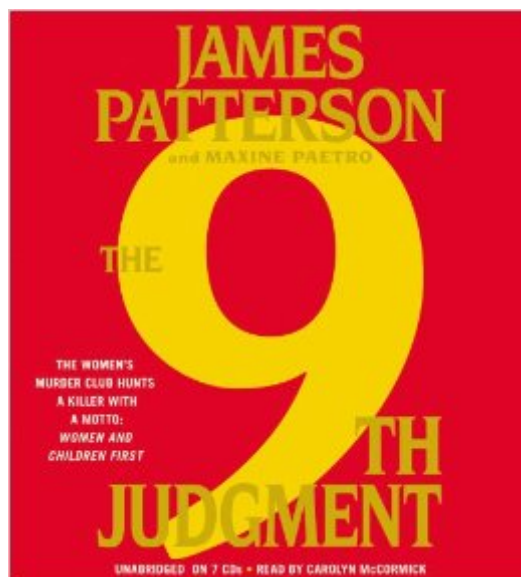


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The 9th Judgment (The Women's Murder Club)



Synopsis

During an intimate dinner party, a cat burglar breaks into the home of A-list actor Marcus Dowling. When his wife walks in on the thief, the situation quickly teeters out of control, leaving an empty safe and a lifeless body. The same night, a woman and her infant child are ruthlessly gunned down in an abandoned garage. The killer hasn't left a shred of evidence, except for a foreboding and cryptic message: WCF, the letters written in blood-red letters. With two elusive criminals on the loose, Detective Lindsay Boxer calls on the Women's Murder Club to help her stop them before they continue their spree. But before they can break either case, the Lipstick Killer changes his act and demands a ransom--not for a single victim, but for all of San Francisco. Lindsay puts her own life on the line--but will it be enough to save the city from this deranged killer?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've read all of the Women's Murder Club novels - some were excellent (books 1-5 and book 7), some were awful (books 6 and 8) and I'm so glad I went with my gut on this one and bought it as I thoroughly enjoyed it, in fact I'd go as far as saying that this was my favourite of the whole series. Like most of the others in the series, there's two main cases going on - the first is a psychopath known as "The Lipstick Killer" who is terrorising San Francisco by murdering mothers and their babies on the street and at random. The next is a cat burglar called "Hello Kitty" who is being framed for murder when a well known movie star shoots his wife following a robbery at their home. Lindsey and the gang have their hands full in this one, so there isn't a slow moment. Some of

the scenes were so exciting I was flying through the pages as I just couldn't stop reading - a quick hour's read turned into a whole evening's binge and I had the book finished in 4 hours! Some bits of the story were a little predictable, maybe because I read a lot of James Patterson novels so I am very familiar with his formulas now, but that didn't stop it from being one of the best I've read from him for a while. One thing I noticed in this book was that the main attention has been turned to Lindsay again, which is great as some of the other characters - Cindy and Yuki in particular - make the stories in the previous novels quite dull and I find these characters to be too arrogant and generally annoying, so didn't enjoy the ones when they were in the spotlight so much. Although it is the ninth in the series, this could still be picked up by someone new to the Women's Murder Club novels and easily get into the characters and the gripping story.

Sergeant Lindsay Boxes and her team of co-workers, friends and outside influences are battling two horrific crime scenes simultaneous. There is only so much of Lindsay to go around which is why she has surrounded herself with great friends and women who are as supportive as they are brutally honest. This time though Lindsay is truly out there on her own as she battles a high profile robbery turned homicide and serial killer who is targeting young mothers and their babies. While the burglary seems to be part of a string performed by the Hello Kitty bandit the question of why someone got killed this time is puzzling. The husband is an actor that may be putting on a great performance for the police as his story is so well rehearsed that it might not be believable and his excuses too flimsy. But the truly baffling crime spree seems to be coming from someone who is shooting women and their children leaving cryptic messages at each crime scene with the same letters but in different order. Nothing matches anything ever witnessed before and Lindsay is willing to put everything she has on the line to get this one closed even take her clothes off and prance around just to prove to the killer she is serious about stopping him. While the murder of the rich socialite gets the attention the serial killer is escalating his behavior and making less sense at each crime scene. Lindsay tries to stay on top of both fronts but when the demands from the serial killer make it seem like he is less about vengeance and more about money she turns her attention in that direction because this person is truly more dangerous.

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