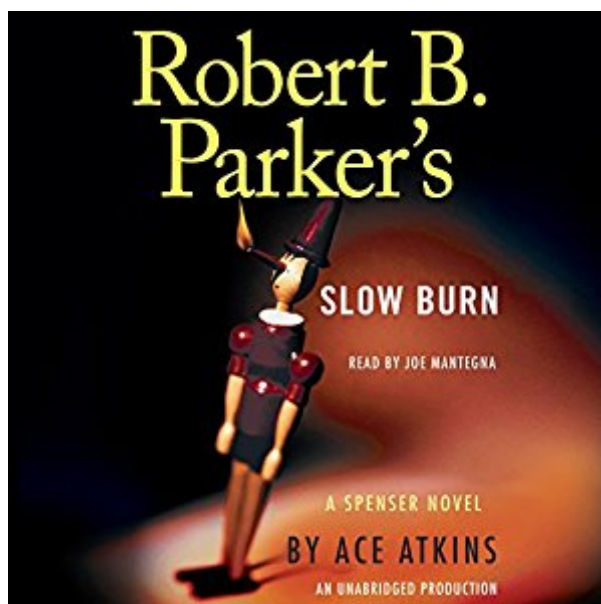


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# Robert B. Parker's Slow Burn: Spenser, Book 44



## Synopsis

Boston PI Spenser faces a hot case and a personal crisis in the latest adventure in the iconic New York Times best-selling series from author Ace Atkins. The fire at a boarded-up Catholic church raged hot and fast, lighting up Boston's South End and killing three firefighters who were trapped in the inferno. A year later, as the city prepares to honor their sacrifice, there are still no answers about how the deadly fire started. Most at the department believe it was just a simple accident: faulty wiring in a century-old building. But Boston firefighter Jack McGee, who lost his best friend in the blaze, suspects arson. McGee is convinced department investigators aren't sufficiently connected to the city's lowlifes to get a handle on who's behind the blaze - so he takes the case to Spenser. Spenser quickly learns not only that McGee might be right but that the fire might be linked to a rash of new arsons spreading through the city, burning faster and hotter every night. Spenser follows the trail of fires to Boston's underworld, bringing him; his trusted ally, Hawk; and his apprentice, Sixkill, toe-to-toe with a dangerous new enemy who wants Spenser dead and doesn't play by the city's old rules. Spenser has to find the firebug before he kills again - and stay alive himself.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

SLOW BURN is a pivotal novel in the Spenser canon. Creator Robert B. Parker knew how to walk a very precise fine line between growing the character and keeping him true to himself, a (rare) talent that Ace Atkins, who has earned the reins and spurs to continue the series, has in spades as well. Some of the changes are subtle, and we'll discuss those in a moment. Others (one comes to

mind in particular) impact like a sledgehammer, and I won't give them away. Still others are left to play out in a book or two, but the hints, and thunders, portend changes for the series. There is a mystery at the heart of SLOW BURN, the solution to which is revealed by Atkins to the reader fairly early on. Accordingly we get to watch Spenser, with Hawk, his brother in arms, and Sixkill, his apprentice of sorts, play catch-up as they chase an arsonist. Spenser is retained by Jack McGee, an old friend of his who is a firefighter. A fire a year before destroyed an abandoned church and claimed the lives of three firemen. A ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy is scheduled, but McGee is convinced that the incident was the result of arson and is happy to tell anyone and everyone what he thinks, and why. Meanwhile, fires in abandoned buildings continue throughout the city of Boston. Spenser does what he does best, going around asking questions and irritating the right people enough that he begins unearthing clues. In the course of events, he also irritates some of the wrong people, including a recently acquired enemy --- Jackie DeMarco, introduced in 2015's KICKBACK --- who has a score to settle with him. Never one to back down, Spenser can't resist poking this particular lion through the bars.

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