



## Try Fear

*James Scott Bell*

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For Ty Buchanan, defending a suspected drunk driver named Carl Richess seems routine enough. But when his client ends up dead, an apparent suicide, there's nothing routine about it. Because the cops suspect it's murder, and arrest Eric Richess, Carl's brother, for the crime. Now Ty, at the desperate urging of Eric's mother, agrees to defend him. But it won't be easy. Because there's DNA on the gun that matches Eric's, and a history of conflict between the brothers.

Then Ty, assisted by Sister Mary Veritas, begins to uncover tentacles of corruption that reach into the citadels of city power. But he's being watched. Because somewhere in the dark labyrinth of LA is someone who will do anything to keep from being found out, someone who believes that when warnings don't work, try fear.

## Try Fear Details

Date : Published July 1st 2009 by Center Street (first published June 25th 2009)

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Author : James Scott Bell

Format : Hardcover 292 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Christian, Thriller, Suspense

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## From Reader Review Try Fear for online ebook

### William says

#### The Best of the Trilogy

While I have again struggled with keeping up with all his characters, by far, this the final of James Scott Bell's three is my favorite. Ty deserved Mary! Real characters and lots of action-- a man's romance....

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### C.J. Darlington says

There's always an element of risk when creating a series character as James Scott Bell has done in the Ty Buchanan books. If readers enjoy your hero they'll want him to come back for more. But modern fiction lovers also like protagonists who change and develop, even age, over time. The risk comes in finding balance. Grow your character too much and readers won't recognize him. Keep him the same and your main guy could become stagnant.

James Scott Bell has found that equilibrium in his third Ty Buchanan novel, Try Fear. Ty's overcome many of the inner demons he struggled to fend off in Try Dying. In Try Darkness he grew to care for the poor and downtrodden. Now he's a little more confident and even more determined to fight for justice.

Narrated in first person through Ty's perspective, the "Try" books read like the crime classics of yesteryear, but with modern settings and scenarios. You picture Ty with his heels up on his desk, puffing on a stogey, sipping strong coffee, telling us the story in his soaked with sarcasm, just-the-facts-ma'am style. There's grit on every page, but there's hope too. And that's the refreshing aspect of these novels. James Scott Bell's Christian faith comes through gently yet authentically through his Catholic characters, and in many ways Father Bob and Sister Mary live out their faith better than many garden variety Christians.

This time, what at first seems like a routine DUI case quickly spirals into something much deeper, even deadly. Ty needs to keep every shred of his wits about him, but that's hard to do when he's finding himself attracted to his investigator and brilliant assistant--who just so happens to be a nun. Sister Mary Veritas is dealing with her own demons in Try Fear. A cyber stalker has her in his sights, and Ty's determined to bring the stalker down.

Bell has hit his stride with the Ty Buchanan series, like these were the books he was meant to write. His staccato dialogue has always been crisp, but here it's even sharper and wittier. Especially during the lively banter between Ty and Sister Mary. There's not much time to catch a breathe or delve too deeply into the characters either, as Bell throws several of his savory, trademark twists. Which is exactly the way we like it. Each successive book in Ty's series has been better than the last. Try Fear is the cream of the crop.

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### Pamela says

love.love.love this series! Ty Buchanan is an enigmatic protagonist along with Sister Mary. He is a lawyer for the lowly - and gets into the rough grit of LA. Very thrilling suspense! Great plot, endearing, developed

characters, captivating imagery - super!

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### **Michele Feliu says**

#### **Try Fear is a warm and as action packed book**

I loved the book. It is filled with heartfelt moments and court room drama. The action presented in this book is a plus. I would like to see another book about Ty Buchanan hope you change your mind and continue the series.

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### **Joan says**

I love a good legal mystery . . .

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### **Janett Wawrzyniak says**

Try Fear is about a series character in the Ty Buchanan books they are what James Scott Bell created. When readers enjoy your hero they want him to return. Fiction lovers like protagonists who change, develop and age, over time.

The Try books are narrated in first person and evolve in Ty's perspective. They are crime classics, with modern settings and scenarios. Ty with his heels up on his desk, puffs on a cigar, sips strong coffee and tells the story in his irony style. There's tenacity and hope on every page. That's one of the refreshing aspects in these novels. James Scott Bell's Christian faith comes through authentically with his Catholic characters. In many ways Father Bob and Sister Mary live out their faith.

