

Cross Country

By James Patterson

Reviewer: Heather Keenan

The latest Dr. Alex Cross thriller by James Patterson takes you across what to me was unknown territory: Africa. "Cross Country" is similar to other Alex Cross stories, in that heinous murders are committed and the "Dragon Slayer" (Alex Cross) is on the trail of the murderer. Also like most Alex Cross thrillers, this one is personal from the onset. The first victim is a former college girlfriend, who is viciously murdered with her entire family.

Two main reasons I find this to be one of James Patterson's most horrific novels is the fact that the group of killers includes young boys. Secondly, he paints a vivid picture of the brutality we have read or heard little about in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Darfur. Patterson is always a fast read, since his books are hard to put down; but I think he was writing with more of a message this time. The horror that Alex Cross experienced in Africa is like none he has written about before.

This story is all Alex Cross. His latest love Bree and his best friends John Sampson are included along with his family. But even The Tiger who Cross is chasing throughout the story plays a relatively small part in this book. If you can't get enough of Alex Cross, you will be happy to have him from start to end – no matter what happens!