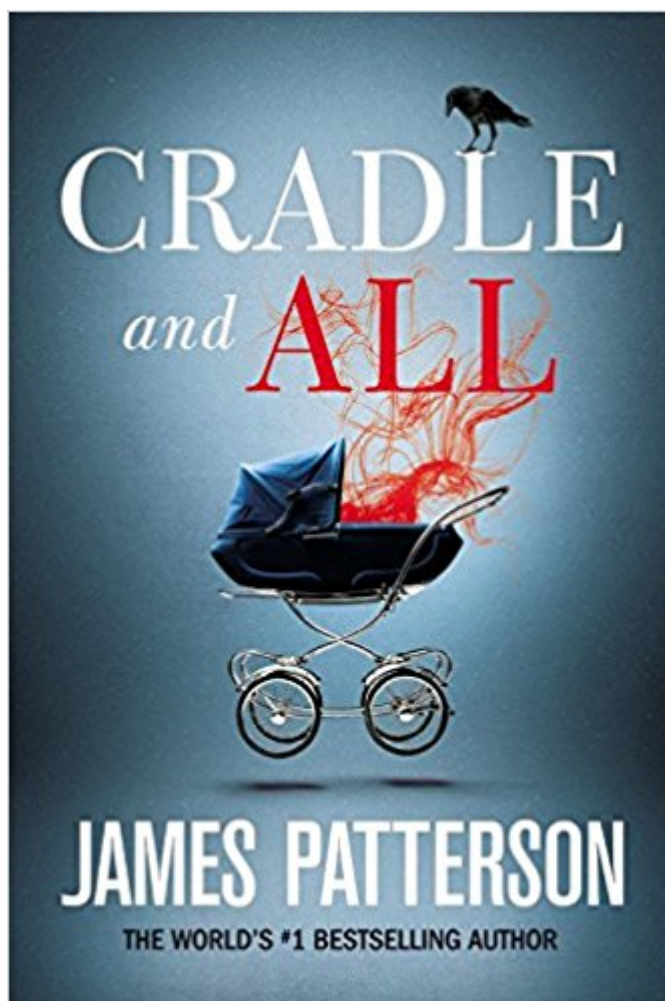


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# Cradle And All



## Synopsis

In Boston, a young woman finds herself pregnant--even though she is still a virgin. In Ireland, another young woman discovers she is in the same impossible condition. And in cities all around the world, medical authorities are overwhelmed by epidemics, droughts, famines, floods, and worse. It all feels like a sign that something awful is coming. Anne Fitzgerald, a former nun turned private investigator, is hired by the Archdiocese of Boston to investigate the immaculate conceptions. Even as she comes to care about and trust the young women, she realizes that both are in great danger. Terrifying forces of light and darkness are gathering. Stepping into uncharted territory where the unknown is just the beginning, Anne must discover the truth--to save the young women, to save herself, and to protect the future of all mankind.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James Patterson's *Cradle and All* pits the intensity of faith against the certainties of science within an arena of Millennial tensions. A reworking of his 1980 apocalyptic thriller *Virgin*, this remodeled version boasts a genuinely unnerving premise, amplified with Patterson's fast-paced, uncluttered prose. In the midst of a series of unexplained plagues and famines, two teenage girls are heavily pregnant, despite being virgins. According to the sacred prophecies of Fatima, one will bear the child of Christ and the other, the spawn of Satan. Both Anne Fitzgerald, a former nun turned private detective, and the Vatican's Father Rosetti are sent to investigate. But which girl carries which child? The possibility of a miracle will be tainted with great suffering before the awful, unexpected

truth is revealed. As the action moves speedily from the hallowed halls of the Vatican to the media frenzy of America to the small-town hysteria of Ireland, Patterson divines considerable suspense from the novel's central premise, tackling issues of faith with admirable aplomb: "All over the world, after all the years of difficulty, decades of diminishing spirituality, so many people still believed.... Everywhere, people talked of the Apocalypse, perhaps the end of the world. Which explained why so many people were suddenly going to church." A relentless pace culminating in a superbly twisted ending won't disappoint Patterson's faithful followers, and may even convert some new members. --Danny Graydon --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