This time, what at first seems like a routine DUI case spirals into something much deeper and deadly. Ty needs to keep his wits; but hard to do when he's attracted to his investigator assistant,—who happens to be a nun. Sister Mary Veritas is dealing with a cyber-stalker that has her in his sights, and Ty is determined to bring down the stalker.

Bell's clipped dialogue is always crisp; now it's sharper and wittier, noticeably in the lively chat between Ty and Sister Mary. With not much time to reflect and explore deeply into the characters, Bell throws several hallmark turns. Each successive book in Ty's series has been better than the last. I enjoyed the suspense in this well done novel.

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### **Keiki Hendrix says**

Who doesn't love a good whodunit?

In James Scott Bell's newest novel, "Try Fear" (Book three of the Ty Buchanan Series); the story begins with a visit to Santa and ends with the smooth jazz of Eric Marienthal. James Scott Bell is to Legal Suspense as Raymond Chandler is to Private Eye dramas.

You had better hold on to your hat though, this novel reads like a movie and you will find yourself waiting for a commercial break along the way, a fast paced legal thriller with memorable quick-wit dialogue that you will find yourself repeating after you've finished the book.

The story opens as Ty Buchanan is called to advise and defend Carl Richess in a drunk driving charge. In court on this matter, Buchanan displays his ability in legal maneuvering.

Later, Carl Richess is found dead and his brother Eric is charged with the murder, though Buchanan believes it to be suicide. Still feeling the affect of the loss of his fiance' (Try Dying), Buchanan identifies with the mother of the two sons, Kate and agrees to defend Eric in the murder charge.

The case is not an easy one. All the evidence points to his clients' guilt. Buchanan will need the help of his basketball playing investigator, Sister Mary Veritas, to discover the truth, defend his client and hopefully give the mother one of her sons back.

Adding to the interesting plot are the location descriptions and the laugh out loud dialogue. Set in Los Angeles, there is no want for comic material and the author does a fine job of what one would find on the streets of LA. Portions of the dialogue exchanges could be used in a Comedy Central act with great success.

There are interesting relationship twists, car chases, intrigue and corruption with a little romance also. This is a great read, one I would recommend to those who love a fast paced legal suspense.

Though James Scott Bell previous works are classified as Inspirational Suspense, this series is not. This series is marketed as Mainstream Suspense.

Will you find the key elements that make for a great mainstream suspense novel like profanity, vulgarity, or casual sex? No. Why should you read a novel without such key elements? Because it takes a much more creative mind to weave a story, hold a reader's attention, and leave a lasting impression without including the easiest of all marketing tactics.

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### **Teena in Toronto says**

I had started reading this a couple months ago and then put it aside about halfway through and read some other books.

I like books with continuing characters ... this is the third in this series. I thought this had possibility but it was actually was kind of blah. Hence my ability to put it aside for a while (I never do that) but I was interested enough to pick it back up and finish it.

There are a few plots in this story, a main one being the murder of client Ty had defended on the DUI charge. Just when you think this plot is over, it's not.

None of the characters really grabbed me. Ty's investigator is Sister Mary and they have feelings for each other (another plot). As expected, this is a conflict for Sister Mary.

It's not a bad book, just not a great one, and I won't be rushing out to read the rest in this series.

Blog review: <http://www.teenaintoronto.com/2011/12...>

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### **Michael Sova says**

A few months ago, I published a rather glowing review of Try Darkness by James Scott Bell. I categorized the book as "outstanding," and discussed my eagerness to read either the next or previous book in the series. Try Darkness, I didn't realize until I'd started, is the middle book in a trilogy, with Try Dying and Try Fear being the other two. I learned that attorney Ty Buchanan lost the love of his life and was subsequently charged with murder. He cleared his name but ended up a changed man, serving the downtrodden while living in a trailer at St. Monica's Monastery where he developed a friendship, a professional relationship and something... more with Sister Mary Veritas, one of the resident nuns. I really wanted to be able to fill in the rest of Ty's background. In the end, though, I'm evidently a sucker for a love story. After much deliberation, I chose to step forward. I'll take two steps back later.

Try Fear opens with Ty Buchanan being retained to defend a known drunk charged with DUI. The case seems hopeless but Ty pulls a legal rabbit out of his hat and wins. Soon after, the man he cleared is found dead. It looks like a suicide until the man's own brother is arrested for murder. It appears to be a setup and Buchanan is determined to get him off. He just needs to find a way to deal with corrupt politicians, a street preacher and his muscle, and witnesses who know a lot more than they're willing to say. Meanwhile, Sister Mary has been receiving strange emails, each more disturbing and more threatening than the last. She's struggling with that as well as seriously questioning her own spirituality. I'd really like to say more but I don't want to give too much away.

