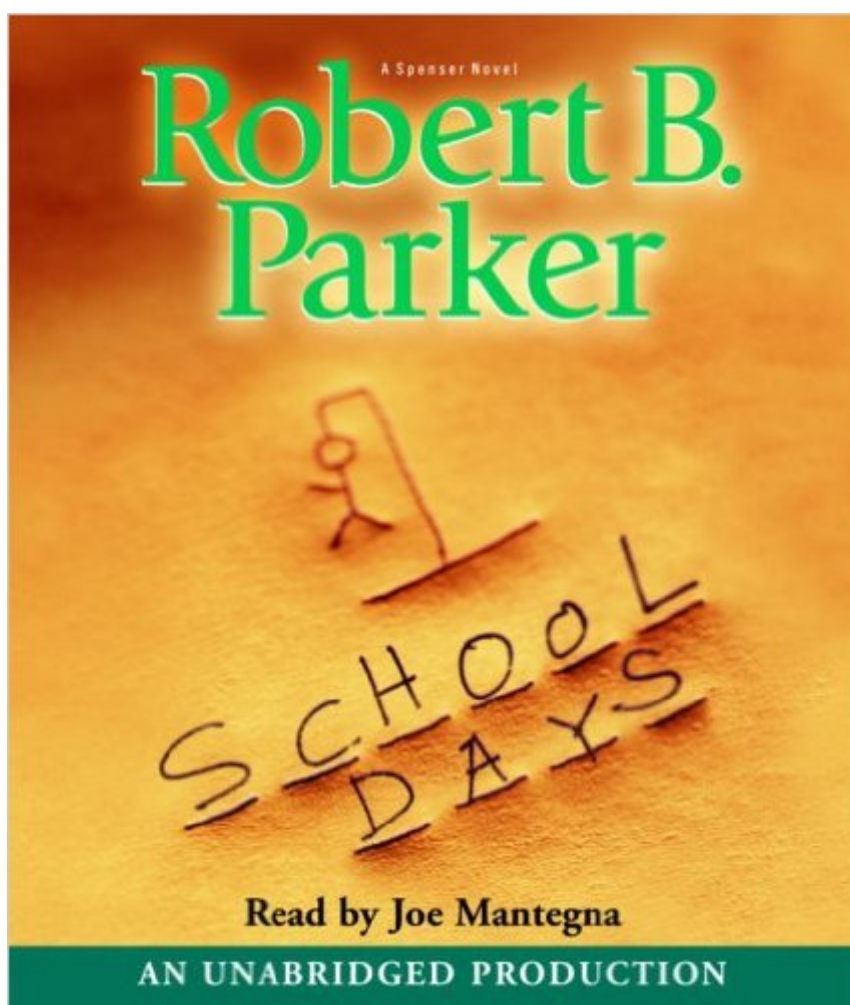


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School Days (Spenser Novels)



Synopsis

Lily Ellsworth--erect, firm, white-haired, and stylish--is the grand dame of Dowling, Massachusetts, and possesses an iron will and a bottomless purse. When she hires Spenser to investigate her grandson Jared Clark's alleged involvement in a school shooting, Spenser is led into an inquiry that grows more harrowing at every turn. Though seven people were killed in cold blood, and despite Jared's being named as a co-conspirator by the other shooter, Mrs. Ellsworth is convinced of her grandson's innocence. Jared's parents are resigned to his fate, and the boy himself doesn't seem to care whether he goes to prison for a crime he might not have committed. As the probe goes on, Spenser finds himself up against a number of roadblocks--from the school officials who don't want him asking questions, to Jared's own parents, who are completely indifferent to the boy's defense. Ultimately, Spenser discovers a web of blackmail and some heavy-duty indiscretions--and a truth too disturbing to contemplate. Before the case reaches its unfortunate end, he is forced to make a series of difficult decisions--with fatal consequences.

Book Information

Series: Spenser Novels

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (175 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,124,142 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Â Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (P) > Parker, Robert B. #1910 in Â Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#2148 in Â Books > Books on CD > General

Customer Reviews

It's been awhile but we finally get a Spenser novel that's hard to put down. I read it straight through at one sitting, which I rarely do these days with any book. Like most Spenser novels, School Days opens with action. A wealthy matron asks Spenser to investigate a prep school shooting, hoping to clear her grandson. Spenser dives in with his usual irreverent gusto, refusing to believe what everyone else insists is obvious: the young man has confessed to the crime and appears very, very

guilty. Doggedly (!) Spenser digs in. If there's a flaw here, it's the ease with which he finds witnesses. Choosing to follow someone makes sense: he has a reason for suspecting this person will lead him to the good stuff. But one foray into a school hangout and he's led right to the people he most needs to find? Coincidence. Unfortunately the plot twists make it difficult to review the story without revealing the outcome. And while Parker keeps the suspense high, I must admit I expected an even more devious story. Fans of Spenser will recognize his usual themes, including disdain for the suburbs and for formal education. And for some reason, author Parker has focused often on "lost" adolescents -- kids who were led astray by parental neglect. In his earlier novels, Spenser found ways to help -- an improbable social worker with unconventional but wise solutions. Here, we're more distant from the kids and even farther from any kind of help for them. As other reviewers pointed out, Spenser's sidekicks have deserted him. Hawk rates a brief mention. Spenser's cop friends lend their support and Rita Fiore moves center stage. Susan, Spenser's beloved, has been banished to Duke University for a conference.

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