



Every Deadly Kiss

Steven James

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FBI special agent Patrick Bowers grapples with a baffling series of murders in Detroit—and discovers a terror plot with roots that stretch back centuries.

Called in by an ex-girlfriend to consult on a case, Patrick encounters the work of a killer who displays a stunning degree of ruthlessness. Bowers is shocked to find that the slayings are linked not just to his own history with a known terrorist, but to his former lover as well—and that her secret past might hold the key to stopping the crime spree. As layers of intrigue peel away, the city is pushed ever closer to a seemingly unstoppable bioweapon attack.

Unnerving and laced with breathtaking suspense, *Every Deadly Kiss* is a surprising and complex thriller that will keep readers obsessed to the final page.

From the Paperback edition.

Every Deadly Kiss Details

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Author : Steven James

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From Reader Review Every Deadly Kiss for online ebook

Jessica Higgins says

If you have never read a Steven James novel, I suggest you start now with this one. It will keep you up at night and have you looking twice and double locking the doors.

FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers is back and ready to solve a series of murders taking place in Detroit. Not only are there murders to be solved, there is also a terrorist plot that is more than a century old making it one of the toughest cases Patrick has ever had to tackle. When Patrick is called in by his old girlfriend to help on a case, he questions briefly if it will affect his current relationship but tries to convince himself it is just for work and can be kept professional. When he arrives, he finds a connection between the murders and his former lover. With the murders continuing and the threat of a bioweapon attack increasing, Patrick finds himself digging deep to solve all the clues before it is too late.

I have been telling people for several years that Steven James is the best there is. The way he can spin a story and keep you on the edge of your seat is better than anyone out there and he is at the top of his game with Every Deadly Kiss. The amount of time and research he puts into these books shows as you read. This is not the kind of book you can skim and still get everything out of it you need to understand the story. Every page, paragraph, and sentence is full of information that is vital to the story and the way James gets that information across will keep you on the edge of your seat and up way past bedtime. With this book set as another prequel to the original Bowers files, it is interesting to see the relationships develop between Patrick and the other key characters that we have grown to love throughout the years. Patrick still has his quirks and we see them develop more into what they eventually become. For me, a Steven James novel is always going to be at my "Top of the Year" list. There is just something about his writing that resonates with me more than almost any other author I read. Unlike his earlier books, this one has a bit more language and adult content, not a lot compared to what many authors like to put in, but still a little more than I'm used to from him. With that being said, it completely fit in with the characters and how they would react with something that they would actually say. That's what I want, the character to act as they naturally would and every character James writes in his novels fulfills their role. That is an incredible difficult task but one that he pulls off with ease. I cannot recommend a Steven James novel highly enough and Every Deadly Kiss is no exception.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. The views and opinions expressed within are my own.

Jeanie says

This is a fabulous read for those who enjoy suspenseful novels. It is the first I've read by this author and I will be reading more in the future. Steven James brings together characters and events centered in Detroit, a city that is shrinking year by year. There is much more crime there than in most major cities, allowing the thousands of vacant homes and commercial buildings to be used by those who have no good intentions.

Patrick Bowers is a special FBI agent who profiles unique serial offenders using the times, locations, and violence of crimes to determine where and when they might strike next. He has been called to Detroit from

his home base in New York City to consult on a case for Sharyn, a woman he dated when they were in the academy. There is a series of murders with a similar signature and Sharyn wants to stop the killer. In the meantime, there is a potential crime with devastating, far-reaching effects -a mutated virus that almost always kills the victim, that would be widespread. Involved in that crime is a former FBI agent preparing to unleash an unparalleled act of terrorism on US soil.

The characters are detailed in such a way that one learns about the primary people, both protagonists and offenders, throughout the novel. Most are likable except for the bad guy(s), of course. I like Patrick, his co-worker Ralph, girlfriend Christie and her daughter Tessa.

The plot becomes more and more suspenseful as the murders are studied and noted that the killer is looking for Patrick's former girlfriend from the academy, while at the time for releasing the virus nears. There are surprising plot twists that propel this steadily-moving novel forward, culminating in a breathtaking, heart-pounding denouement. I do appreciate this being an overall, almost clean read with little language and no overt sexual situations. I highly recommend this novel, and this reader will certainly be looking out to read other novels by this author in the future.

