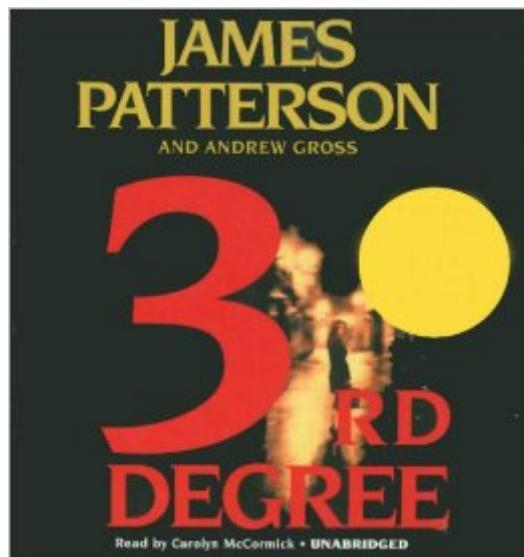


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# 3rd Degree (The Women's Murder Club)



## **Synopsis**

The #1 bestselling new mystery series of the past decade comes roaring back with 3rd Degree, a shockingly suspenseful thriller featuring the Women's Murder Club. One of James Patterson's best loved heroines is about to die. Detective Lindsay Boxer is jogging along a beautiful San Francisco street when a fiery explosion rips through the neighborhood. A town house owned by an Internet millionaire is immediately engulfed in flames, and when Lindsay plunges inside to search for survivors, she finds three people dead. An infant who lived in the house cannot be found - and a mysterious message at the scene leaves Lindsay and the San Francisco Police Department completely baffled. Then a prominent businessman is found murdered under bizarre circumstances, with another mysterious message left behind by the killer. Lindsay asks her friends Claire Washburn of the medical examiner's office, Assistant D.A. Jill Bernhardt, and Chronicle reporter Cindy Thomas to help her figure out who is committing these murders-and why they are intent on killing someone every three days. Even more terrifying, the killer has targeted one of the four friends who call themselves the Women's Murder Club. Which one will it be? While the investigation rages furiously, Lindsay works very closely with a federal officer assigned to the case. At the same time, she learns that one member of the Women's Murder Club is hiding a secret so dangerous and unbelievable that it could destroy them all.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Back from "1st To Die" and "2nd Chance", the Women's Murder Club finds terror in unexpected

places in this third outing. Starring San Francisco PD Homicide Lt. Lindsay Boxer, friends newspaper reporter Cindy, Medical Examiner Claire, and Asst. District Attorney Jill have somewhat larger roles than the light supporting cast they portrayed in the two earlier books. We're also glad to see the adolescent dialogue from the last pairing of Gross and Patterson was replaced by much more meaningful interactions between the foursome. (We might quibble that it's an unlikely group from the viewpoint of a three-way conflict of interest: cop, DA, and reporter). Keeping in touch with modern times, involvement by Homeland Security personnel and a plot that featured seemingly random acts of terror gave the novel an up-to-date tone. And two subplots, involving spousal abuse of Jill, and a love interest between Boxer and Molinari, the Homeland guy, added to the torrid pace of the main and complex mystery for which Patterson is well known. When a home is bombed and then a death by deadly chemical is followed by another bombing at a mall, it's clear that some group is out for revenge. We get to meet a few of the bad guy players from some first person dialogue of their own, but their identities are not all revealed until the somewhat surprising ending. The usual short chapters (111 in like 340 pages), plus a lot of blank pages from five Parts, make the book little more than a two hour blitz. But the shock comes from a direct attack on one of the club members, nothing new to the other novels in the set. This series may not be quite as hard core as Patterson's more movie-oriented thrillers, but the generally likable heroine and her friends, along with a suspenseful storyline, is quite good enough for an enjoyable read. You might want to save it for the beach!

This third book in the Women's Murder Club series, is, I think, not as good as the first two. I found it hard to get personally involved in Lindsey's fight to find terrorists. Not only that, it was almost unbelievable in parts (and so senselessly graphic). How can one woman in the Police force almost singlehandedly solve a huge case like this? I kept wondering where the rest of the police force was. That's what I mean by stretching it. It also wasn't easy to know before reading the book that one of the women in the club was going to be killed. During the first part of the book, I kept wondering who it would be and didn't concentrate on the plot the way I should. Personally I think reviewers and book jacket writers expose too much of the actual story, and it's almost a good idea not to read these before reading the book (especially with a thriller like this one). I don't know - after how much I loved the first two in the series, I found this one sadly disappointing. I doubt whether I'll bother with others in this series.

Apart from the break-neck pace, I love the way Patterson squeezes in contemporary facts and

events in his thrillers. This latest in the Women's Murder Club series is every bit as nailbiting as the first two, but with a slight twist: this time, the solution to a grisly string of bombings cannot come without the expense of having to lose someone very close to our amateur detectives. Riveting plot twists. Bullet paced turn of events. This novel packs in just about everything you would expect from a wholesome crime thriller. If you've read the first 2 in the series, you'd probably be even better off as you could relate more easily to the fears and idiosyncrasies of our intriguing protagonists. So feed the cat, turn on the air conditioning and slip into bed with this very, very satisfying nailbiter.

For me, crime fiction has to have enough ring of truth that I can imagine the circumstances really happening. Otherwise, the book is simply a fantasy, and my pleasure depends on the symbolism, metaphors and issues explored. 3rd Degree didn't work well for me from either perspective. If you have read and enjoyed 1st to Die and 2nd Chance, you should read this book because there are important developments for the four women in the Women's Murder Club. Otherwise, if you pick up the fourth book in the series when it comes out, you will find yourself a little lost. The book opens with a bang when Homicide Detective Lindsay Boxer observes a home explode during her jog. There are more explosive events ahead as the book chronicles Lindsay's efforts (abetted by her women friends) to locate the terrorists behind a series of attacks on those who have gained at the expense of others and have upheld law and order. Because of the magnitude of the events, the whole antiterrorist forces of the United States become involved. Lindsay finds herself being attracted to one of them. At the same time, there's trouble in Jill's marriage. The problems with the book come from the story's development of the terrorist theme. The terrorists just don't seem like real people. They are like cardboard drawings that haven't even been cut out of the cardboard so that they can stand two-dimensionally on their own. The way they work together and their motivations didn't ring true with me either. Mr. Patterson and Mr. Gross also didn't seem to develop the four female characters more than the minimum to build the story and draw your interest in reading a fourth book in the series. These four women could have made for wonderful characters if the authors weren't so plot and action obsessed. After you finish this book, think about whether your time is spent on the right priorities.

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