



Title: Prayers for Rain

Author: Dennis Lehane

Description:

What if a total stranger was watching your every move What if he read your mail, listened in on your phone calls, knew what you spoke of only to your most trusted confidants What if he learned your routines Your weaknesses And, most important, what if he discovered those things you love and cling to ... and then he stripped you of them And sat back to watch while you self-destructed

Boston private investigator Patrick Kenzie is about to anger such a man.

When Patrick first meets Karen Nichols, she strikes him as the kind of woman who irons her socks an innocent from a protected upbringing, untouched by tragedy. But six months later Karen commits suicide by leaping from one of Boston's most cherished monuments. Patrick finds himself wondering what can alter someone so drastically, so quickly, that suicide seems her only option. Yet what begins as idle curiosity soon becomes obsessive as Patrick suspects that the tragic events that befell Karen during the last months of her life may not have been as random as they first appeared.

Enlisting the aid of his ex-partner and ex-flame, Angela Gennaro, as well as that of his friend, the lethally unbalanced Bubba Rogowski, Patrick enters into a treacherous game of cat-and-mouse with a man who, instead of merely killing his victims, prefers to make them wish they were dead. Through the final weeks of a stifling summer, Patrick, Angie, and Bubba wage psychological warfare with this brilliant, depraved sociopath a war that will bring them face-to-face with the sordid secrets of an affluent family, a brutal Mafioso, a cabal of twisted kidnappers, and a perilous encounter in the misty dark of a cranberry bog.

As the stakes grow higher and more personal, they find they might be fighting a losing battle against an enemy the law can't touch, who is always one step ahead of them, who is gradually learning their weaknesses, their loves, and is determined to tear their worlds apart.

Reviews

People ("Beach Read of the Week"):

An answered prayer for a summer mystery reader. Dennis Lehane shows a gift for stringing out scenes and creating tension -- sexual, homicidal, you name it -- that makes a reader eager to find out what comes next as Kenzie puzzles his way toward a sadistic killer. But don't race ahead and cheat yourself out of the local pleasures.

Publishers Weekly (starred review):

With sharp dialogue, inventively gruesome violence and the darkest of dark humor, Lehane's fifth novel proves again that he's the hippest heir of Hammett and Chandler.

Kirkus Reviews (starred review):

Lehane ... writes like an angel on crystal meth.

Chicago Tribune:

Dennis Lehane delivers a combination of high-energy thrills and dead-on portrayals of killers and other bad people.

Philadelphia Inquirer:

Lehane is a master at balancing thriller gimmicks with wonderfully round characters. The latter make this an A-plus novel -- the plus is for thrills.

Houston Chronicle:

Fine characterization and edgy dialogue. *Prayers For Rain* is packed with punchy action sequences, uneasy stretches where the reader squirms in anticipation of impending disaster, and plenty of dark humor. Dennis Lehane has all the tools of a future Grand Master -- the dialogue of Parker, the plotting of Block, the psychological suspense of Rendell -- and in *Prayers For Rain* he shows them off to fine effect.

Rocky Mountain News:

Prayers For Rain is close to perfect in its pacing, characterizations, plot, and suspense. It is a perfect book for the summer hammock, though it won't help you sleep.