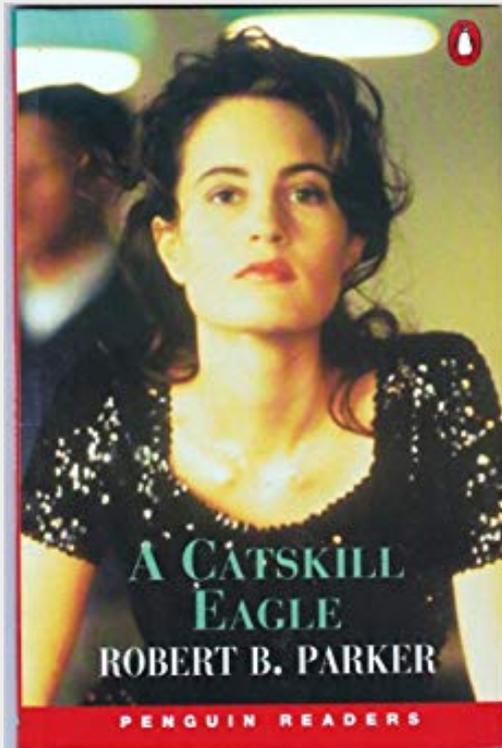


A Catskill Eagle (Spenser, #12)



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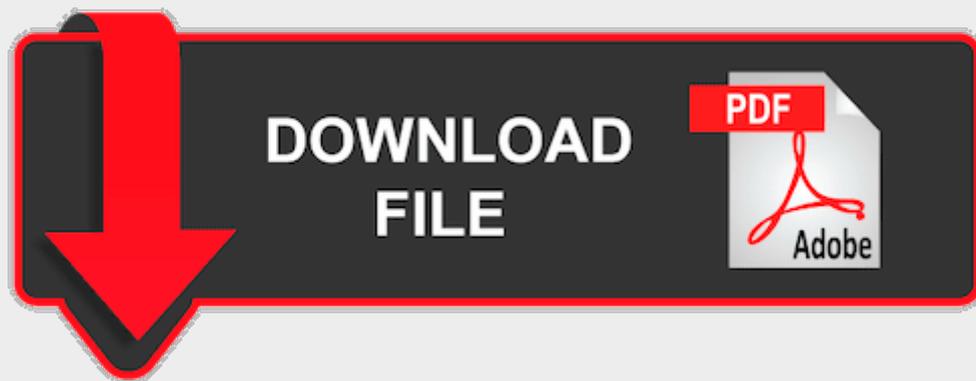
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Reviews of the A Catskill Eagle (Spenser, #12)

1. Makaitist

This novel, a period piece of the Cold War, presents an opportunity for those of us who lived through it, as well as younger generations that didn't, a sobering glimpse of the razor's edge on which the world balanced for decades.

It also provides an opportunity to review the strategies and philosophies that made this situation possible. The reader should think long and hard about the relationships within the elaborate man-machine system of

national defense.

The world is a vastly different place than it was before the end of the Cold War. Instead of what was a terrifying, yet thoroughly understood, and essentially monolithic enemy., we now find ourselves embroiled in myriad conflicts with many enemies who seem to be intent on exsanguinating us by gnawing at our ankles rather than vaporizing us in thermonuclear Armageddon. Yet the thermonuclear threat appears once again rearing its head.

The reader may equally see this novel as a call for nuclear disarmament or a warning that threats to our existence still exist today. But it seems to me that the authors' desire was for us to think. I second that request.

2. Kirinaya

I'm a big fan of Robert B. Parker's Spenser novels. Nobody does detective - private eye novels better than Parker. I liked the television show "Spenser For Hire", loosely based on the books, but the books are much better. Most of the main characters are a little different than the TV show, except for Hawk. Avery Brooks nailed it. His Hawk is exactly like Hawk in the novels. I've bought the first 15 from The Godwulf Manuscript through Crimson Joy and have been reading them in order. I'm currently on the 13th, Taming A Sea-Horse, Once you start they are hard to put down. What you might call, "A page turner". Very entertaining.

3. Bluddefender

I first read this book years ago and it was such an addictive page turner that it caused me to buy and read the rest. It's tough, gritty, funny and smart. I have read it several times now - it is a perfect introduction to the main characters. The banter between Spenser and Hawk is priceless. It's just a great, fun, book. if you haven't read any of the Spenser series, this is the one to get your feet wet with.

4. Painwind

This book proves how much Spenser loves Susan. He has to save her from herself and the man (Russell) who steals her away.

Parker is so descriptive of what people are wearing, and of where they are and how he fights his opponents. It is like you are right there.

This is one of his books you can't put down.

5. Arilak

This is the best book I have ever read. Bar None. Written 50 years ago, it could have been written yesterday. The tension, the truth, the drama, the loneliness, the darkness and the light...if you've never read a book in your life...if you have no intention of doing so, I IMPLORE You. Read this book.
Jacqueline Rodzinski

6. Stoneshaper

This one is my favorite in the Spenser series. I loaned my copy to someone ages ago, never got it back, finally replaced it.

7. OTANO

This novel, depicting a scenario where an American bomber erroneously

receives a signal to carry out its wartime mission to drop 40 megatons over Moscow, is probably a top 5 novel in the nuclear war fiction drama. The novel starts out very slow with a deliberate and sometimes laborious development of the characters, but once the author finishes "setting the stage" by mid-novel, this book takes off into the stratosphere and is next to impossible to put down for the last 125 pages or so. A realistic and believable scenario, and a must-read in the genre even for a 40+ year old work of fiction.

8. Well... 5 stars for the suspense and excitement and three stars for the unrealistic mechanism which precipitates the crisis as well as the 'preachy' feel at times. Overall, I strongly recommend this book. Due to some mechanical/electrical malfunctions, a group of bombers heads towards Moscow with nuclear bombs believing they have valid orders to drop them. Any more story details will give away too much, so I'll limit the rest of this review to general points. It has an alarmist feel with regard to technology rapidly outpacing man's ability to control it, and I think in some ways it is quite dated both in terms of the attitude towards technology as well as the specific technologies involved. Of course, it was written over 40 years ago, so to some extent that is to be expected. The author's point that no system is foolproof is certainly valid, but I think this point is brought up too often and in artificial ways. It gives a feel of 'taking a break' in the action of the story and delivering a brief sermon, then resuming. The suspense and the tension in the story are gripping, forcing me to devour this book in two sittings. All-in-all, an exciting cold war thriller with a little alarmist philosophy thrown in, slightly dated but still a great read!

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