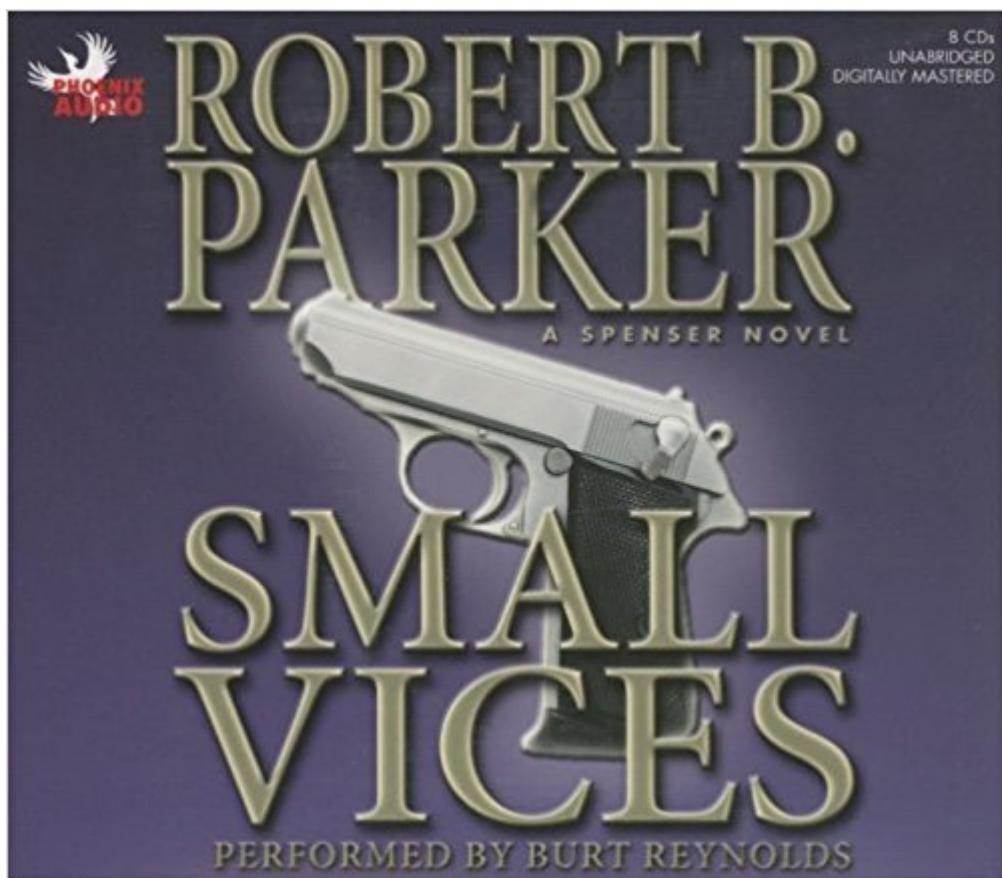


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# Small Vices (Spenser Novels (Audio))



## **Synopsis**

The bad kid from the 'hood has a long record, but did he really murder the white coed? Spenser and Hawk plumb the depths of the seamy side of life. In an ethical no-man's-land of twisted cops and spoiled rich kids with peculiar private proclivities, an assassin's bullets take Spenser down. Dead to the world, he plots to pursue justice in this suspenseful story that is also a meditation on morality and mortality. Simultaneous hardcover release from Putnam. 4 cassettes. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

Series: Spenser Novels (Audio)

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 134 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,544,417 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( P ) > Parker, Robert B. #6417 in Books > Books on CD > General #6603 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

## **Customer Reviews**

While the rest of us grow older, Spenser seems suspended in perpetual early middle age. Oh, he talks about getting older, but his body is still firm, his muscles toned, and his reflexes are still hair-trigger fine. Even so, it is Spenser's body that betrays him when he is almost killed by an assassin's bullet two-thirds of the way through Robert B. Parker's latest Spenser adventure, *Small Vices*. Hired to discover the truth behind a doubtful murder conviction, Spenser soon runs afoul of "the Gray Man," who eventually shoots and partially paralyzes him. Spenser, his stalwart girlfriend Susan, and his almost mythical friend Hawk then hole up in Santa Barbara until the detective can get back on his feet again. There's never any doubt that Spenser will get back on his feet, or that he will eventually track down the man who shot him and solve the mystery that started the whole ball rolling in the first place. What makes the Spenser mysteries interesting is Spenser himself, the thinking person's private eye, a man of honor and of conscience who understands that every action

