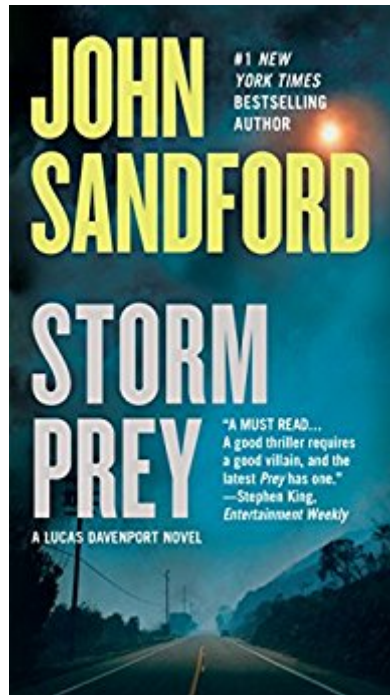


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Storm Prey (The Prey Series Book 20)



Synopsis

When a simple robbery turns deadly, the thieves close in on the only witness: Lucas Davenport's wife...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This starts out with a lot of action. Four burglars bungle a drug robbery at a large hospital in Minneapolis - University of Minnesota Hospitals to be more exact. The wife of detective Lucas Davenport, a surgeon at the hospital, is a witness. To make matters worse, some of the burglars and their inside man, a doctor, witnessed Lucas' wife witnessing them! She becomes a target. Lucas realizes he has to get help he can trust in guarding his wife 24 hours a day. So he enlists the aid of his primary assistant - Virgil Flowers. Now we have our two favorite Minnesota cops working within the same story. Rather than being twice as good as the average Sandford mystery, I thought it was half as good, But it is still worth reading so I gave it 3 stars. As a former Minnesota resident, I was glad to see a book about Minnesota in the winter. All the other Sandford stories I have read have taken place in the summers which are very short. When I found out the story was set for much of the action in the University Hospitals, my interest bumped up a notch because, while a student, I

was injured and spent several months in that hospital. I also lived in that general area for a couple years. A lot of the book deals with the main characters chasing around on the roads in that area. Unfortunately my knowledge is dated to the early 1960's before a lot of major construction went on. So I was confused by some of the road information. I had to bring up Bing on my computer to figure out what was going on. I feel this travel business is too distracting. But perhaps I am carrying more useless baggage than other readers. We go from Minneapolis to St Paul many times, to South St Paul, to upper Wisconsin, etc. Perhaps the Author should include a map showing the main roads used. Or he should de-emphasize the travel. The plot starts out simple and becomes very complex as to who kills whom and why. The pace of this book is a bit faster than most of Sandford's novels. There are also a lot more murders (at least 8 I can count) within the time frame of this story. The criminals are quite inept. The leader of the original gang calls in a special killer to plug some potential leaks. This leads to more murders. The main chase scene occurs in a complex of stairways and hallways around the operating theater in the hospital. The main bad guy (hired killer) uses unusual weapons against Lucas and Virgil a "Judge pistol" and a few stolen US Army hand grenades. I was introduced to the Judge pistol when shooting my .22 target pistol at my local indoor range a while ago. The guy in the stall next to me suddenly let off three shots at a man target 6 feet in front of him. The sound jolted me though I wore protective ear muffs. I saw the hanging target bounce around and was even spattered by some debris. I asked him about it and he showed me the gun and the damage to the target from three shots. It blew a hole in the center of the torso, punched a pair of medium bullet holes in odd places and then scattered bird shot over the entire upper body. But another sequence of shots at 20 feet mostly missed the body target. In various cylinders this short-barrel revolver carries 410 shells and 45 Long Colt shells. No sane and sensible hit man would choose such a weapon. This guy first selected that gun to attack Lucas' wife in her car from his motorcycle on the freeway. She almost killed him. It was fitting that while dodging those missiles in a vertical hospital stair well, Virgil shot him in the foot. Firing that gun in a stairway would have deafened everybody. It's worth three stars if you can read it in 4 days or less so you stay on top of all the action.

During John Sandford's "Storm Prey" four men rob a hospital pharmacy. When one of the employees tries to call for help, one of the robbers kicks him so hard, the older man dies of complications. The robbers also had an inside man who let them into the hospital. Later, we learn about him and his dependency on drugs that caused him to be part of the robbers' scheme. Lucas Davenport's wife, Weather Karkinnen, is a plastic surgeon at the hospital. She's involved in a major

surgical procedure where many of the hospital staff are working together to separate two little girls joined at the head. As Weather came to work on the day of the robbery, she got a good view of the driver of the get away car. Much of the remainder of this engrossing novel deals with the robbers having a fallout between themselves and attempting to eliminate anyone who could identify them. They aren't killers so they hire a crazed young killer from California. When the shooter, Cappy, attempts to shoot Weather on her way home from work, we are thrilled by her observing the would be assassin and turning the table on him. She's a true cop's wife and alert to circumstances that get in her way. The reader gets an immediate sense of drama that the author is noted for in his wonderful series involving the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Lucas Davenport and his leading detective, Virgil Flowers. The story moves swiftly - so much so that I kept putting off my dinner so I could read the next exciting segment. It is interesting to watch Lucas, Virgil and various police departments join in the search. The compulsive story continues chapter by chapter until its exciting climax.

I've read all of the Davenport novels in order and I don't think there's one I haven't enjoyed. While I enjoyed this one, I do have to admit that I found the bad guys to be so inept and stupid that I was hoping Lucas would get to shoot them just on principle. The side operation with Weather, while interesting to some extent, sort of felt out of place. Tho I admit that it would be interesting to have a Prey novel from her POV. That being said, I've seen a lot of comments about how Lucas isn't what he used to be, etc. You're right, he's not. These books have been going on for, what, 20 years now? Are any of us the same person we were 20 years ago? Lucas has gotten lucky. He is one of the few people in the public safety arena who has found someone who has polished him a bit. Someone who keeps him more grounded and forces him to think things thru a little better. Unfortunately most people who work in public safety, be it EMS, fire or PD, are changed, and not in a good way. There is only so much you can see before it really gets to you. Weather has kept some of that at bay for Lucas and had also managed to keep his depression back as well. Lucas isn't any less complicated than he was before, in fact I dare say he is more complicated. He's been polished, but he's still capable of things that could easily tear his family apart. We saw Letty note as much in the previous book. Jennifer also conceded that point as well. That being said, Lucas is now at a point in his life where he has to look at what things will do to his family. If he handles things the way he's done in the past, he has kids and a wife who could be affected by it. The changes we've seen in him are a natural progression IMO. I don't want to read about someone who never changes and does the same thing over and over and over again. I can watch The Simpsons for that. All of that and I have

to admit... we need to see more of Elle again. The ball has really been dropped for her.

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