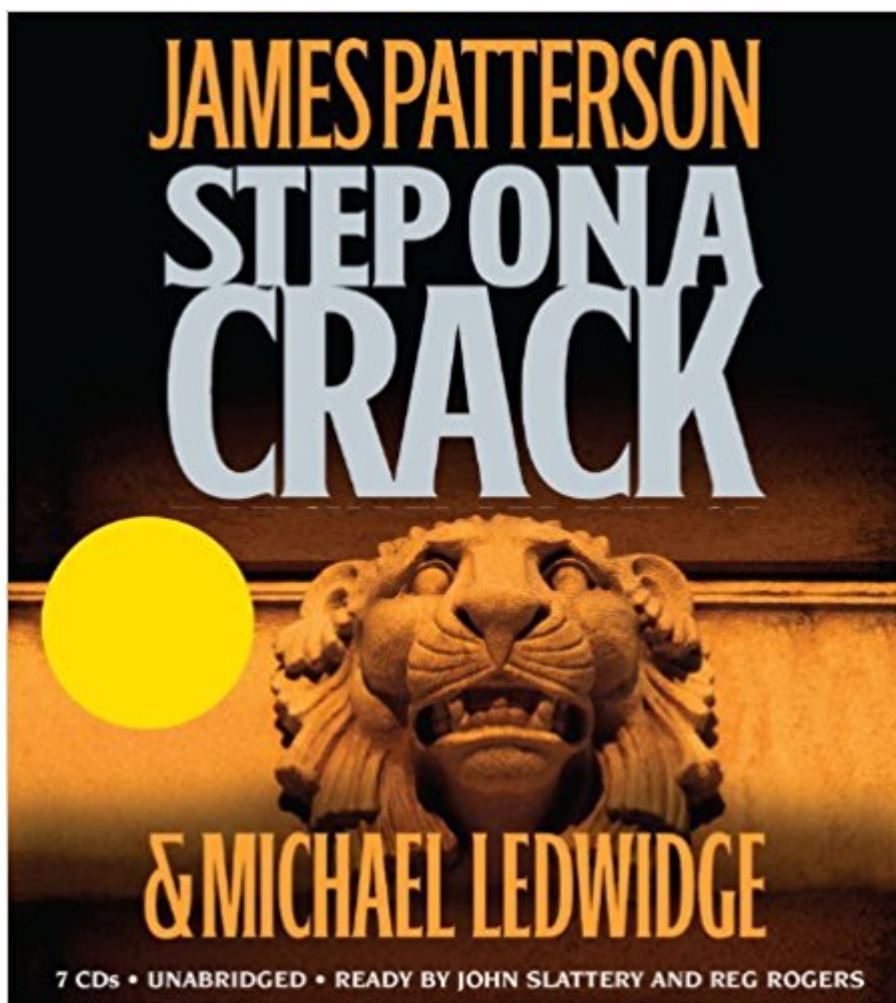




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## Step On A Crack



## Synopsis

Detective Michael Bennett is about to take on the most sinister challenge of his career. The nation has fallen into mourning after the unexpected death of a beloved former first lady, and the most powerful people in the world gather in New York for her funeral. Then the inconceivable occurs. Billionaires, politicians, and superstars of every kind are suddenly trapped within one man's brilliant and ruthless scenario. Bennett--father of ten--is pulled into the fray. As the danger escalates, Michael is hit with devastating news. After fighting for many years, his wife has succumbed to a terrible disease. As New York descends into chaos, he has lost the great love of his life and faces raising his ten devastated children alone--and rescuing 34 hostages. Day after day, Bennett confronts the most ruthless man he has ever dealt with, a man who kills without hesitation and counters everything the NYPD and FBI throw at him with impunity. As the entire world watches and the tension boils to a searing heat, Bennett has to find a way out--or face responsibility for the greatest debacle in history.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Hachette Audio; Unabridged edition (February 12, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594836272

ISBN-13: 978-1594836275

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1.6 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 820 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #661,369 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( P \) > Patterson, James](#) #870 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#) #1621 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

