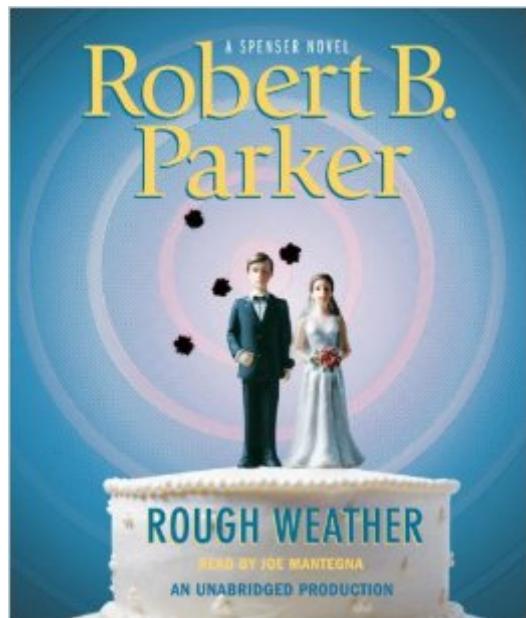


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# Rough Weather (Spenser Mysteries)



## Synopsis

â œRobert B. Parker is that rarityâ “a prolific author whose books are consistently original, suspenseful and fascinating. His crackling dialogue is always fresh and smart-alecky. Youâ ™re happily hooked before you know it.â •Forbes Heidi Bradshaw is wealthy, beautiful, and well connectedâ “and she needs Spenserâ ™s help. In a most unlikely request, Heidi, a notorious gold digger recently separated from her latest husband, recruits the Boston P.I. to accompany her to her private island, Tashtego, for her daughterâ ™s wedding. Spenser is unsure of what his role as personal bodyguard will entail, but he consents when itâ ™s decided that he can bring his beloved Susan Silverman along. It should be a straightforward job for Spenser: show up for appearances, have some drinks, and spend some quality time with Susan. Yet when his old nemesis Rugarâ “the Gray Manâ “arrives on Tashtego, Spenser realizes that something is amiss. With a hurricane-level storm brewing outside, the Gray Man jumps into action, firing fatal shots into the crowd of wedding guests and kidnapping the brideâ “but Spenser knows that the sloppy guns-for-hire abduction is not Rugarâ ™s style. Unable to prevent the attack, Spenser will stop at nothing to recover the kidnapped bride and figure out how the Gray Man is connected. Itâ ™s up to Spenser to decide who the real enemy is . . . before more people end up dead.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After 30 years, the Spenser novels may have reached their nadir. This isn't so much a book as it is an exercise in cutting and pasting boring, trivial and pedantic dialogue from earlier Spenser

escapades. There is so much wrong with it that it's hard to know to begin....but how 'bout- Spenser and Susan do not seem to have grown up on wit over all these years. I fully realize the books aren't moving along as swiftly as real time, yet time has indeed passed (as Spenser and Rita discuss, in another adolescent tete-a-tete) so there is some need for not only their relationship to have grown, but for their dialogue to resemble something even close to what real people might say in today's parlance. I still admire Parker's crisp, uncluttered sentences (though he is getting lazy with adverbs....) I just wish that WHAT they were saying didn't sound juvenile.- Susan (as a character) is as thin as the scraps of food she eats. Does she have friends or interests other than fawning over her big hunk of a detective boyfriend? Not that I know of. At the end of the day (and after all these years) Parker has repeatedly broken the #1 rule of writing; "Show, don't tell." We are bombarded with reasons why Susan is great, thin, beautiful and brilliant, yet we never really see it.....- This book in particular seems driven not by a writer with a "good yard" to tell, but by a lazy old fart with a deadline to meet and a marketing department which encouraged him to "put a little more violence up front."- Other's have noted that Parker is now obsessively reusing characters. Personally, I'm fine meeting up with Healey, Belson and Quirk, along with Ty Bop and others in the Spenser ensemble...

As a devoted Robert B. Parker fan it is sad to say his Spenser books are becoming a staid cookie-cutter series with almost replaceable by the number scenes. The razor edge that Spenser was famous for is not quite as sharp... and perhaps dulled by his advancing middle age... as more and more literary time is spent with boring predictable time with Susan. Loyal readers know she takes mini-microscopic bites of whatever food she orders... in whatever restaurant they visit. We know that whatever clothes she wears... she is the most beautiful woman Spenser has ever seen... we know that if she says she'll be ready in five minutes... she'll be ready in thirty-five minutes. And even more depressing for readers is the non-stop double entendre sexual conversations between the two of them... that are actually boorishly embarrassing to any adult. (Could you imagine sitting next to them on a cross country flight listening to such sophomoric interaction?) And then there's Hawk. Just one sentence from Hawk when he enters a scene and there is immediate hope and enthusiasm brewing in the reader's soul. In this installment he doesn't do much more than chauffeur Spenser around. The storyline starts when Heidi Bradshaw an attractive rich and famous woman who built her wealth by marrying a number of rich men ambles into Spenser's office and hires him to be her male escort and provide a non-defined security at her daughter's wedding, that will be taking place on her private island, Tashtego. Spenser takes Susan along with him and can't even explain to himself... let alone... to Susan... what his security job entails. On the day of the wedding... arch

enemy "THE-GRAY-MAN" shows up as a guest... with no explanation or deep \*\*detecting\*\* work by Spenser...

Since the release of \_The Godwulf Manuscript\_ back in 1973, I have been fond of RBP's work, but it was \_Catskill Eagle\_ that turned me into a real Spenser fan. I have read everything Parker has written and I'm sorry to say that \_Rough Weather\_ will probably be my last. Ever since the introduction of the Sunny Randall (Spenser in drag) and Jesse Stone series, I've increasingly felt like I was getting less and less "bang" for my buck --- not to mention the fact that the word count kept decreasing as the type size increased. But I kept on shelling out the dough... which also kept increasing. Beginning several Spenser novels ago, I noticed Parker was not only relying on the same old characters - recycling them over and over again and apparently having decided to abandon the concept of introducing anyone new - but was also "crossing over" more and more (Spenser hooking up with colleagues of Sunny Randall and/or Jesse Stone, and vice versa). He also began to increasingly recycle dialogue (how many times do Spenser and Susan -- and occasionally Hawk --- need to have the same old conversation --- always over a meal --- about "Spenser's code" and what makes him different from Hawk or the Grey Man? But \_Rough Weather\_ was the proverbial straw. I would venture to guess that there is not one line of original dialogue in the entire book. If one were to take the time to check, I believe you would probably find that 90% of \_Rough Weather\_ has already been published in previous RBP novels.

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