His Alex Cross series (Pop Goes the Weasel, etc.) has made Patterson a top-selling author, but his most interesting work lies elsewhere: in his debut mystery, *The Thomas Berryman Number*; in last year's SF thriller, *When the Wind Blows*--and in this exciting and moving religious thriller about two pregnant virgins, one of whom may carry the Son of God and the other the Son of the Devil. If that plot line sounds familiar, it should. The novel is a reworking of *Virgin*, Patterson's second novel, published in 1980 by McGraw-Hill and long out of print. The narrative features the first-person/third-person narrative mix that's Patterson's trademark. The "I" belongs to ex-nun Anne Fitzgerald, now a PI. Her latest case for the Church involves investigating--and guarding--Newport, R.I. (i.e., rich), teenager Kathleen Beavier, who's eight months pregnant but, by expert medical testimony, a virgin. The Church is particularly anxious about Kathleen's condition because the Third Secret of Fatima (a real-life secret guarded by the Church since the Virgin Mary allegedly revealed it in 1917) prophesied two pregnant virgins: one bearing the Savior, the other the Devil's child. Anne eventually learns that indeed there's a poor girl in Ireland who's also pregnant, yet a virgin. Which girl carries which child? For texture, Patterson throws in some romance between Anne and a priest, but the novel's considerable suspense arises from his treatment of the central question as he speeds the action from America to Ireland to the Vatican, complicates it with a media frenzy over Kathleen, sharpens it as supernatural forces come into play and spins it with a wicked twist. While not subtle, this novel tackles issues of faith with admirable gusto. It could be a massive bestseller, appealing not only to Patterson's fans but also to those of the apocalyptic thrillers of LaHaye and Jenkins. 1 million first printing; \$1 million ad/promo; Literary Guild main selection; author tour. (May) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Some of James Patterson's best ever. Amazing, exciting, and hard to put down. There were more

twists in this book than I care to count. The author definitely did his research, and the ending was more surprising than I could ever have imagined. I highly recommend this book, excellent reading!!!

A very powerful message and book. Very hard to put down. Amazing writer as always. I thoroughly loved it. I was curious with the new turn his writing was taking how it would go but it was beautifully done.

Never a dull minute as in almost all other books I read. I just wish he would put them on sale every now and then so I could afford to read ALL of his awesome books. Patterson is by far my favorite author!

Well, aside from the ending (which was just odd and felt incredibly rushed), I really liked this book! I'm not a religious person (in fact, I usually avoid ALL religious crap), but I didn't feel like this book was jamming it down my throat. The story was told at a great pace and the writing was good! I found myself being disappointed whenever I had to put this down and really excited to pick it back up. Which virgin would bear the child of Satan, and which would bear the Savior? As I said, the ending was a bit out of place and rushed when compared to the rest of the novel, and there was a bizarre 'Prologue' at the end of the book that COMPLETELY confused me. I still have no idea what purpose it served as (at least to me) it had nothing to do with the book. In fact, I thought it was a preview of another James Patterson book (you know how authors will sometimes include a few chapters of another book at the end of one?) but it wasn't. Very strange. Anyway, overall it was a good story and it kept me coming back...maybe more of a 3 1/2 star book, but I'll round up.

Patterson has once again drawn me in to each event, each page. I never stopped reading til the answers were clear. I can't wait to begin the next book, but must get some sleep. Still feel a pull to know truth for sure. As always, John Patterson has gotten my brain into another place and kept me thinking.

A fantasy today, but who knows what could happen in the next 50 years. The book is getting worn out from reading several times, and loaning to others. Don't want to give away the plot, but wouldn't one's greatest fantasy (other than winning the lottery) to be able to fly? I never lost my interest each time I read it.

One of James Patterson`s most intriguing and suspenseful novels with regards to Christian beliefs. His research and knowledge of places and dates in history along with his ability to keep the reader on edge as the story progressively leads one to delve in the mystery and beliefs in religion. He creates a masterful image with twists and turns with his characters. His writing and power of the English language is masterful. It is difficult to put the novel down. As with all his novels he leads the reader on a journey of created suspense. A five star novel.

Had me guessing till the end. Could not put it down .....One of his that I have enjoyed immensely. A cast of characters to rival anything read or watched.

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