



Night Prey

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Porsche-driving Lucas Davenport, who has just returned to duty after recovering from a serious gunshot wound, is charged with saving the political life of Rose Marie Roux, the ambitious police chief who has her eye on a Senate seat. He's given the assignment of tracking to ground the sex-crazed perpetrator of a series of murders of young women. Davenport's unwelcome colleague in this case is feminist Meagan Connell, an abrasive State Bureau of Criminal Apprehension investigator who's obsessed with catching the killer before she dies of cancer.

Also bedeviled by the ill-timed assignment of a new partner, a yuppie who was formerly assigned to the grade schools as "Officer Friendly" and who happens to be the husband of the mayor's niece, Davenport is additionally saddled with the mystifying death of an elderly woman who died rather conveniently, freeing some local hoods to profit from a real-estate scam.

The killer is dropping bodies all over the metropolitan area ... and makes the mistake of becoming a little too obsessed with a potential victim and thus leaves a trail that Davenport and his fellow officers finally discover.

Night Prey Details

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From Reader Review Night Prey for online ebook

James Thane says

As is often the case in this series, Lucas Davenport, the police detective protagonist, is confronted by a particularly clever and chilling antagonist. Here it's a creep named Koop who, over a long period of time, has been kidnapping and savagely killing women in several jurisdictions around the greater Minneapolis area.

Since Koop has operated over a large geographic area, no one has tumbled to the fact that a serial killer is at work. Finally a somewhat abrasive feminist Minnesota State Investigator named Meagan Connell puts it all together and attempts to convince the Powers That Be that her findings are legitimate. Fortunately for Connell, Davenport, whom everyone admits is the most brilliant detective in Minnesota, is assigned to the case of Koop's latest victim. Connell manages to convince Davenport that there is a serial killer at work and Connell and Davenport are assigned to work the case together.

It's not an easy partnership, and it's made even more difficult because Connell is dying and has only a short time to live. She is determined to wrap up the case while she still can, and for once, Lucas is at a loss in trying to deal with a woman. The suspense is ratcheted up when Koop, who supports himself by being a cat burglar, becomes obsessed with a young woman named Sara Jensen and begins carving her initials into his victims.

As always, the tension is lightened by the dark humor and repartee that characterize these books. There is no sexual attraction between Davenport and Connell, but Lucas is distracted by a recently arrived TV anchorwoman who causes him some anxious moments as he is settling in with his new lover, Weather Karkinnen. Lots of action; lots of fun; another fine addition to the series.

Piroska says

So far so good. I'm glad that Lucas did not change overnight because of Weather. :D
Slightly different story again, now focusing on the problems of the legal system. Good one!

Marleen says

I'm truly enjoying reading the whole Prey series from the beginning. I read some of these in the past - but most not. So I'm (re-)familiarising myself with Lucas Davenport's investigations and with his career arch. I also enjoy how he's has evolved and grown in his personal life.

Night Prey is book nr 6 and we find Lucas returned to the fold of the Minneapolis Police department as deputy chief. Before returning, Lucas had been on hiatus, focusing more on his computer simulations business and also spending time in his cabin up in Wisconsin (see Prey book nr 5).

In this 6th instalment, back on the force, Lucas and his team are confronted with a particular violent killer (what else is new?). For a long time Lucas and team can't pin-point who he is. Some witnesses think he's a cop, or a ex-prisoner. We the readers know his name is Koop. As always, I hate the pages and scenes dedicated to the killer; how he thinks, how he obsesses, how he kills, but I understand they are somehow necessary to give us a full picture of what the police are looking for, fighting for to protect citizens of their

city.

For this case, Lucas has to work together with Meagan Connell, a special investigator working at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), who has compiled a hefty file on the killer, and is persuaded that a lot more killings are attributed to this same perpetrator. Connell is in a hurry because she's dying of cancer and wants to solve this one before she goes. She was a unique character. This particular partnership shows once again that Lucas can work with anybody capable, even as intense and abrasive as Connell, in order to catch a killer.

It's brilliant how Lucas' mind works. How a conversation with Weather, his live-in girlfriend (a surgeon he met in book 5), leads him to think about a clue, a partial license plate number that was seen at one of the crime scenes of the numerous killings - and as it appears erroneously noted. I will not go into further details as not to give away spoilers, but that was the "a-ha" moment for Lucas.

