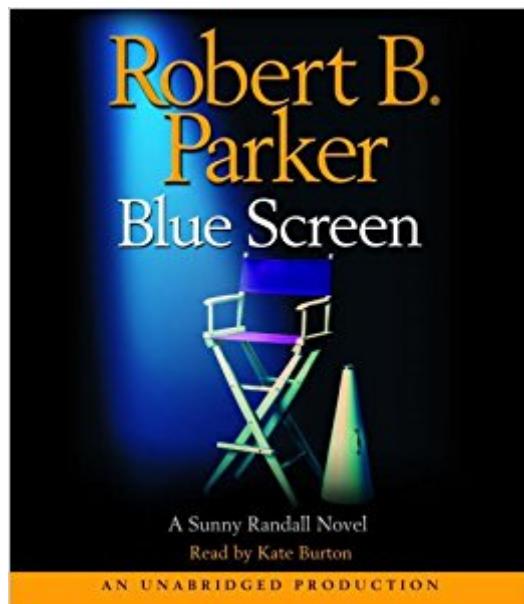


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# Blue Screen (Sunny Randall Novels)



## **Synopsis**

Sunny Randall, the Boston P.I. with a personal life as tangled as that of her clients, is hired on as a bodyguard to an up-and-coming starlet, and discovers some ugly truths behind her glossy facade. Buddy Bollen is a C-list movie mogul who made his fortune producing films of questionable artistic merit. When Buddy hires Sunny Randall to protect his rising star and girlfriend, Erin Flint, Sunny knows from the start that the prickly, spoiled beauty won't make her job easy. And when Erin's sister, Misty, is found dead in the lavish home they share with sugar daddy Bollen, there doesn't seem to be a single lead worth pursuing. But then Sunny meets Jesse Stone, chief of police in Paradise, Massachusetts, under whose jurisdiction the case falls. Tracking Misty's murderer reveals a host of seedy complications behind Erin's glamorous lifestyle as well as Buddy Bollen's entertainment empire, made up of shady film deals and mobsters out for revenge. But in a world where there's little difference between the good guys and the bad, exposing the killer could prove to be Sunny's undoing.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Parker's latest mystery brings two of his series characters, Boston PI Sunny Randall and Paradise, Mass., chief of police Jesse Stone together for the first time. Zillionaire Buddy Bollen hires Randall as bodyguard to his live-in girlfriend, the minimally talented but beautiful and athletic Erin Flint, who has starred in several movies Bollen's produced. As the owner of a baseball team, he wants Flint to be the first female major league player. Flint's fear of physical reprisal against her as she attempts

to break the baseball gender barrier leads to the hiring of Randall. When Flint's assistant is found dead, Stone joins Randall, professionally and romantically, to solve the murder. Parker, as usual, delivers a fine novel, whose serviceable plot exists primarily to showcase his well-drawn characters. Although she may upon occasion lose track of whose voice is whose, Burton does an admirable job of delivering Parker's dialogue, which is as stylistically unique as a David Mamet play. Her first-person narration from Randall's point of view and expository passages are nicely performed, bringing just the right amount of world-weariness to her characterization. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Erin Flint is on all the magazine covers, and her last movie--lotta body, acting not so much--was boffo box office. Her lover-manager, Buddy Bollen, who also owns a major-league baseball team, wants Flint to play for his team--a cameo, but timed to coincide with the release of her next movie. But Erin fears there may be an attempt on her life, so Boston investigator Sunny Randall is hired to be her bodyguard. While working on her batting skills in the resort town of Paradise, one of Erin's entourage is murdered. Sunny, with the blessing of Paradise police chief Jesse Stone--another Parker series regular--sets off to find the killer. Parker has never been big on plots. He's all about character, characters, and snappy dialogue, and all are present here in spades. What makes this special is the dalliance between Stone and Randall. Both are smart, clever, witty, brave, burdened with the weight of past loves, and, well, downright horny. This isn't Parker's best work, but it may be his most lighthearted. Wes LukowskyCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great story moved fast and tied in Jesse Stone bbbbbbb nnnnnnnn mm bbb junky ffff gggg ooo pop  
xxxb n

The late Robert B. Parker left a legacy of series characters that leave you feeling like you've just visited old friends when you read one of their books. Since two of those characters, Sunny Randall and Jesse Stone, appear in BLUE SCREEN the book seems mostly like a reunion with old pals. Like most of Parker's crime novels this one is propelled by snappy dialogue, interesting minor characters, social relevance with a nod toward the psychology of the sexes. Plot is incidental. For what it's worth the story here revolves around a woman who might just become the first female to play major league baseball. There's a murder and a trip from Boston to LA to find clues, which leads to a memorable scene in a posh retail outlet on Rodeo Drive. In the end the crime gets solved and

justice is served in the signature Robert B. Parker way. It all adds up to great fun . . like a visit with old friends.

I have read and loved all of the other Sunny Randall books but found this one a little disappointing - more sex than detection, and that quite distracts from the plot and the crimes described and solved. Writing by Robert Parker is of course excellent, but the story drags because of the time devoted to the sex scenes.

Between Parker and his clones the characters are memorable (try McDonald's color series novels from the 80's for equally vivid characters), the dialog is entertaining (if anybody actually talked like that you would think they were stoned or drunk), and the plots are predictable. Its all about the characters. But the psychobabble has to go. Killers who psychologically grieve with intimacy issues is too deep. Still, the Parker legacy continues on with no real alternatives except Robert Crais with Elvis Cole and Joe Pike for the neat characters.

The Sunny Randall novels are always fun and this one is no exception. Just one caveat--this novel ends with more romance notes than suspense notes. The subplot--Sunny meets Jesse--takes over and ultimately displaces the investigation. In fact, the solution of the crime becomes more of an afterthought than a climax. Note that Parker does not only merge the Sunny/Jesse series characters, he includes a cameo appearance by Susan Silverman. For those who think that the Spenser/Susan interchanges are the high points of that series, this book is an absolute must-read. Such readers are likely to feel that Parker truly understands the female and sensitive-male perspective and relish the romantic dialogue. Those who think that Hawk is the most interesting character in the Spenser novels are likely to feel that this novel is replete with psychobabble and cutesy-poo dialogue. That's why God created a dessert menu to satisfy different tastes.

Now, if we could just have gotten Spenser and Hawk in here, we'd have had a nice little BBQ going. Or maybe a gourmet feast. If Spenser's doing the cooking. A grape and cube of cheese if Susan has anything to say about it. Heh. If you like Jesse Stone and Sunny Randall in their respective series, you'll like this book wherein they come together for the first time. I like Jesse as a protagonist in his own series, but I must admit to wanting to throttle him when it comes to his drinking and his relationship with his ex. I like Sunny Randall, too, but I admit to wanting to throttle her, too. Two protagonists with exes. What are the odds that they'll hit it off and have us laughing along the way?

Good odds. And that's what this book is--a nice, humorous ride with two smart but damaged protagonists.

Good story, good pacing, good dialog. Moves right along. An excellent read. Typical Robert Parker--who, in my opinion, was the best mystery writer of the 20th century.

Robert B. Parker 's "Spencer" novels are hard to replace with off spring characters such as "Sunny Randall" and "Jessie Stone." They lack that pizzazz that he brought to Hawk and Spencer. I bought his "Sunny Randall" in hopes that he had captured that certain essence of his Spencer novels... but sadly, that was not to be. Although, he did have something going with "Spike." It would have been interesting if he had made "Spike" his main central character. Now that, would have spiced things up.

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