I referred to Try Darkness as "the best book I've read in quite some time." Try Fear is hands down one of the best books I've read since then. Bell creates characters you can and will fall in love with. There are also those you'll willingly loath. The dialogue is masterful. The humor is frequent and effortless. The story is well crafted, well written and beautifully told. I truly envy Bells gift for language and metaphor. Next to him, my own prose are as awkward and clumsy as a... uh... There. You see what I mean? Try Fear is BYOB, book you oughta buy

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### **Bonnie Ainsworth says**

This series was definitely full of mystery, and it sure left me hanging. Not sure if the author intended to have the main character find the Lord or what, but it left me feeling like it was unfinished somehow. Still, I really enjoyed the series of books. Thanks to James Scott Bell for some great reads!

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### **Beverly E. McWhirk says**

#### **Three book series review**

James Scott Bell is an amazing author. I read all of his stand-alone novels several years ago, enjoyed them and, when no more were available, I reluctantly moved on to other authors. Now I've rediscovered him in the form of the Ty Buchanan series and he's better than ever! The three books have a common thread that binds

them but they could certainly be read independently. The characters are very well developed and I was surprised to find that I didn't need to refer to "x-ray" to recall who they were. The humor in these stories is outstanding. Buchanan is quick-witted and made me LOL on many occasions. The thriller plots were thought provoking and always held my attention. I wish Bell would PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE write more sequels for this series. He is so gifted and Ty is such a great character. Give us more!

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### **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Try Fear

Author: James Scott Bell

Pages: 292

Year: 2009

Publisher: Center Street

My rating is 5 out of 5 stars.

Ty Buchanan makes his return appearance in this third and final book of the series. He takes the case representing a man charged with DUI. The case looks unwinnable, but from out of nowhere Ty wins the case and gets his client freed. Then, his client is found dead and the brother is arrested for the murder. There is no way Ty can let this go. He is going to find the killer no matter what or who he has to chase down. He is also sticking his toe in the pond of faith...maybe. His relationship with Sister Mary is going in a more than friendly direction on his part, but what about her?

During the course of his legwork, he encounters interesting and dangerous characters such as a street preacher, dirty politicians and the people who are out at night in Hollywood. Ty still has his run-ins with Sister Hildegarde, who would rather see Ty live somewhere besides their quiet community. Sister Mary begins receiving threatening emails and Ty is not going to allow her to be hurt. He vows to discover who her cyber stalker is and bring him down. Can Ty stop this stalker before Sister Mary gets hurt? She has been helping him with his investigations. Could she have developed her enemy this way?

I am sorry to see this series end. Ty Buchanan is a well-liked character in my book. He has a great sense of humor, is well-read and able to give one-line zingers with ease. All three books were well-written and exciting. The short chapters set a quick pace for readers and the snappy dialogue will keep them turning pages quickly to get the next dose of humor or suspense. I read one right after another in the span of four days! Ty's sense of justice and being willing to defend those who had no one to defend them made him such a likable character to me. These are the first books of this author that I have read, but they won't be the last! He writes with ease and his knowledge and experience as a lawyer shine through. I plan on reading more of this author's work in the future. As for this series, it is going on my "keeper" shelf.

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### **Laura says**

This is an excellent book, a great third edition to what I hope will be a still-longer series; I'm certainly not willing to say goodbye to Ty and his investigator let alone Pick McNitt and Father Bob just yet. In this work, Bell manages to give us everything we're looking for and have come to expect from the beloved, familiar characters plus a whole host of fascinating, unpredictable new faces. Add to that a new mystery to solve and sprinkle it throughout with great quotations of ancient wisdom, and you've got a very Good Read. ;)

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**Ronald Roy Whaley says****Great trilogy!**

Great characters, story line and pace. The 3 books should be read in order as it is one long story.

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**J.R. Geoghan says**

Very funny self-talk. I love first-person characters and this L.A. attorney doesn't disappoint. I thought the ending came up almost too-quick and resolved without enough pushback from the "big bad" the author took the time to tee up. Sorry that this is the end of the series, will need to go back to see how it all began! Thanks.

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