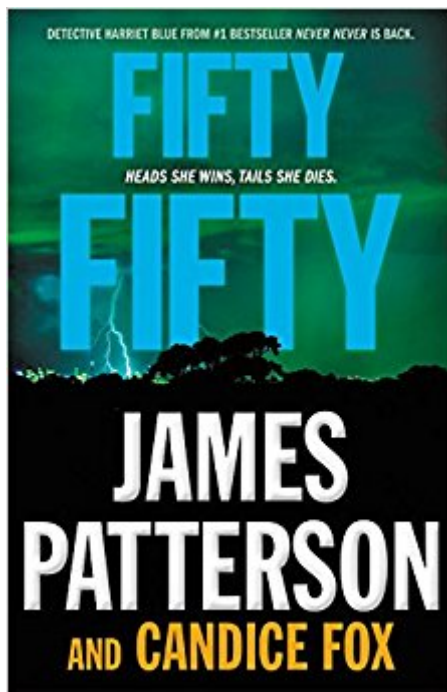




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Fifty Fifty (Harriet Blue)



Synopsis

Detective Harriet Blue is a relentless detective--but when her own brother is accused of murder, will she self-destruct? Sam Blue stands accused of the brutal murders of three young students, their bodies dumped near the Georges River. Only one person believes he is innocent: his sister, Detective Harriet Blue. And she's determined to prove it. But Harry's outburst at her brother's trial earns her a reassignment--to the outback. With no choice but to leave Sam's case alone, she relocates to Last Chance Valley, population 75, where a diary found on the roadside outlines a shocking plan: the massacre of the entire town. And the first killing, shortly after Harry's arrival, suggests the clock is already ticking. Meanwhile, back in Sydney, a young woman holds the key to crack Sam's case wide open. If only she could escape the madman holding her hostage . . . --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

James Patterson has written more bestsellers and created more enduring fictional characters than any other novelist writing today. He lives in Florida with his family. Candice Fox is an award-winning crime writer based in Sydney. She is the author of three novels and with James Patterson co-wrote the thriller *Never, Never*.

I have to confess I purposely avoided *Never, Never*, the first book in this series DESPITE being a huge fan of Candice Fox's work. Or maybe I should say BECAUSE I'm a huge fan of Fox's writing. I'd had some bad experiences with previous James Patterson collaborations so didn't want anything

to tarnish my (not-weird) reverence of the talented Aussie storyteller. So, I came into this second book of the series, Fifty Fifty with a few gaps in my backstory knowledge. It meant I might have had a few questions but did not take anything away from my enjoyment of this book, which I think (thankfully) has Fox's fingerprints all over it. Indeed the character of Detective Harriet Blue - her personality, attitude and voice - seem very much to be something Fox brings to the Patterson/Fox party. Harriet's quite similar to Eden Archer who featured in Fox's first gritty and addictive trilogy. And it's not just because both had untraditional upbringings and a mentor they credit with giving them focus / control, but cos they're both 'take no prisoners' types and are perhaps borderline sociopathic. But in a nice way. Readers are offered two cases for the price of one here. I gather Harriet (Harry) was sent off to 'never never' (or somewhere in Western Australia) in the first book of this series and although she's back in Sydney when we first meet her it's not long before she's again shunted-off - this time western New South Wales to assist a local cop with the diary, which seems to be a manifesto for mass killings. Meanwhile.... there's the case involving Harry's brother, the case she's informally pursuing to prove her brother's innocence and one she's had to leave in the hands of (former partner) Whitt in her absence. Patterson & Fox have created a wonderfully vivid and complex character in Harriet Blue. She's prickly and unpredictable, yet likeable. The book's written (mostly) in first person so we know what she's thinking and how much she fears 'wild Harriet'. I love that this novel doesn't fall into the well-worn trap of using every single Aussie cliché possible but at the same time felt very Australian. I think some of that reflects Fox's (Harriet's) blunt no-nonsense voice and complete disdain for rules and authority. (#OiOiOi) And fortunately - which isn't always the case with collaborations - the plots are interesting; sturdy and complex enough to support and sustain these great characters, so I'm very much hoping this series continues. 4.5 stars

A OK

Excellent

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