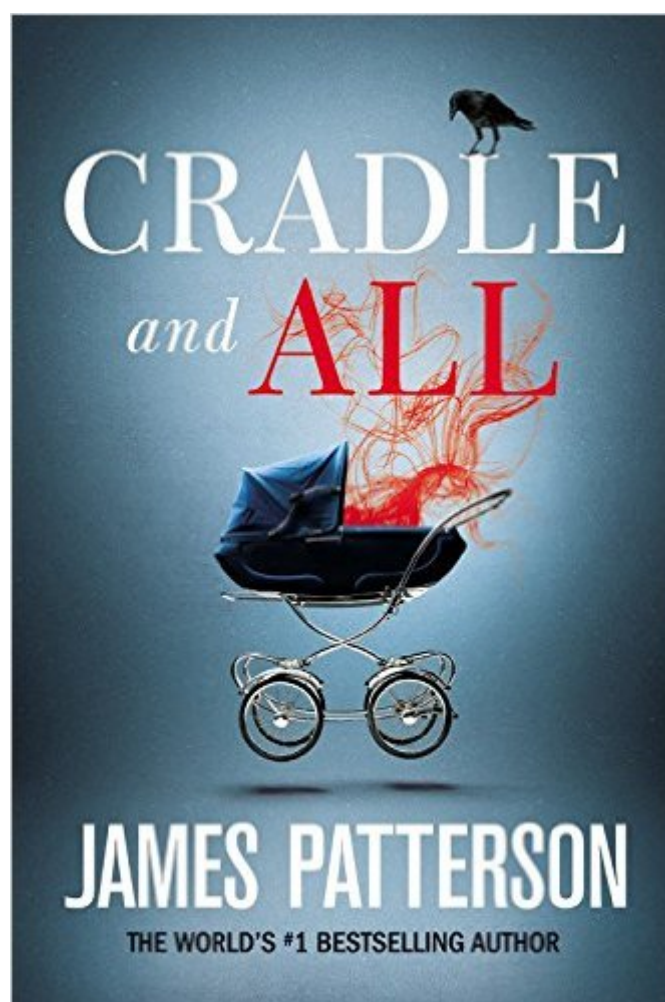


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# Cradle And All



## 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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Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (520 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,369 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Pregnancy](#) #4 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse](#) #14 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've been hooked on James Patterson since I read KISS THE GIRLS. He typically does a wonderful job with character development and suspense. CRADLE has all of the Patterson elements: notoriously short chapters, quickly defined characters, alternating first and third person narration. All in all this is a decent read. The storyline revolves around the question of how the world would react to the news of a modern-day immaculate conception. Anne Fitzgerald is called in by the Archdiocese to provide an objective investigation into a reported virgin pregnancy. She walks in expecting an easy assignment and instead ends up testing her own faith. Along the way, we're introduced to Nicholas Rosetti, a strong priest sent in to unravel the mystery of two young women

claiming to be virgins despite their pregnancies. He believes one will bear the saviour of man, the other will bear the child of satan. The story moves rather slowly through most of the book; it focuses on outlining the media frenzy building around one of the virgins as well as the scapegoating endured by the other virgin. The last quarter of the book builds to a quick climax with an ending that makes the reading worthwhile. It also leaves the question: when is the sequel? Overall, I enjoyed the book. It's a very quick, easy read (at just over 300 pages, I polished this off in a few hours), it addresses some rather heavy spiritual issues, but it delivers a story without being "preachy". I wouldn't qualify this as one of Patterson's best works; it's more like "Patterson-Lite". The novel exemplifies his earlier abilities, but overall, I enjoyed it.

As you may or may not know, *Cradle And All* is a rework of Patterson's 2nd novel called *Virgin*. Most likely if you read *Virgin* within the past few years and remember the ending you probably won't want to read *Cradle And All* -- even though there are differences between the two versions. But if you haven't read *Virgin* or read it like I did (when it first came out in 1980) and don't remember the outcome, you're in for a real treat. After reading an advance reader copy of *Cradle And All*, I'm sure that most Patterson fans will find many of the qualities that have made them devour his previous books. In typical Patterson fashion the plot moves along at a break-neck pace, the chapters are very brief with each ending on a note that makes you want to quickly turn the page, and the characters--while not developed in great depth--are interesting. While I'm not a particularly fast reader, I read this book in two days. Be prepared to be glued to your favorite reading place until you finish *Cradle And All*! You'll definitely enjoy this book.

Hearing the title of James Patterson's latest release, "*Cradle and All*", I expected the story of a missing infant, distraught parents, family secrets and an eventual tearful reunion. I was unprepared for the deception of the benign title; it belies a literal tale of apocalyptic proportions, mixing biblical prophecy, Virgin births, priests and nuns, the Vatican and holy miracles with enough world-wide plague and pestilence to create the ultimate battle of good against evil. Annie, a former nun turned private investigator, is content with her present limited involvement with the Church, consisting of occasional investigations of sensitive matters. In the midst of an outbreak of "new polio", she is summoned by her old friend, a Cardinal, to handle a secretive and potentially dangerous crisis; she is told little more than it involves a pregnant teenager named Kathleen, who lives in Massachusetts and claims to be a virgin. Meeting and befriending Kathleen is a journey of faith and conscience for Annie, who must venture beyond her own skepticism, particularly when she learns of a second

pregnant teen in Ireland, Colleen, who is also believed to be a virgin. Only then does Annie learn the magnitude of her assignment: to investigate whether the prophecy foretold by the Virgin Mother in Fatima in 1917 - that the child of God and the child of Satan would each be born to virgins - is becoming a present-day reality and whether the potential of such an event is behind the crises of sickness, famine and drought suddenly sweeping the earth. The resolution to this mystery shocks Annie (much as it does those of us following her pilgrimage), changes the course of her life and defines its purpose. I understand that "Cradle and All" is a re-working of Patterson's out-of-print novel, "Virgin". I am likely to go in search of that version of this story to see what Patterson felt the need to modify now. I highly recommend this work. Do not be misled by the title or assume that it is similar to James Patterson's standard fare (which I always eagerly anticipate): this book is not a "light" read nor a "murder and mayhem" mystery. It deserves more thought (even introspection) than that... Many persons believe that we live in the "end times"; James Patterson presents such a scenario without becoming preachy or overtly threatening. However, the implications of his proposal are frightening in the world today, which is plagued too often by cynicism and a weakness of faith: what if the child of God and the child of Satan were each born on earth as human children? Would anyone recognize them now? Would anyone care?

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