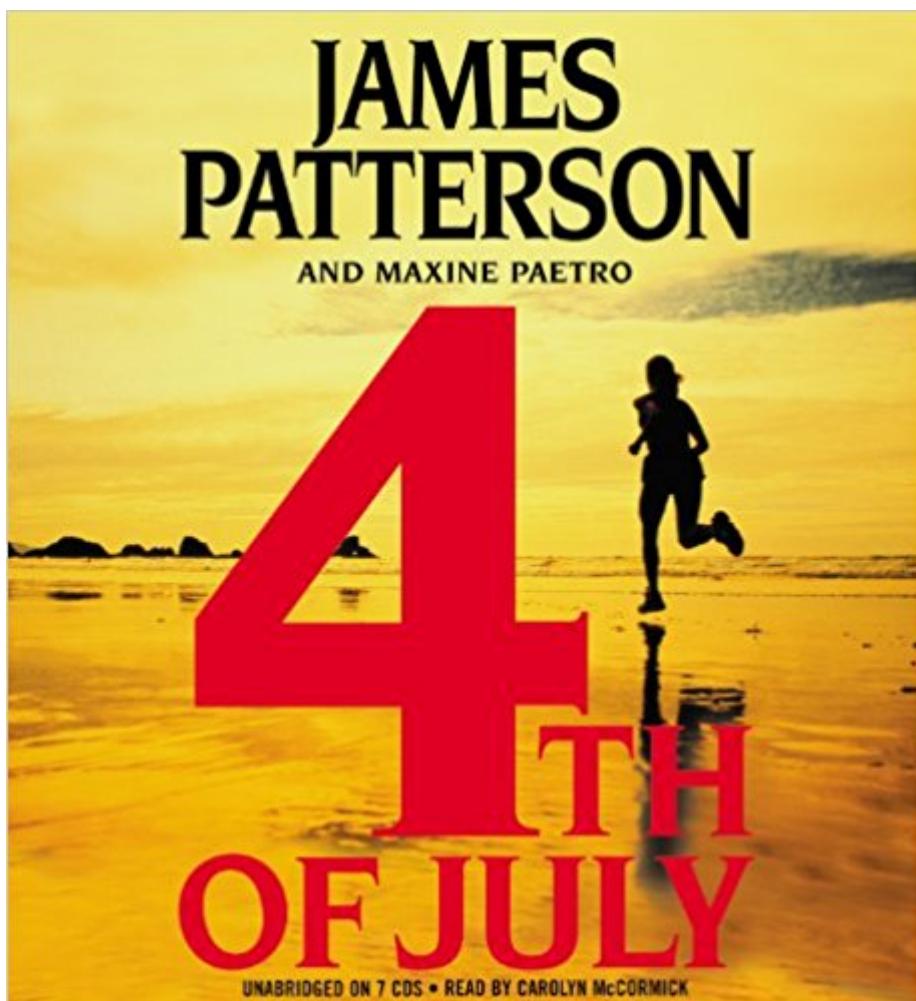


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## 4th Of July (Replay Edition)



## **Synopsis**

A young girl is killed in crossfire after a routine arrest goes terribly wrong, and Lt. Lindsay Boxer has to defend herself against a charge of police brutality. In a landmark trial that transfixes the nation, Lindsay fights to save her career and her sanity. While awaiting trial, Lindsay escapes to the beautiful town of Half Moon Bay, but the peaceful community there is reeling from a string of unspeakable murders. Working with her friends in the Women's Murder Club, Lindsay finds a link between these killings and a case she worked on years before—an unsolved murder that has haunted her ever since. As summer comes into full swing, Lindsay battles for her life on two fronts: before a judge and jury as her trial comes to a climax, and facing unknown adversaries who will do anything to keep her from the truth about the killings—including killing again. It all comes to a head before the big annual 4th of July celebration on the waterfront at Half Moon Bay.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Wow, what a story! There is a reason why James Patterson sells millions of books and great mysteries like 4th of July are the reason why. In the fourth installment of the popular Women's Murder Club series, Lieutenant Lindsay Boxer (the head of San Francisco Police Department's Homicide Division) is fighting to save her career after she is accused in a wrongful death suit, and at the same time struggling to help solve a series of grisly murders that have shaken the small town of Half Moon Bay, where she has retreated to chill out while on administrative leave from the SFPD. As the story unfolds Lieutenant Boxer is hot on the trail of a couple of suspects that she and her partner

