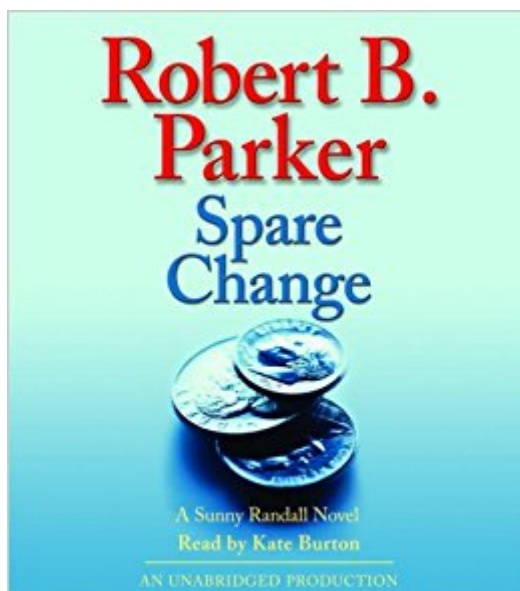


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Spare Change (Sunny Randall Novels)



Synopsis

Hi, Phil, You miss me? I got bored, so I thought I'd reestablish our relationship. Give us both something to do in our later years. Stay tuned.

Spare Change When a serial murderer dubbed "The Spare Change Killer" by the Boston press surfaces after three decades in hiding, the police immediately seek out the cop, now retired, who headed the original task force: Phil Randall. As a sharp-eyed investigator and a doting parent, Phil calls on his daughter Sunny to help trap the criminal who eluded him so many years before. When the killer strikes a second time, and a third, the murders take a macabre turn, as, eerily, the victims each resemble Sunny. While her father pressures her to drop the case, her need to create a trap to catch her killer grows. In a compelling game of cat-and-mouse, Sunny Randall uses all her skills to draw out her prey, realizing too late that she's setting herself up to become the next victim.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #546,243 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (P) > Parker, Robert B. #659 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

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Customer Reviews

Not all of Sunny Randall's cases have been personal, but this one, her sixth, raises the average. Her on-again, off-again romance with her ex-husband is on again in a big way. And she's working an investigation with her father, Phil, an ex-cop lured from retirement by a slayer using the same modus operandi (coins left on beautiful female corpses) as the serial killer he hunted 30 years before. Parker's snappy dialogue keeps the story moving along. Burton is too smart to let Sunny slip into girliness when she's chatting with her beloved dad or her ultraromantic ex-husband, and she never makes her too cute or too tough in her cat-and-mouse encounters with the man she's certain

is the Spare Change Killer. Instead, Burton maintains Sunny's professional edge, using subtle shifts of phrasing or timing to indicate the emotions the sleuth is keeping under wraps. She is just as successful in finding the right voices for the other main characters: flirtatious and sinister for the prime suspect in pursuit of Sunny; and gruff frustration for Phil Randall, who is worried for his daughter's safety. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The victims, dispatched with a single shot to the back of the head, are not assaulted or molested in any way and share no defining characteristics. Their bodies are decorated with a few coins. Most troubling to the Boston PD is the time elapsed between the two most recent victims: 20 years. The city was terrorized by the Spare Change killer two decades ago, and Phil Randall headed the task force that came up dry. Now he's been asked to come out of retirement to consult on the new killings. He asks his daughter, private investigator and former cop Sunny Randall, to join him. A suspect emerges, but there is no physical evidence to tie him to the killings, only Sunny's intuition. Meanwhile, Sunny's relationship with her ex-husband--for whom she still carries a torch--is moving to a new plateau as she tries to understand the family dynamics among her father, mother, sister and herself. Parker, also responsible for the classic Spenser mystery series and the Jesse Stone novels, continues to add depth to his characterization of Randall as he explores her often contradictory feelings about love. Parker's ruminations on romance are sometimes--not always--wearisome, but he never fails to entertain with humor and recurring characters whom we welcome back into our lives like old friends. Wes Lukowsky Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's hard to rate a Robert Parker book on the five-star scale sort of device. He was a most interesting writer. "Spare Change" is one of his Sunny Randall novels, which are even more a favorite group of his books for me. He does a top-notch job of portraying a female main character in a mystery/suspense setting. "Spare Change" is as much about Sunny's family as it is about the whacko killer. In particular, there is classic compare/contrast scenario at work between her relationship with her father and the relationship of the killer with his father. (Sunny's Dad wins the Better Guy award.) Spike and Lt. Quirk and Susan Silverman and some other staples dress the stage for the zany commentary that we expect from a Parker book. Thus the overall rating of five-stars. The only thing I would criticize is the murder/mystery plot itself. The best I can call it is "up to par". It keeps the pages turning, but...well, it keeps the pages turning. If I were rating the book

simply as a crime/murder/suspense story, the best I could give it would be four stars. But the broad strokes of Sunny and her nutcase family, that's what earns the five.

Reading this novel reminded me of a Spenser novel I read several years ago. Sunny Randall is really a female Spenser, who in this story was the stalkee, just as was Susan Silverman in the Spenser novel. Both women reached the unfaltering opinion that a certain alleged male suspect was indeed the guilty person, and put themselves in positions of being stalked in order to trap the suspect who was also a sex pervert who got his rocks off by imagining sex encounters with these two women. I gave this book a four star rating because of Mr. Parker's sharp wit, his short concise narrative and dialogue. If you are already a Parker fan and if you don't mind reading stories about a female Spenser, then I highly recommend this book. It moves fast and held my interest tight.

Classic Parker serial killer "he done it now let's prove he done it." Includes Sunny Randall's dad, a Boston retired cop, as the two collaborate (Sunny always leading) on her dad's most problematic cold case. There's some of the classic Parker subplot of a former marital relationship that just won't die as Sunny rekindles with Richie. Add a touch of introspection with Susan Silverman, plus a few appearances by Sunny's sloshy mom and BPD Homicide Commander Martin Quirk and you have a nicely rounded cast for the 6th novel in Parker's series. I particularly liked Sunny's dad. Would be nice to see more of him in the future.

This is the last book of the series don't know what happened to Sunny but a new writer will rock the series. They all have so far so this is the end thanks Robert

Sunny teams up with her father to catch a serial killer from 20 years ago that appears to have resurfaced. A task force of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies is formed to catch the killer. Early in the book a suspect is identified but the task force does not have enough manpower for adequate surveillance so the killing continues. Sunny devises a plan to get the suspect to confess. SPOILER ALERT: I read the Jesse Stone series and then Sunny Randall. Why was Robert Parker obsessed with divorced people being in love with the ex for eternity? The previous Sunny Randall book stated Richie's wife was 4 months pregnant. No mention of the pregnancy in Spare Change plus Richie leaves his wife because he is still in love with Sunny. Is Richie that much of a cad to leave a pregnant wife (or wife and baby)? Spare Change read like someone besides Robert

Parker wrote it. I didn't think I was ever going to plow through it.

Sunny is one of Parker's best characters ! I love her relationship with Spike. Enjoyed Sunny and her father working together on a case . Parker is so consistently good, even re reading him is a pleasure! Jane Boyd.

If you like Sunny Randall this a a good book for you. You have probably read all of the others so why not this one. Parker's characters are always well developed and burdened with a suitable amount of personal baggage that make us like them. Like all good series you hate to see them end. Good book for Parker fans and Sunny Randall fans.

Parker continues to be missed. This, the probable final Sunny Randall story, was every bit as good as any other. And as a series, you come to like the character and cheer her decisions, tenacity and essential honesty. I will miss Sunny very much. But hopefully the family will let this go as a testament to Robert B. Parker.

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