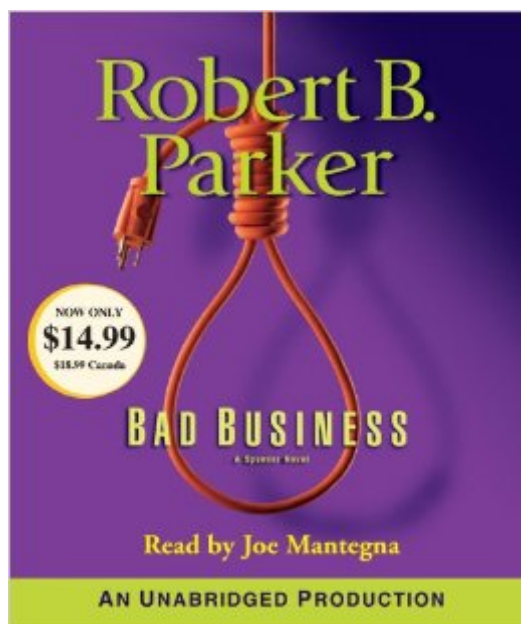


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## Bad Business (Spenser Novels)



## Synopsis

When Marlene Cowley hires Spenser to see if her husband Trent is cheating on her, he encounters more than he bargained for: not only does he find a two-timing husband, but a second investigator as well, hired by the husband to look after his wife. As a result of their joint efforts, Spenser soon finds himself investigating both individual depravity and corporate corruption. It seems the folks in the Cowleys' circle have become enamored of radio talk show host Darrin O'Mara, whose views on Courtly Love are clouding some already fuzzy minds with the notion of cross-connubial relationships. O'Mara's brand of sex therapy is unconventional at best, unlawful--and deadly--at worst. Then a murder at Kinerger, where Trent Cowley is CFO, sends Spenser in yet another direction. Apparently, the unfettered pursuit of profit has a price. With razor sharp characterizations and finely honed prose, this is Parker at the height of his powers.

## Book Information

Series: Spenser Novels

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (March 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739318160

ISBN-13: 978-0739318164

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.1 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (140 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #428,630 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Â Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > ( P ) > Parker, Robert B. #646 in Â Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#748 in Â Books > Books on CD > General

## Customer Reviews

If you are new to Spenser, start with an earlier book, such as "Looking for Rachel Wallace," or what I consider his very best, "Paper Doll." You could also start at the beginning and work your way through all 31, and have a very nice time. But by no means should you begin your Spenser adventure with this book. The plot is energetic but quite confusing - an Enron-like company pulling fiscal scams, all mixed up with some headache-inspiring spouse-swapping frenzy, huh? - but the real disappointment is, there is no one to care about here. Parker delivers his usual wit and wisdom, and that is what his fans love - the crisp dialogue, the social commentary, the gleeful puncturing of

society's various bubbles. It helps to have visits from nearly every character we love (Hawk, Vinnie, Rita, and Susan who sort of grows on you) but this book lacks a crucial something that his earlier works had in abundance: sympathetic people, whether clients or others, whom you could cheer for, and bad people whom you could truly hate. I found myself having difficulty telling one supporting character from another, and by the end - when the only really bad dude is reduced to hissing like a lizard when he's caught - I didn't care how it ended, as long as it ended soon. It was kind of embarrassing, hiss hiss. Spenser is always, always worth a read, even in a confusing mess like this. But for most people, it's probably a good idea to just take this one out of the library. I've already given my copy away, leaving me one book short of a complete set. I just don't care. Many books ago, in "Walking Shadow," (which, in my opinion, was the first book where Parker's cracks began to show) Hawk had a wonderful line that went something like, "This is the silliest thing you ever got me involved in."

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