believe are responsible for a recent string of seedy motel murders. Turns out the suspects are two very youthful teenage siblings, and in the process of apprehending these two, Boxer is forced to use deadly force to defend herself and her partner. When all is said and done, Boxer's partner is critically wounded and unconscious, Boxer herself has been hit twice, a 15 year old girl is dead, and her 13 year old brother is paralyzed for life from the neck down. Was it a legitimate use of deadly force? Not in the minds of the parents it wasn't. And the media has already found her guilty without the benefit of trial! In Half Moon Bay someone is killing local residents in a gruesome fashion reminiscent of an unsolved homicide from Lieutenant Boxer's earliest days on the force. She is supposed to be laying low in the sleepy little seaside resort, gearing up the trail of her life, but when the killing starts, she finds herself hard pressed to remain disinterested and unengaged. Before long she is swept up in the investigation and a target for murder herself! A great weekend read. The chapters just fly by! Also recommended are the other three stories in the Women's Murder Club series: 1st to Die, 2nd Chance, and 3rd Degree. Be the first on your block to collect all four books!

James Patterson and his latest co-writer have written a novel that appears to have been compiled from a crime novel cliche bin. Dozens of murders, overly-dramatic descriptions, and a climax that it is anything but. His leading character hardly spends more than a few moments investigating yet miraculously solves a baffling crime. Patterson has really stretched himself thin on this one. It is a true page-turner in that you keep turning pages to see if anything interesting will ever happen.

I thought this was a good book that kept me guessing to the end. The chapters are only a few pages each, so the action shifts all over the place. The one unrealistic aspect of this book that I did not care for was the trial. She had this trial hanging over her head the whole book and yet she never really seemed to worry about it, at least not in the way that most normal people would.

Lt. Lindsey Boxer goes out with the girls from the Murder Club of past books, and things start out well with margaritas and chit-chat. But she gets called to a stake out, and the next thing she knows, Boxer is shooting two juvenile suspects who had shot and hit her and her partner. The book tells the story of her defending herself in court against accusations of being a drunk, improper cop. While she's waiting for court, she escapes to Half Moon Bay, where she finds herself involved in a serial killing spree that has the town in a panic. Of course, this spree reminds Lindsey of a long-ago case she never solved. Could they be connected? The book has too many coincidences, making the plot seemed forced and contrived. Some things, like the lawsuit, seemed glossed over and not true in

any real legal sense. Even the title seems forced; there is one small July 4 party that seems added in to justify it. But Lindsey is a likeable character, and the book moves about at a quick pace. It doesn't stand up to intense scrutiny or discussion, but it's well-written with interesting women characters and enough grim, sadistic crime to give it a creepy feeling. Mysteries can be better than this book. But it's worth a read, if you don't expect too much and just go with the flow.

Patterson just never seems to stop amazing me with his writing. In his latest whodunnit, the chapters just effortlessly go from by and before you know it, the reader is immersed in this great book. Definitely recommend.

I have read quite a few James Patterson books and have always enjoyed them. This one started out the same way - full of promise and interest. In fact, that is the reason it gets two stars instead of one. For a significant part of the book, my attention was held and the story seemed promising. Certainly there were weaknesses and plot turns that stretched believability, but these were not major problems. This is, after all, not *Atlas Shrugged*, but a simple fun read. However, about two-thirds of the way through, everything went off the rails. Characters were introduced and then dropped only to turn up at the end as major players. (I am trying NOT to include any spoilers because, as shown by the reviews, quite a few people enjoyed the book and those who are left to do so deserve to be "surprised.") The ending is so out of left field as to be stupid. NO groundwork was laid for this, just red herrings towards the typical bad guys. When I finished the book, (about 15 minutes ago, which shows how sorely disappointed I am!) I was not only saying, "I never saw that coming," as I have over several mysteries, particularly those such as the great Agatha Christie, but also saying, "NO ONE could have seen that coming, because IT IS STUPID!" It is like the writers suddenly decided it was time to end the book and just threw names up in the air to decide who the guilty parties would be. In the future, I will be paying more attention to the name of the co-author on Mr. Patterson's books and it is unlikely that I will ever again read one with Ms. Paetro's name attached. As I said, I have enjoyed quite a few of Mr. Patterson's books in the past and I am hoping this is just an aberration .

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