has consequences. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Maybe you've drifted away from the Spenser series, now in its twenty-fifth installment, and started paying more attention to the younger fellows--Hiaasen, Mosley, and countless others. Well, it might be a good time to check back in with Parker, who can still sling similes with the best of them. This time the inimitable if aging Spenser (he's a Korean War vet!) shows definite signs of losing a step--he's shot, nearly killed, and must undergo a grueling rehabilitation before tracking down his assassin for round two. Along the way, he investigates the wrongful conviction of a Boston gangbanger who was framed for the murder of a rich college girl. Spenser and longtime lover Susan are still trading quips about relationships, sex, and, this time, adopting a baby, and Spenser and even-longertime pal Hawk are still exchanging knowing nods and meaningful monosyllables as if they were Gary Cooper and Ernest Hemingway. What is it about Spenser and his pals that makes it hard to stay away for long? Certainly, it's not realism. We love the dialogue, but clearly nobody talks that way--we're not tough enough, quick enough, and we certainly can't spout literary allusions well enough. But if we were quick enough, it sure would be fun to talk like Spenser and to hang out with Hawk and Susan, and, let's face it, it might also be fun to beat up the bad guys in our lives every now and then. Spenser lives in the real world and deals with it the way we imagine we would if only we knew how. Hemingway called it grace under pressure, and smirk though we may, it still feels good, even just to read about. Bill Ott --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I read this book many years ago and always wanted a copy of my own. To have it on my Kindle is a great joy. The story is well crafted, and the part about rehabilitation very interesting. Spenser is contacted by a law firm and asked to look into an old case to discover if a man gaoled for many years, and still serving time, was in fact guilty of the murder with which he was charged. Those actually guilty of the crime are in positions of power and with huge sums of money at their disposal, so hiring a hit-man to kill Spenser is no difficulty. Even so, this might have been harder to do if Susan too had not been under threat. Providing her with round the clock protection leaves Spenser himself dangerously exposed, and the hit-man is the best in the business. Spenser almost loses his life and his mobility. Only the report of his death, and the total commitment to his care by Susan and Hawk saves him. And satisfactorily Spenser eventually brings the real culprit to justice.

In *SMALL VICES*, Spenser is hired by one of the country's largest law firms to re-evaluate a past case and determine if one of their clients was sentenced for a crime he did not commit. The further

Spenser delves into his investigations the more danger he (unwittingly) puts himself into but like the trooper (superhero?) that he is, he goes on regardless. This book is quality fiction. We have (of course) the inimitable Spenser, the ever loyal Hawk, and his girlfriend / lover Susan and Pearl the Wonder dog. We have the usual troop of baddies as well as one baddie so bad that he makes your skin crawl. One scene in particular is so well written and so craftily put together that it will make you uncomfortable reading it - but in a good way. The plot is very well structured and very deep which makes the reading experience that much more enjoyable. Emotional resonances with the reader are always sky-high in Parker's works but this one sets a new limit. The ending, when it comes is a beautiful thing and the final page ends a tale that you don't want to end. This is a Robert B Parker novel of the highest order. I hereby give it five stars out of five.-- Greggorio (LR)

Parker satisfies all my reading requirements. I'm interested in the story and the characters and I'm swept along in the plot.

Of all the books I've read by Parker until now, this one was my second favorite. It's a bit longer than your average Spenser novel, which I appreciate. My favorite Spenser novel is the one where he meets Paul G. In Small Vices, you'll find all the cool witticisms you expect from a Spenser novel, as well as all the tough stuff that makes a guy we'd normally not want to read about somehow very readable. We get a little more insight into Hawk--not by exposition, but by his actions. Susan isn't quite as annoying as she usually is, and I found myself not minding those scenes. Lots of cameos from various characters in the other books. A delightful read.

Mystery fans will love this one!!!!

A good, reliable Robert Parker story. His characters have three dimensions and are well described. The plot unwinds in a logical fashion given the personalities involved and the action sequences are clearly described in a cool, clear but gripping manner.

This is an outstanding story about an accidental death and a very complicated detective story that grew out of it. It involves a very interesting contract killer who was very difficult to trace down. Spenser proved to be up to this difficult task. It leaves open to additional stories in the future.

This installment of the Spenser series is very good! I have read over 35 of Parker's books and think

this one is the best of the Spenser series. The characters are very well-developed it seems. A little bit different from the others, somehow. I can't quite put my finger on it but highly recommended as a very good read!

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