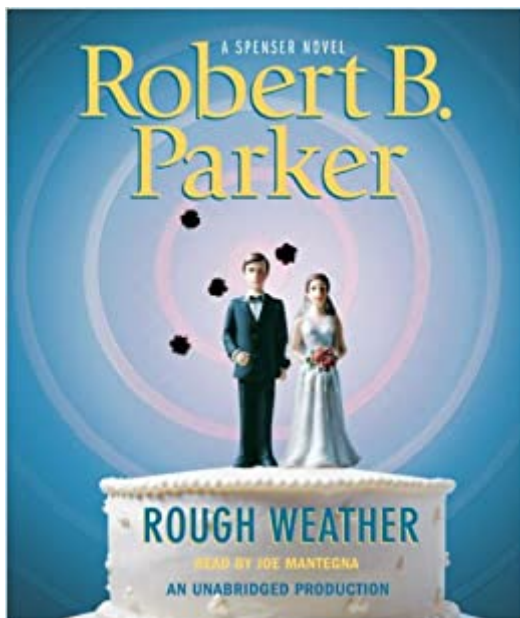


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# Rough Weather (Spenser Mysteries)



## Synopsis

Robert B. Parker is that rarity—a prolific author whose books are consistently original, suspenseful and fascinating. His crackling dialogue is always fresh and smart-alecky. You're happily hooked before you know it. •Forbes Heidi Bradshaw is wealthy, beautiful, and well connected—and she needs Spenser's help. In a most unlikely request, Heidi, a notorious gold digger recently separated from her latest husband, recruits the Boston P.I. to accompany her to her private island, Tashtego, for her daughter's wedding. Spenser is unsure of what his role as personal bodyguard will entail, but he consents when it's decided that he can bring his beloved Susan Silverman along. It should be a straightforward job for Spenser: show up for appearances, have some drinks, and spend some quality time with Susan. Yet when his old nemesis Rugar—the Gray Man—arrives on Tashtego, Spenser realizes that something is amiss. With a hurricane-level storm brewing outside, the Gray Man jumps into action, firing fatal shots into the crowd of wedding guests and kidnapping the bride—but Spenser knows that the sloppy guns-for-hire abduction is not Rugar's style. Unable to prevent the attack, Spenser will stop at nothing to recover the kidnapped bride and figure out how the Gray Man is connected. It's up to Spenser to decide who the real enemy is . . . before more people end up dead.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Spenser, the redoubtable Boston PI, struts his stuff in this 36th entry in the series, but may leave some readers wondering if his ethics will bear even casual examination. When Heidi Bradshaw

hires Spenser to support her at her daughter's wedding on Tashtego Island in Buzzards Bay, Mass., an old nemesis of Spenser's, the Gray Man, who almost killed Spenser in *Small Vices* (1977), also shows up on the island. Spenser is unable to prevent the kidnapping of the bride or the deaths that attend it. Assisted by a cadre of familiar players, Spenser persists in trying to find the missing bride in spite of warnings from the Gray Man. The trademark banter and snappy dialogue may seem more forced than natural. Spenser displays his machismo in dealing with a muscle builder and his detective skills in figuring out the Gray Man's connections to the case. A troubling conclusion produces one resolution and the promise of further consequences in the next installment. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Robert B. Parker is the author of more than fifty books. He lives in Boston

While this story sometimes borders on the absurd, the incurable romantic in me loved it. Maybe that's one reason I enjoy reading Spenser. He, Susan, Hawk, Quirk, and yes, often the bad guys too... They all evoke some compassion in me. This isn't Spenser at his most cutting best, and normally I wouldn't give this read more than 4 stars, but when I finished reading it, I felt like I had been served a nice whiskey. Or at least a tasty dessert. If you're unfamiliar with this series, don't start with this book. Instead, go back to the earlier books in the series and welcome to the family!

Spenser is back, with a bang. Actually multiple bangs. He is hired to squire around a mother at her daughter's wedding. Then the 'gray man' reappears in the Spenser saga. Then all hell breaks loose. There are bodies on the floor; the bride is abducted and no one really understands why. The mother has a set of suspicious ex-husbands along with a case of very warm undergarments. She is basically a rich lech with a growing tendency to leave dead bodies in her wake. Spenser must make sense of all of this, avoid being killed by the gray man, and still find time to eat pasta bolognese with Susan and drink Krug champagne with Hawk. Readers of my reviews know that one of the metrics I use in judging a Spenser novel is the proportion of Hawk-time vs. the proportion of Susan-time, my decided preference being for the former rather than the latter. Here they appear in more or less equal proportions but Susan is more tolerable than usual, probably because the actual violence with which she and Spenser are presented keeps the cutesy talk to a minimum. Hawk, as always, never overstays his welcome. The dialogue between and among the three is consistently strong and the action quotient is far higher than in the average Spenser novel. This book starts with a sequence of

superb action scenes and the plot is tighter than most. There is a bona fide 'mystery' and it is solved plausibly and satisfactorily. There are also some moral dilemmas that prompt interesting results and interesting dialogue. The book is less talky than some Spensers but the dialogue is welcome because it is executed so skillfully. There are also appearances by Tony Marcus, Quirk, Healy and other members of the Spenser ensemble, including Pearl. Highly recommended.

Rough Weather is the typical Spenser novel at this point. It has a strange plot, snappy dialog, interesting characters, some action, and a bit of an anti-climactic finish. It's not bad, though, and if you've read all or many of his books you'll probably enjoy it. In this outing, Spenser's hired to attend a wedding. The woman who hires him is a well-known celebrity, mostly notorious for marrying wealthy men, and cleaning them out, and then divorcing them. She's estranged from her third husband, and wants Spenser to attend her only daughter's wedding, so that in the event the girl's father (from whom she's divorced) tries to make a scene. Spenser thinks this odd, but takes the job anyway, and sure enough his suspicions are on target: armed men, led by Spenser's bete noir "The Gray Man" show up, kill the groom, and kidnap the bride. Spenser can't prevent any of this, and spends most of his time making sure his lady Susan (who he brought to the wedding) is safe. Then he and Hawk investigate why the Gray Man would be kidnapping the girl in such circumstances, and what they can do about it. I enjoyed this book a great deal, though the plot is a bit muddled and confused at times. By now we know that plot isn't as important to Parker as characters and dialog are, and it shows here, but not particularly badly. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it.

love this series

This one is different from most Spensers. I loved Early Autumn where the relationship was focused on Spenser and Paul. This one has a great event dealing with Spenser and Susan that makes it just a little bit different than most of Parker's. Plus, he does not seem to ramble as much, although he still has a feeling of "I've reached my page count. I am done now." And although the Gray Man is not seen much, he is very much a presence...

This book is typical Spenser with entertaining dialogue that approaches a satire of witty repartee, the usual characters, and a quick interesting plot that carries you along. The ending is exceptionally good IMO, and unusual in my experience of this series in that I never saw it coming. If you like Spenser novels you'll love this book. If you aren't a fan of this style of detective story, skip it -- it's a

classic.

Just reread and have to admit, it does not get better. All of Spenser's world is here and the story has to be read all the way through in one sitting. The action doesn't stop and Spenser is in his best wise cracking form. Admittedly I am a Parker fanboy and have been reading and rereading them since they were first released.

This is a very violent detective story that is very complicated. It has some unusual twists. The twists are very unusual and unexpected.

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