Overall an entertaining read – better than I initially would have guessed, certainly given I despised the gratuitous violence. (More a 3,75 rating than a 4 but that's just details).

Mary Drayer says

Lucas Davenport is BACK, our favorite detective! He almost died, last book, in love, and on another case. Time is running out for his partner....Soooo much ACTION, you cannot put this book down.

Deana M says

Koop was a prison guard. Koop is a muscled machine. Koop is addicted to cocaine. Koop is addicted to Sara Jensen. Koop is a serial killer. Lucas Davenport is called in when a woman is found disemboweled in a dumpster. He teams up with Meagan Connell who is given 6 months maybe to live. She has worked serial cases before and has an awesome closing rate. Her and Davenport do not see eye to eye on the way they should work the case, but somehow they make it work. With Connell dying from cancer, she wants more than anything to get the psychopath who is not only killing these women, but ripping them apart. She makes it her life mission to put him away.

With barely any leads and no evidence left at the murder scenes, Davenport and Connell do not have much to go on. Then, there is a tip that someone saw the license plate of the killer. After searching, they finally track their man down and set a sting to bring him down using Sara Jensen as bait. Koop will not stop until he kills Sara. The ending will have you speechless. It is a true thriller and if you are a Sandford fan, it is a must read.

Kemper says

Unlike most of the *Prey* books, this one starts out with a man in love. Unfortunately, Koop is a cat burglar with severe psycho-sexual problems that cause him to occasionally kidnap a woman and gut her like a fish. So when he sees beautiful Sara Jensen sleeping during one of his break-ins, Koop instantly becomes obsessed and begins secretly stalking her while taking out his building frustration on random women.

A Minnesota state investigator named Meagan Connell has picked up on Koop's pattern. Since Meagan has terminal cancer and nothing to lose, she's become the anti-Walter White and is doing everything she can to catch the killer before her time runs out. This means that she has put intense political pressure on the new

Minneapolis police chief, Rose Marie Roux.

Ah, but Roux has a secret weapon. She recently brought Lucas Davenport back to the police force. Officially, he's a deputy chief running an intelligence group targeting career criminals. Unofficially Lucas is her trouble-shooter during the major crimes that whip the media and public into a frenzy.

As Lucas works with the driven Connell on the killings, he's also dealing with some big adjustments. The game has changed in the two years he's been away. Every petty criminal now carries a gun. The homicide unit is being crushed by a soaring murder rate. The media is growing ever more aggressive and irresponsible and increasing the pressure on the politicians and cops. Maybe the biggest change is that Lucas is now living with his girlfriend. He loves her, but he's still a man-ho and an attractive TV reporter has caught his eye.

The villains set the tone in the *Prey* books, and Koop is a worthy and creepy addition to their ranks. He's a body-builder with a taste for cocaine, and while he's got a criminal slyness, he's not one those genius serial killers that populate thrillers. Koop is really little more than an animal who relentlessly prowls the city in his truck. He has no introspection and no guilt. He wants what he wants, and he'll cave in anyone's skull to get it. There's just enough control to barely allow him to behave somewhat normally and cover his tracks, but he can snap at any moment.

(view spoiler)

This one also marks a new phase in the life of Lucas. With a new job and a live-in girlfriend, this is where we start seeing a more mature and responsible side of Davenport in future books rather than just the rich-cop-playing-by-his-own-rules we'd had up until now.

Next: Lucas matches wits with a gamer in *Mind Prey*.

Paul says

I made the mistake of starting this and then stopping to read something else. When I came back, it took me a while to sort out who was who. I found it a bit slow from the get go, but once it got moving, it was very intriguing and I had to finish it. Great climax that packs a punch.

aPriL does feral sometimes says

GR readers, I salute you. I finished 'Night Prey', loved it and the pure GOTH of it, went to GR to add it to my book lists - and got blown away by all of the terrific reviews. I've spent a delicious morning reading them. Wow.

Lucas Davenport is on the police force once again, having been appointed Deputy Chief by Rose Marie Roux, the new police Chief in Minneapolis. Weather Karkinnen, the surgeon he met in the last book, is more than a girlfriend to him at this point, but as usual, Davenport is having difficulty maintaining his, so far, exclusive relationship with her. Darn those luscious girl TV reporters! Lucky for Lucas, there are predators of a different kind prowling the streets to keep him focused. Predators like Koop.