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

Well, that was disappointing. The cops made too many mistakes that trained FBI on average wouldn't. And these were supposed top people in their field. The whole take my phone and gun has been overused in this series. Why Sharon wouldn't fire off a text or keep her phone when their was no immediate threat baffled me? No one figured out Canyon was murdered??? How could a guy infected with a virus/disease know down to the second when he would be contagious??? Everyone's body chemistry is different. Then why Ralph would give Christie air miles to come visit Patrick in the middle of a deadly case is like seriously. There is a potential disease outbreak and now is the time for Christie to arrive in the city. It's so contrived. There were just so many flaws in this book, it's amazing an editing team didn't pick this up. Then there was the antiabortion message that got ridiculous. If someone didn't want to have a kid not because she was raped but because fear of getting fat, why does that person currently have a kid. How did that same individual get over her psychosis from child trauma? No therapy, just after drifting between reality and fantasy to the point she lost touch with said reality, she's just fine today. I don't know, but I think this book should be considered fantasy. I get this is fiction, but a book set in modern times should have a basis in realty. And see how long it took me to finish :(

Lizzy Bueckert says

This was exciting from the first page to the last! Loved it!

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/ev...>

Every Deadly Kiss

The Bowers Files: The New York Years, Book #2

By Steven James

ISBN 9781101991572

Author's website: www.stevenjames.net

Brought to you by OBS Reviewer: Jeanie

Synopsis:

FBI special agent Patrick Bowers grapples with a baffling series of murders in Detroit—and discovers a terror plot with roots that stretch back centuries.

Called in by an ex-girlfriend to consult on a case, Patrick encounters the work of a killer who displays a stunning degree of ruthlessness. Bowers is shocked to find that the slayings are linked not just to his own history with a known terrorist, but to his former lover as well—and that her secret past might hold the key to stopping the crime spree. As layers of intrigue peel away, the city is pushed ever closer to a seemingly unstoppable bioweapon attack.

Unnerving and laced with breathtaking suspense, *Every Deadly Kiss* is a surprising and complex thriller that will keep readers obsessed to the final page.

Review:

Wow! What a great read! This is the first novel I have read by this author, and it won't be the last. Sometimes I am hesitant to open a book by a new author, especially one that is longer than average, and I was very pleasantly surprised. The author's use of dialog, building suspense, and designing mostly likable characters, conducts the novel to a thunderous crescendo before returning to a pleasant, calming tempo.

There are many things going on in this novel, events the author introduces one by one so the reader doesn't feel confused. He also does a great job of defining the characters and events from prior novels in the series so the new reader isn't floundering. Patrick Bowers is a special type profiler, so to speak, for the FBI, an environmental criminologist and lead geospatial investigator. Very simplified, it means based on where, when, and the progression of crimes that have been committed by a serial offender, he can make assumptions to have an idea where the serial criminal will strike next.

Patrick has been requested to consult in the Detroit field office by Sharyn, a woman he had dated while in the Academy, eight years earlier. He has not seen her since then, although he has kind of followed where she has gone over the years. There is a particularly brutal killer in Detroit with a unique signature, and they want to catch the bad guy/ gal before they strike again.

There is what seems to be a totally unrelated case opening at the same time. A terrorist is coming in with a mutated form of a deadly disease for which there is no cure, and most who contract it die as a result. They learn about this when a video is captured through the various web sources that shows a woman who works for the NYC office dying a terrible death over the span of a few days. Thankfully, he is partnered with friend and colleague, Ralph. Trying to work two major, different crimes is hard enough, but knowing that not only is a former colleague turned terrorist involved, but the murders are linked to the Special Agent, Sharyn, ups the ante.

The layers of the crimes in this novel can only be pulled off by a master author. It is mesmerizing; this reader was pulled in from the beginning with my attention held throughout. It is not the kind of novel that one reads in one or two sittings, one can see how the cases are built, person by occurrence by clue. The author includes

the human element, with Patrick's girlfriend and daughter in NYC and the differences they are trying to work out when Sharyn requests Patrick's help in Detroit.

The characters are defined throughout the novel. There are a limited number of characters who we learn about through their actions, dialog, and descriptions. As we learn about the bad guys, we learn about them as individuals with whom we can have empathy with regards to their circumstances. The protagonists are hard-working law enforcement people and their loved ones, and seeing a bit of their personal lives shows us their individuality behind the badges. I do like Patrick Bowers, as well as his girlfriend Christie and her daughter Tessa.

