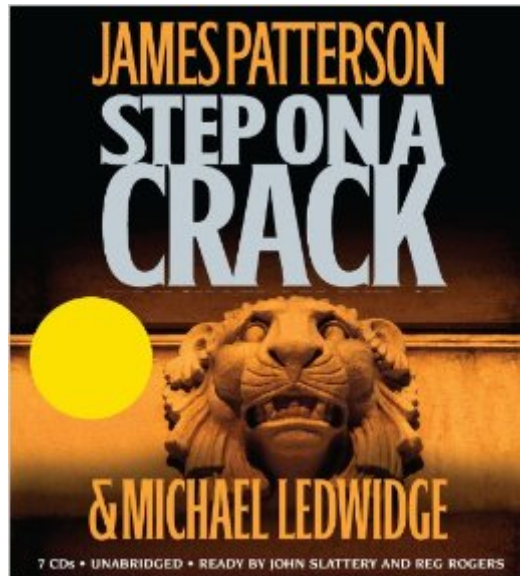


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# Step On A Crack



## Synopsis

Detective Michael Bennett is about to take on the most sinister challenge of his career. The nation has fallen into mourning after the unexpected death of a beloved former first lady, and the most powerful people in the world gather in New York for her funeral. Then the inconceivable occurs. Billionaires, politicians, and superstars of every kind are suddenly trapped within one man's brilliant and ruthless scenario. Bennett--father of ten--is pulled into the fray. As the danger escalates, Michael is hit with devastating news. After fighting for many years, his wife has succumbed to a terrible disease. As New York descends into chaos, he has lost the great love of his life and faces raising his ten devastated children alone--and rescuing 34 hostages. Day after day, Bennett confronts the most ruthless man he has ever dealt with, a man who kills without hesitation and counters everything the NYPD and FBI throw at him with impunity. As the entire world watches and the tension boils to a searing heat, Bennett has to find a way out--or face responsibility for the greatest debacle in history.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 7 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown & Company; Unabridged edition (June 3, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600242790

ISBN-13: 978-1600242793

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (755 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #401,447 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 inÂ Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > ( P ) > Patterson, James #600 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#834 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## Customer Reviews

Step on a Crack is the latest novel to be released and to have James Patterson's name on the cover. This book, like all but the Alex Cross novels, has a co-author. Patterson has at least 4 books coming out this year and the cynical will dismiss him as a hack who churns out novels for the money. He probably does do that, and it doesn't really bother me. All Patterson's novels are short and easy to read. Some are good, like the Lifeguard and 4th of July, some are bad like 5th Horseman and Beach Road. I read Step on a Crack with an open mind and was prepared to judge it

on its merits. The novel deserves 1 star for incredibly poor characterization but I'm giving it two stars because the terrorist plot is quite intriguing. A former First Lady is murdered and of course a big funeral must be held. Hotshots from Hollywood, business and politics all show up and a group of terrorists strike, taking over the funeral. They release everyone except around 35 of the chosen big shots that they hope to extort money from. Michael Bennett is an NYPD homicide cop with a wife in the hospital and ten kids, yes ten kids. He gets thrust into the position as the lead negotiator with the terrorists because he has prior experience as a hostage negotiator. All Patterson novels follow a formula, and this is no exception. The characters have little depth, the plot skips over details. Basically, these books are written like a movie. The action in the book is somewhat intriguing. The hostages (pro football player, aging rock star, hollywood actress, talk show host) are entertaining as their ego-driven personalities have to find a way to cope with each other and the men holding them hostage. The terrorists are American and predictable in their brutality.

Two others in my group read *Step on a Crack* by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge before I did. They both agreed that the book was not very good (to paraphrase their summaries as gently as possible), so it's fair to say that my expectations were low when I picked up the book. My expectations were met. Had I something else to read, I would have put this thing down around chapter four and never looked back. (The chapters are very short). The first sentence is a confused and awkward bit of imagery (the back of a jacket turns away...) and that sets the tone for the whole book. We start with a murder, the untimely demise of one of the finest people the world has ever known. Her highly-trained bodyguards, Secret Service, for crying out loud, who have been protecting her for several years now, are apparently unable to respond to what should be a routine medical emergency. It seems no one told them that their charge was deathly allergic to peanuts so they weren't able to do anything about it. Oops! (The bad guy knew about her allergy, however, well enough to execute a months-long plot to infiltrate a fancy restaurant in order to put peanut oil on her dinner. Wow.) On top of that, somehow on this particular night the woman forgot to pack her own medicine. And so begins the work of the greatest criminal mastermind of the century. But wait! Before we go any further with tales of murder and mayhem, it's time to meet a whole bunch of Perfect People. These people do nothing to influence the plot of the story; they're too busy being perfect. Perfect children. A perfect stranger to take perfect care of the perfect children in the time of crisis. Perfect people everywhere, doing the perfect things with perfect consistency. Bleeargh.

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