Introspection is not one of Koop's strengths. He is a cat burglar and he loves sneaking into apartments to steal gold, jewelry and money, but only if people are sleeping a few feet away. Otherwise, it's terribly dull work. Occasionally, he has to gut a woman like a fish to relieve the tensions of life. Women are so useful.

Davenport really wants this guy, as does the entire police force. However, Koop does his killing all over the area and the police involved are tripping over each other in jurisdiction confusions. Witnesses can't agree on their descriptions of the killer and their photos are hurried and blurred. Unlike other killers, Koop is no careful ghost, but he does seem to be very lucky.

Meagan Connell is a BCA investigator and she is running out of time. She pushes too hard, but Davenport decides to work with her despite her abrasiveness. But it isn't until he learns that she is dying of cancer and literally has only weeks to live that he likes her.

I think this a wonderfully creepy story, epic and fast-paced. I couldn't put it down. Connell is absolutely stunning as a character, and I couldn't stop thinking about her. Her entrances gave me that eerie tingle I always feel with the doomed. Although this book is an excellent addition to the Davenport series and completely fits in with the gothic plots the author has established, I found myself feeling Connell was too heartbreaking to forget as just another beach read character.

Lighting a candle now.

William says

Audio narrated by Richard Ferrone along with digital paperback

A bit slow at the beginning which was the pace for Davenport returning to the police force. Superb writing, very little flat spots in the story telling.

Monnie says

This is another excellent addition to Sanford's "Prey" series - but it nearly didn't get read by me. As a writer/editor myself (albeit always nonfiction), I'm hyper-sensitive to analogies; they make my stomach churn faster than a hamster on a wheel at full gallop. And within the first chapter-and-a-half of this book, here's what hit me between the eyes:

Nighthawks...their wing-flashes like the silver bars on new first-lieutenants

...petunias spread across their beds like Mennonite quilts

Hate burned through his body like a welding torch

Perfume was dark, sensual...riding the sterile apartment like a naked woman on a horse

The evening air felt like a woman's fingers stroking his beard

Aaaaack - enough already! It took some effort, but I repressed the urge to vomit like a dog trying not to pee at the next fire hydrant and kept going - and I'm glad I did. Those awful analogies blessedly came to a screeching halt, and the plot, which involved trying to identify and catch a literally gut-wrenching killer, turned very interesting. As always, series hero Lucas Davenport is lovably complex (especially when it comes to women), and also as always, everything turns out pretty much as expected in the end. Another good one - now on to the next, *Mind Prey*!

Tim says

Another excellent story featuring Sanford's homicide detective Lucas Davenport on the heels of butchering cat burglar. 9 of 10 stars

Rick says

Enjoyable read, but the ending was predictable. Recommended.

Mike says

Another trip for me through the Lucas Davenport universe. Lucas is asked by the Chief to look into a detective's claim that a serial killer is operating in the Minneapolis area. The culprit cruises book store readings and looks for a specific female type: lonely and needy.

Davenport uses his web of contacts to gather facts, and coping with the dysfunction of two team members, one struggling with an illness, and one going through the motions of police work. Throw in a beautiful, flirting TV newswoman, and he skirts the line of trouble again.

Jim says

The mystery is how Lucas & company are going to catch the guy. It's well done. I love the false leads & serious amount of time they spend yet how well Sandford conveys it. Really good characters too, save for the bad guy. I'm getting a little tired of nut cases. I hope Lucas can go after someone that isn't so obviously unhinged in future books. Still, there was a secondary mystery that was very well done. I think I liked it more than the main one - a locked room murder. Good stuff.

As usual, I recommend reading the series in order. Sandford does fill in the past quickly, though. On to the next.

(I'm cleaning the shop up & that means some rearranging, so I can either listen to music or a book that doesn't take a lot of thought. Even so, I had to revert to music a few times. I have a very dirty, full shop.)

Baz M says

This is one of my favourites of the series so far.

This was crass, intelligent, sophisticated, fast, gruesome, cunning and incredibly page-turning.

Even though this is part of a series, I definitely think it could still be read as a standalone.

John Sandford has very quickly become a favourite author of mine.