This novel moves along at a steady pace, allowing this reader to eagerly turn the pages even while understanding what is occurring at any given time. There are interesting plot twists, and breathtaking, suspenseful scenes. I was very satisfied with the resolution, especially as there are no open challenges. One thing I appreciate is reading a thriller of this caliber that is an almost "clean" read insofar as language and sexual situations are concerned. The details of the crimes, while not shied away from, are not magnified; I can think of only one scene that was TMI (for me). I highly recommend this to those who appreciate excellent thrillers with international dimensions and characters that a reader can be invested in.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review

Melanie says

Every Deadly Kiss is the newest Patrick Bowers book, which is my all-time favorite series, and the book I've been most looking forward to releasing this year; so, suffice it to say, I had exceedingly high expectations for this book when I started it and Every Deadly Kiss surpassed them all.

From the first chapter my attention was grabbed and whenever I had to put the book down my mind would keep thinking about the story and trying to figure things out. The plot was intricate, but not so much that it was confusing.

On the personal side of the story, I loved getting to see Patrick with Christie and it was also interesting learning about his previous relationship. I also really liked Ralph in this book -- some of the scenes with him made me laugh, which was nice in the midst of all the tension and intensity from the crimes.

All in all, I absolutely loved Every Deadly Kiss. It kept me on the edge of my seat and was almost impossible to put down. I recommend the book, and really the entire series, if you enjoy thrillers -- just know that they are intense and even gruesome at times, so if you are at all squeamish, you might want to skip them.

*Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only

my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.*"

Jackie Rogers says

Steven James is a storyteller. A really great storyteller. Have read all his books and each one outdoes the one before. This one has a serial killer, terrorists, and an old lover. Patrick Bowers, our main character is at his best FBI solving as he continues to be in hot water in his work as well as his personal life. This novel pulls one in at the beginning and doesn't let go until the end. Constant adventure and excitement. If you haven't read Mr. James yet, get with it. No disappointment.

Kelly Bridgewater says

Steven James is my go-to thriller author. Every book he has written has captured my attention and drew me into the story instantly. I'm excited that there is another installment of the Patrick Bowers' files, and I couldn't wait to read it. Every Deadly Kiss might be the first book by James that I don't brag to my friends about. It didn't hit the mark for me.

First, I enjoyed returning to Patrick Bowers and watching his life interact with Christie and Tessa as he juggles his work life. This deepens Bowers' character and makes him jump off the page for me. I enjoy seeing Christie and Tessa wonder if there is room in their personal lives for Bowers or do they allow him to move on.

While the reoccurring character is a nice treat, I had a hard time with the plot in this story. For the first time, I actually had to drag myself to finish Every Deadly Kiss. It seemed pretty boring and not so thrill-seeking as usual. James is great at allowing Bowers to work hard on a case and allowing us to see his stream of consciousness, but in Every Deadly Kiss, both of the cases, the bioterrorist threat and the dead women really didn't seem to motivate him to move. Bowers spent more time focusing on his relationship with Christie and his past relationship with a fellow FBI agent. The novel becomes more of James' style in the last ten percent of the novel. I am just sad that the rest of the novel didn't lead up to what I was expecting.

While the novel is unpredictable and original, James does leave a cliff-hanger at the end of the novel, begging me to return to the next one, which I will do since I love James' writing so much.

A word of caution: there are more profanity-laced words in this novel than any of the previous novels in this series. The action might still be a little too violent for young children. Maybe a late teenager might enjoy this, but I would have a hard time giving the novel to my fifteen-year-old. I don't think he is mature enough to handle this type of book.

Overall, Steven James' Every Deadly Kiss filled me with joy as I encounter Patrick Bowers again as he struggles through his life, but the plot didn't hit out of the park for me. I even got bored for a long time. I pray the next installment does a better job at giving me the type of story that I know James can write.

I received a complimentary copy of Every Deadly Kiss by Steven James from Berkley Publishing, and the opinions stated are all my own.

Vicki Elia says

1 1/2 Stars for the thriller plots only

This book is a mess -- two divergent antagonists with deadly intentions: a bioterror plot & a serial killer. Eventually they converge. However, the protagonist, Bowers, is all tied up in a romantic dilemma which contaminates the thriller story lines including the protagonist's ability to do his job.

A hint to writers -- Make a choice. You are either writing a thriller or a romance novel. When you try to do both, they're both awful.

Comment on the loose ends of the story: in the last few pages we find out 1. The identity of one of the murderers with an extra murder thrown in via a flashback, 2. The fate of one of the other murderers, and 3. Part of the 'romance' conclusion. None of these were adequately fleshed out. I can imagine the author looking at the draft and thinking, "Oh, I forgot to tie up these side-plots." Then the author writes a page of conclusion that leaves the reader thinking, "Huh?"

I won't be reading any more of his books.

William Jr. says

Twisted Plan A. No plan B. You'll love this. I really enjoyed it.