Pop a bowl of popcorn, settle into a comfy chair and you might finish this combination thriller and tearjerker before the popcorn. Bestseller Patterson (Cross) and Ledwidge (The Narrowback) spin a fantastic tale of an audacious mass kidnapping and the unlikely detective thrust into the primary role of negotiator, sleuth and hero. Michael Bennett, a senior NYPD homicide detective, has a wife dying of cancer and 10 adopted children of various ethnic origins. When St. Patrick's Cathedral, site of the celebrity-packed funeral of a former first lady, is seized by a dozen ruthless men, Bennett ends up

as point man for the hastily assembled negotiating team. From then on, the tale requires the reader to go with the flow as Bennett alternates visits to his wife's hospital bedside, brief trips to check on how his kids are managing and tense dealings with the well-prepared kidnappers. Short on credibility on the crime front, long on sentimentality on the home front, this book would be a good candidate for adaptation as a one-hour TV movie. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Patterson and Ledwidge introduce a new hero in an exciting thriller set in the heart of Manhattan. NYPD detective Michael Bennett is concentrating on getting his family through a particularly difficult Christmas: he and his 10 adopted children are facing the loss to cancer of his brave wife, Maeve. But a major crisis calls him away: the funeral of a former First Lady at St. Patrick's Cathedral goes horribly awry when men storm the church and take hundreds of attendees hostage. Michael is asked to try to reason with a sinister man named Jack. Jack releases all but the most famous people, and makes his demands: he wants several million dollars from each celebrity hostage, including the mayor, a popular comedic actor, a beloved talk show host, and a pop starlet. Once Jack starts killing, Michael realizes he's up against a truly diabolical foe. Patterson has a knack for creating genuinely likable heroes, and Michael fits the bill. As readers rapidly turn the pages to learn how the tense hostage drama plays out, they will also be sympathizing with Michael as he faces the agonizing loss of his wife. Totally gripping and downright impossible to put down, this is a promising start to a potential new series. Kristine Huntley Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

A group of security specialists create the ultimate kidnapping scenario and start the entire event by causing the death of a very special person. Locked in a fortress, that is virtually unimpregnable to the police and Feds, they end up killing 5 people, before a daring escape and rescue. As usual this writing by this particular author is filled with suspense, attention to detail, and a very interesting story that keeps the reader on the edge of their seats with anticipation of the next event.

Step on a crack is the first in the series surrounding the Michael Bennett family. Michael is not your usual run of the mill detective. What might set Michael apart is first and foremost he is the father of ten adopted kids from ages 3 to 12. Secondly while trying to keep New York safe, he is also trying to manage his home life and his breaking heart as his wife, the love of his life, is dying of cancer in the hospital. Patterson does know how to weave an interesting tale doesn't he? But wait - there's

more...In the midst of Mike Bennett's already chaos of a life, the former first lady is poisoned and while St. Patrick's Cathedral is filled to capacity with Government leaders and celebrity mourning this loss... the entire congregation is kidnapped at the hands of a group of unknown gunmen. All this is happening right in Bennett's back yard.Life.... is never dull.It's hard to explain what I really find in good audio - but this is it. The narrators, John Slattery and Reg Rogers lead you into a full body sense of suspense when they alternate the voices between good guy Bennett, and the eerie flat tone of the man known only as Jack.A good story line - I enjoy the tameness a family man like Bennett brings to a genre that on occasion can be harsh - even offensive. yet at the same time - this story is not weak by no means. I bounced between the intensiveness of the kidnapping a church filled with well-known people... and the story line between Mike and his wife Maeve from the hospital bed. The latter causing me to sit in my car while parked in the garage to listen a little longer to their conversations with tears hitting my steering wheel.I have raved about Patterson's audio before and I am doing it again. Don't write off audio until you have experienced one of Patterson's recent audio - and even if you are not a Patterson fan, do not write off Patterson until you have read/listened to, this series.

Disappointed. This is not a typical Patterson novel. Sorry to say. Slow and boring. He could have left out 100 or more pages. You knew who the villains were before the reveal at the end.

This is the first of the NYPD Detective Michael Bennett series. Reading it first also helps understand the NYPD problems that Det. Bennett faces and the make up of his family.. Difficult to put down.

Wow. I could not put this book down. It kept me in suspense through every page. Thank you Michael Bennett.

This was a book filled with great suspense and an emotional weaving as Mike Bennett walks through a horrific hostage take over in the post 911 city of New York. Page by page you walk through his struggle of the fight of his wife as she lay dying with cancer and the hostages locked in St Patrick's Cathedral. A GREAT story written by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge. I highly recommend this to all mystery and high suspense readers. You will be enthralled throughout the constant twists and turns as well as the surprise ending of Step on a Crack. Can't wait for the Michael Bennett, Book Two of this series. Great reading.

I am reading the series but I read the books during the day because the violence is much too graphic for me to not toss and turn all night thinking about the violence. It seems each book in the series is more violent and I am once again reading I Michael Bennett during the day. All Patterson's series move quickly and are hard to put down. Michael Bennett is a wonderful character. How in the world can James Patterson write so many books and keep all his characters separate? He is amazing.

Very descriptiveHeld my curiosityVery warmingExcellent endingReally enjoyed the characters and their place in the bookAwesome

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