is near-nonstop action with a complicated hero. (Rory hasn't gotten over his ex-wife and that's even before she ends up dead.) The body count doesn't stop with Anne, and there are plenty of red herrings.

It's basically everything you'd expect from one of his books, so you already know if you will enjoy it or not.

I'd forgotten how fun his books are. I'm guessing there won't be as long a hiatus before my next one.

Mandy White says

My last audio book didn't work for me so I decided to go for one I knew would be good..and James Patterson did not let me down. Really enjoyed this book, it was a bit different from his other books and an ending that I did not see coming.

Greg says

TO SAY THIS BOOK was a surprise would be to create an untruth where none existed. To say what it is, as opposed to what it isn't, is more appropriate, more fitting and more suitable to a new release from one of the world's best selling novelists. What this book is makes for a fast paced, compelling, addictive, emotional, satisfying ride through small town rural America on the back of one of the world's most dangerous jobs.

TO BE A TEXAN RANGER, is to be tough, independent, lively, smart, intuitive, and in the case of Rory Yates, incredibly talented with a gun. And of course from a story telling perspective, and to keep the blood flowing that he just happens to be incredibly good looking.

THERE IS A KILLER ON THE LOOSE in our small town of Redbud. A particularly sadistic, violent and tortuous one, who likes to pepper his victims with bullets before he decides to grant them his form of mercy. Our man Rory knows who the killer is (or does he?) and he is determined to prove himself right or die trying. How prophetic.

WHAT FOLLOWS IS three hundred and thirty seven pages of white hot, blue collar action. There are fist fights, shoot outs, moments of crime solvin', and others of boss-yellin'. There's love, there's loss, there's heart break and of course plenty of sadness. But despite all of this, or even because of it, there is some murderin' still happenin' and that means Rory has got himself a murderer to catch.

THE FINAL SOLUTION is a doozie. It won't stun you (well, it shouldn't - the main problem with setting a whodunit in a small town is the obvious lack of potential suspects) but the solution is emotional, clever, well balanced and it ties everything in nicely. And its all written, of course, in the trademarked, either you-love-it-or-hate-it-James-Patterson-Writing-style-of-short-chapters-with-addictive-cliff-hangers-that-make-it-hard-to-stop-reading.

SO, A HARSH CRITIC would give this book no more than three stars. Its not ground breaking in any way, its not even close to pure literature, there are no moments of lets-stop-and-smell-the-roses, either. But its a book written for the fans, an incredibly loyal audience, in the way they expect it to be written. So from that point of view, its the perfect novel. Its not worth five stars, though. By default, it can only be given four. The first book of a series must leave room for improvement. I am hoping for more Rory Yates novels, and whats more I am hoping they are even better. So lets hope book two comes along quick smart, and lets hope it gets full marks.

LISA BATCHELOR says

Great book once again

This was once again another good read. I hope that this becomes a series of books about Rory. I am from Texas and am very familiar with the Rangers which made this book even better. The book had such a great story plot. Would love to read more about Rory and Willie's story.

Lisa B

Suzanne says

I would have liked to give it a 3.5. This book was a good one but to me it was a bit boring. I worked it out in the first 3 chapters then had to wait until it played itself out. It was slow to the point of me sighing as I turned the pages. Needed more action.

Rick says

This is a best a below average Jame Patterson novel. The story was interesting with a surprising ending. Unfortunately the principal character I found one of the most irritating ever, possibly as throughout the story he was almost deified but, to me, he was an exceeding poor example of a dedicated law enforcement professional. Admittedly he had a truly catastrophic personal loss which they used as justification for his disgustingly unprofessional actions nonetheless he personified the improper use of power and if allowed would have been judge and jury to quell his personal emotions.

Beyond serious problems with the primary character the other characters were entirely cardboard and just there to support the primary and serve no other purpose. Unfortunately the took a potentially interesting story line and left it hanging with no real support.

Even for the staunch Patterson fan I would have hard time recommending this book.

Matt says

In another of his endless collaborations, James Patterson has called on Aaron Bourelle to work alongside him on this standalone novel. Part murder mystery, part protagonist self-discovery, this piece takes the reader down to the heart of Texas. Rory Yates is part of the elite Texas Rangers, one of only two hundred in the entire state. Best known for his quick draw capabilities, Yates has found himself in a few situations of shooting first and asking questions later. After one such event, he takes a call from his ex-wife, Anne, who's been getting creepy messages and items left on her property. Yates makes his way across the state to check on her, only to find her dead body. Yates is soon cleared as a suspect, but has an idea who might be responsible and pushes the local police to investigate. While he may be a Ranger, this is one case that Rory Yates will not be welcome to join, officially. Back in his hometown and trying to chase down leads, Yates reconnects with his family and some of his former sweethearts, all of whom help stir up scores of emotions and memories from his time as a child and being married to Anne. With a killer on the loose, Yates cannot let his past cloud the present, even if it means turning down new love, or rekindling a past flame. When another person close to Yates turn up dead, stalked in the same manner, Yates is sure the killer has him in the crosshairs and will do whatever it takes, legal or not, to end this. Patterson and Bourelle have an interesting one-off novel here that seeks to pull the reader in from the outset. Perfect for those who have travel plans or need some beach reading. Patterson collaborations always fill a gap between substantive reads and this one is

decent enough to recommend without hesitation.

