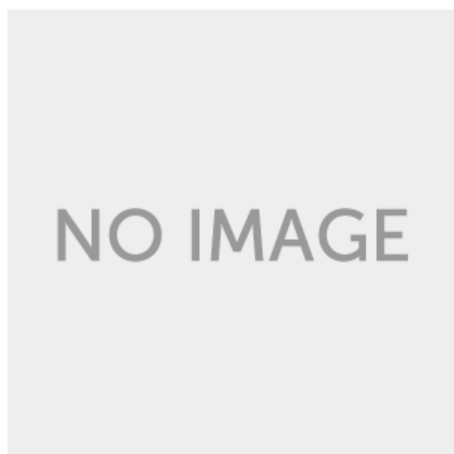


Family Honor *by* Robert B. Parker



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Sunny Randall, a female Boston private detective and former police officer, has been hired by a rich family to find their daughter, a job that involves her with the worlds of prostitution, organized crime, and high-level political corruption. 150,000 first printing.



Reviews of the **Family Honor** *by* Robert B. Parker

Beydar

RB Parker novel: 1st in Sunny Randall series: I'm a big Jesse Stone fan (including books by Coleman and Brandman). Sunny is one of Jesse's loves who is also a private investigator. Given that I have to wait until September for the next "Jesse" novel and that Sunny is introduced as a "Jesse" character, I decided to see if Sunny is, in her own right, an interesting character -- private investigator. The plot, focused around an emotionally neglected teenager, with some very unconventional immoral parents. Trying to work through her divorce and unintentionally acting as a social worker, Sunny does eventually work to solve the teen's problems in an interesting (but somewhat unrealistic) manner.

Throw her heart

Book one of the Sunny Randall series gets off to a great start. We meet and fall in love with Sunny herself in the prologue and by the end of chapter one, we see that she has just evolved from a painful but relatively docile divorcee from the love of her life and has taken up a role of Private Detective. She hates her sister, loves her Dad to bits and can barely put up with her Mom.

This story, however, revolves around a missing fifteen year old girl that the very well-to-do Patton family have hired her to find. Sunny being Sunny in both name as well as nature has made one fan in the girl's father but possibly an enemy with the girl's mother.

Anyway, the job is accepted by Sunny and the hunt for the girl is on.

The writing is typically Parker'ish. That is, full of life, and laughs, and tears, and moving observations of what life is like on this sacred globe hanging delicately in space we call Earth. Wonderfully short chapters make the book easy to read for newbies but seasoned fans of the genius that was Robert B. Parker will simply go with the flow of the story until they fall asleep in their leather bound wing chairs (or in my case, at the kitchen table!!!!).

This book is so good that I am about to order the entire series from Amazon.

The good news is that there is only six books in the series.

But the bad news is that there is only six books in the series.

Lets hope the estate of Mr Parker decide to find someone to write more Sunny Randall books.

A very healthy four stars from me.

As i have learned from reading the truly great works of other authors in this fantastic genre, you must leave room for greatness.

BFN Greggorio!

Mikarr

Really didn't think I would enjoy a Parker novel without Spenser, but I really loved the writing and Sunny Randall is a very competent PI. As there are a lot of female PI books out there now, and most are very good, Sunny fits right in there with the best currently in print. Still, Parker being a master storyteller makes this book fall into place as a good read.

Daigami

FAMILY HONOR lived up to its title as the pilot for this delightful series which felt at first like Spenser was toning himself into a female roar heard round the literary arena, while extending his slant on gangster Vs cop family backgrounds (in which neither is all bad or all good) in this Juliet and Romeo romance.

I hadn't thought I'd be able to get into a female private eye series by Parker, especially after having become addicted to his 34 Spenser novels. But FAMILY HONOR was a perfect appetizer with appealing percolation. I don't doubt that Parker can carry both his new series (see my review of NIGHT PASSAGE, Jesse Stone # 1).

It didn't take more than a few chapters for Sunny to split off from the long-wrought, well-writ Spenser mystique and into her own, as a full character... maybe with Spenser speaking into her ear as an angel from an alternate reality, for a while. I enjoyed the slips connecting to Spenser, i.e., how Sunny might deal with a particular hairy situation if she were a 200 pound, male boxer. In humorous yet realistic contrast to Spenser and Hawk types, Parker dramatized what a small female can do to compensate for not being a testy, taut, towering gorilla-with-gonads, in a plot which will had me smiling. I'm excited about this series; I enjoyed the upbeat feeling of this first offering in it. I relished hearing Randall use Spenser's trademark words in dialogue, like "some more" and "eek."

Reading the first few chapters of FAMILY HONOR I kept seeing Spenser in high heels, noting how uncomfortable they were, and wondering where/how to effectively house a big enough gun on a 115 lb, 5'4" body... as he seemed to be having great fun adapting to this recent female incarnation, shaking out the form and personality. Of course, that image alone got me grinning. By the time the intense ending called up, I was liking Sunny Randall every bit as much as Kinsey Millhone (Sue Grafton's P. I.).

For this unique pilot, Parker designed a stylish, italicized prologue in third person observation of Sunny and Rosie, accomplishing an artistic, literary feel, giving a light-touch, sensitive contrast to chapter one opening into a first person narrative style with Sunny telling her own story in the classic private eye genre mode.

The included cultural icons of cooking, dress, habits, and thinking were precisely on target with the copyright date of 1999, when the Great Chefs TV episodes were running hot and heavy, with their long-handled saute pans being shook (contents were no longer stirred on TV) above gas-lit burners on commercial grade stoves, featuring Spike, Sunny's gay, tough-guy chef friend.

The plot here gave hints of EARLY AUTUMN (# 7 Spenser) and CEREMONY (# 9 Spenser) as Sunny took in a young teen, Millicent Patton, runaway, hooking daughter of her clients. Enlightening entertainment was easily obtained through Sunny's ways of dealing with and drawing out this young human lost in the sump and shrug of a lack of love.

A few quirky questions came to mind as I began reading this novel:

What might Rachel Wallace (# 6 SPENSER, Looking for Rachel Wallace) say about Spenser's (Parker's) ability to understand being female, if she were to read FAMILY HONOR. And what would she think about macho if she had read all 34 Spenser novels. Can novels help us understand that which we would have to stretch outside our bodies and into another form to get? I'd say they can, especially if penned by Parker.

Rachel Wallace may have to give the gauntlet on this one. Spenser understands.

Yet... can testosterone ever fully comprehend powerlessness...

Maybe any person who has ever been depressed, grieved loss of a loved one, or desperately wanted something he couldn't have, for whatever reason, has the capacity to comprehend the initial feeling of hopelessness which sometimes comes at those times of leached strength and slow coming answers. We each have a spirit, though, which seems to believe that morning comes daily. Parker has made a good case that sunny weather can dog the footsteps of storms.

Linda Shelnett

Opimath

I am not a Sunny Randall fan - sorry! I love Cole And Hitch, I've read all of the Jesse Stone books and liked most of them but I tired of the Spenser. I found him unconvincing and the series a little formulaic? This is my first and last Sunny Randall - maybe RBP does not do female leads so well or maybe I just can't identify? Female readers may get SR? I didn't. Nicely written as always and a strong supporting cast

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