Linda Strong says

Bodies of young women have been found in abandoned houses in Detroit. Patrick is called in to consult ... by his ex-girlfriend of many years ago. They're both wondering if the sparks will fly, especially as Patrick is unsure where his future lies with current girlfriend, Christy.

Seemingly, there are different crimes being committed the bodies in Detroit, a meeting with a known terrorist, and his ex-girlfriend's history of being abducted by a stalker. A germ warfare specialist is found dead. There's a threat of a smallpox worldwide exposure by a human transmitter. Everything seems to be coming to a head in Detroit.

Lots of questions with few answers. How do these all connect? Does the ex-girlfriend know more than she's sharing? Who is killing the women? And what does a dating app have to do with anything?

Although this is a nice addition to the series, it is not my favorite. The story line is convoluted and bounces back and forth between now and years ago, and from crime to crime. Eventually they do start to converge, but it takes awhile to get there. I love the character of Patrick Bowers, but in this one he is a bit diminished in

my eyes because of his seeing and sawing of his personal issues.

Hard core Bowers' fans will still love this one ... and as a follower, I will be looking forward to the next adventure.

Many thanks to the author / Berkley Publishing Group / Netgalley for the digital copy. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Cara Putman says

A fantastic book for suspense lovers and fan of the Patrick Bower Files.

Angela Kay says

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: I love this author, and I love the Patrick Bowers series. It's been a few years since I randomly picked up the second book of The Bowers Files, and ever since then, I anxiously await for more writings from Steven James. Especially when Patrick Bowers is the star of the hour.

Every Deadly Kiss is the second prequel to the series. First, a quick back story for those of you mystery fans who shamefully have not picked up James' books. We first meet FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers in The Pawn, followed by The Rook, The Bishop, The King, The Queen, and Checkmate. He's a widower who is learning to battle the dangers of his work along with raising his late wife's teen daughter, Tessa Ellis. It's rarely easy for someone in law enforcement to raise their own child by themselves, but Tessa isn't his daughter, but his stepdaughter of only a few months. In the end of the first prequel, we briefly meet Christy Ellis, who Pat will one day marry. Now in Every Deadly Kiss, we get to actually meet her, which is exciting. To me, anyway.

I loved all aspects of this book: the mystery, the relationship between Pat and the Ellis women, and the fact that a former love of Pat's, FBI Agent Sharyn Weist, requests his assistance, which eventually causes a rip in his love life.

Steven James is definitely a natural storyteller (and he knows it!). The way he weaves the action, the tension, even light comedy, to form his stories is the way I hope readers view my writing. It's taut and you can almost, almost, smell the blood or feel the abandoned building with your fingertips. It truly is rare that I can get that much into reading a book. Every Deadly Kiss isn't my favorite in the series, but James does not disappoint. Several times I feel my heart beating out of my chest. A few times I laughed, especially when it's bantering time with Pat and his best friend/sidekick, Agent Ralph Hawkins, who just might be my favorite character (sorry, Agent Bowers, I still love you too). The thing I like most about the prequels is that we still get to hear from Ralph. In Checkmate, he's moving on to bigger and better things and I got the sad feeling that if there were more books, any appearances of Ralph would be more of a walk on. Thank goodness for these prequels!

I highly recommend this to anyone that enjoys a good mystery. For some, it may take a bit getting used to because, in this series, it's written in first and third person. It did confuse me when I first began to read The

Rook several years ago. However, the storytelling is so crisp and well written, it didn't take long for me to get used to the difference in POVs.

I hope we'll get plenty more of Patrick Bowers (and Ralph) soon!

*For more book reviews, visit: <https://angelakaysbooks.com/book-revi...>**

ME says

It's not the best of the Bowers series but it was good. There were times when I wondered if there was a bit of ghost writing going on... just some incongruities with James' otherwise tight and taught writing. But the plot was the typical Gordian Knot with some cliff-hanging loose ends that promise more to come. Two things that bothered me most were the dropped (or did I miss a resolution) issue of moving out of New York to follow Christie, and the timeliness of the plot topic. These books are supposed to be prequels to his other series but they don't seem to "lose" much time in going backward. Maybe I'm just thinking it's further back than it actually is in the timeline, but it seems very much up to date. Anyway... nothing to put me off the series. One of the best and always a favorite!

Trevor Rogers says

Not the Best in the Bowers Series

I was slightly disappointed at how the story developed - it didn't flow as well as previous books in the series. The two storylines didn't gel particularly well and the overall plot was a little far-fetched. Not bad - but not my favorite.