I have come to realise that while many see the name James Patterson and flock to the book, I tend to give it a second thought, having been on the rollercoaster ride that is the Patterson Express. One can never know what to expect, particularly with one-off novels. That said, Bourelle has made a name for himself with some stronger collaborative efforts—Patterson’s BookShots—and so I trust something of a higher caliber when I see their joint efforts. This story worked well and kept me reading, which says a lot when it comes to the massive pile of books I have to read. Rory Yates is an interesting protagonist, by no means unique, but the spin put on this rough exterior cop is one that kept me intrigued throughout. I was not sure how Patterson and Bourelle might have approached him, but they did well to offer a hard-nosed man who demands respect with a soft side when it comes to those he loves. Yates has that ‘nothing will stop me’ mentality, perfect for a stubborn cop, though does not reek of ‘redneck traditionalism’, should such a stereotype deserve a formal label. The handful of other characters who influence Yates’ progress in the novel serve to eke out interesting tidbits about the protagonist and his backstory without taking the reader down too many rabbit holes and losing momentum throughout the narrative. The story is surely interesting, as it gives the reader a glimpse into how a cop might handle a murder investigation of someone close to them, though keeps a unique angle as the narrative progresses by tossing sub-plots related to self-discovery throughout. With little time to waste, the authors push forward and force the reader to juggle both types of storyline simultaneously. Using Patterson’s trademark short chapters full of cliffhangers, the story never has a chance to slow and the resolution comes crashing through the gates in the closing pages, with that lingering wonder throughout who might be responsible. My rating has nothing to do with the quality of the book, but more that I want to be blown out of the water, as Patterson has been known to do on the rare occasion. A decent story, but I would not offer up a ‘stellar’ label at this point.

Kudos, Messrs. Patterson and Bourelle, for your ongoing collaborative work. I can see wonderful things within these pages and hope you’ll find more time to write in the coming months and years.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Donna Lewis says

I am giving this book a generous three stars. It was like listening to a country and western hillbilly song. Lots of people like western music; I am not one of them. I found the characters trite, matching the dialogue. Too many cowboy boots. The plot was sad, the ending obvious at the half way point. So that’s two stars. The third star was because I actually finished the book...

Scott says

Let me be honest up front. I read most of James Patterson’s books and have for several years. Some might ask why and that’s another whole discussion best saved for another day. I have really enjoyed some, liked some, and didn’t really care for others. For the most part, I treat them like mind candy and don’t consider them to be too memorable. However, once in a while I am pleasantly surprised with a gem that shines.

“Texas Ranger” was one of those nice blessings that caught me off-guard and delivered a winning read.

“Texas Ranger” is about Rory Yates, an overly dedicated lawman who has been punished because of his lightning fast ability to draw and outshoot the criminals he comes in contact with. Rory just finishes up with capturing a felon responsible for transporting and holding illegal immigrants for extortion money from relatives, when his ex-wife, Anne, calls for help. Anne is a high school teacher who still lives in Rory’s hometown of Redbud, along with his family and friends. She has been receiving death threats and she needs his help. Anne is and always has been the love-of-Rory’s life, even when his job cost him their marriage.

When Rory arrives in town he is shocked to find that Anne has been murdered, shot 6 times in her home at close range. Even worse, Rory is considered a suspect by his hometown police. Rory’s attention is directed at Calvin Richards, Anne’s ex-boyfriend, who broke up with her and left town days before she was killed. Rory had arrested Calvin in the past and their mutual love for Anne has always made them enemies. Rory is told to back off and let the local investigators do their job or his career will be at risk, but that cannot stop him trying to gain justice for Anne.

Although this is not a new storyline for any of us, it is still well-delivered with a multi-layered and flawed cast. Rory is well intentioned, but emotional and makes some dumb mistakes. Other characters are also introduced, most with more depth than most Patterson related novels. Rory’s family, including a father, who’s wisdom and influence on Rory plays a key part in keeping him from unraveling. Rory’s friends from high school, including Freddy Hernandez, now the County Medical Examiner, and Anne’s two best friends – Sara Beth and Patty – both of whom have known and dated Rory before and after his divorce with Anne. And that doesn’t include Willow, the new country singer at the local western bar, who Rory finds himself being drawn too. Each of these characters add an extra layer or realness and interest to the plot as Rory tries to find the killer.

I know that Patterson has teamed up with several different writers over the years, but this time with Andrew Bourelle is different. The overall plotting is still standard Patterson, but that’s where it seems to end in many ways. First, the setting is a key ingredient. You really feel like you are in small town, Texas. The geography, the buildings, the vehicles, the local western bar, and especially the songs that are played and sung all contribute to an ambience that highlights the story being told. Second, as mentioned before, the characters are multi-dimensional and flawed. They are real and interesting. Third, the story has a certain smooth rhythm that ebbs and flows like a classic country or rock song. Although Patterson novels are fast-paced, the tempo, flow of words, and transition from scene to scene just seem to work together in unison better in this particular book.

And just in case you think that I am ignoring some of the key weaknesses with Patterson’s books, I am not. Were there were moments that weren’t realistic? Yes. I recognize that. But do we read Patterson for that reason? No way. We read him for the emotional and heart-wrenching thrillers that help us escape our daily grind and enjoy an exciting read that makes us forget about all else. And when the story works well, we tend to set aside those obvious plot weaknesses.

Overall, Patterson and Bourelle’s first time partnership pays off in a positive way, at least for this reader. I don’t know why it and I don’t care. I just thoroughly enjoyed it. When I picked up my recent batch of books from the library, there were more than normal, and I thought maybe I should skip this one. I am so glad that I didn’t. It was the definition of a guilty pleasure for all of the right reasons. If you only read one or two books by James Patterson this year, please make sure this is one of them. I promise you will be worth read.

Like some of Patterson’s other esteemed characters, like Alex Cross, I cannot wait to visit Rory Yates again,

as well as his family and hometown again.

James Patterson – please connect with Andrew Bourelle again to continue Rory's story.
