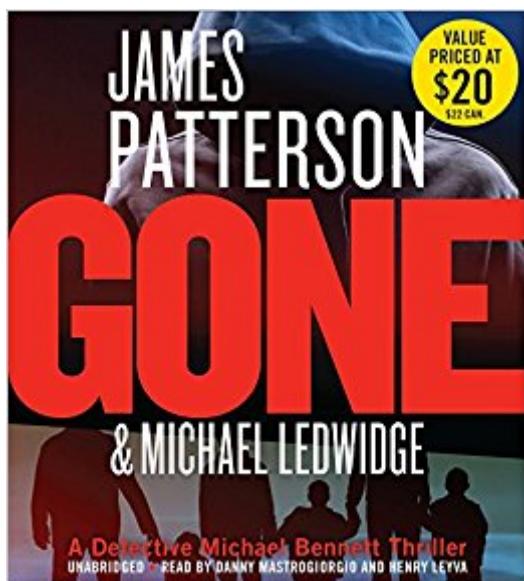


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# Gone (Michael Bennett)



## Synopsis

A crime lord has declared war on America. Only Detective Michael Bennett knows why. Manuel Perrine doesn't fear anyone or anything. A charismatic and ruthless leader, Perrine slaughters rivals as effortlessly as he wears his trademark white linen suit. Detective Michael Bennett once managed to put Perrine behind bars, the only official in the US ever to accomplish that. But now Perrine is out, and he has sworn to find and kill Bennett and everyone dear to him. Detective Bennett, along with his ten adopted children, their nanny, and his grandfather, are hidden safely on a rural California farm, with guards courtesy of the FBI's witness protection program. Perrine begins to embark on an escalating series of assassinations across the country, killings whose brazenness and audacity bring into question the possibility of safety and law in the US. The FBI has no choice but to ask Detective Bennett to risk it all in Perrine's war on America. With explosive action and fierce villainy that rivals James Bond movies at their best, *GONE* is the next astounding novel by James Patterson.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

FANS LOVE THE MICHAEL BENNETT SERIES!"A breakneck thriller built on a solid, suspenseful plot...plenty of heart-pounding suspense...a can't-miss thriller." ¦NightsAndWeekends.com on Worst Case"Totally gripping and downright impossible to put down." ¦Booklist on Step On A Crack

James Patterson has had more New York Times bestsellers than any other writer, ever, according to Guinness World Records. Since his first novel won the Edgar Award in 1977 James Patterson's books have sold more than 300 million copies. He is the author of the Alex Cross novels, the most popular detective series of the past twenty-five years, including *Kiss the Girls* and *Along Came a Spider*. He writes full-time and lives in Florida with his family.

James Patterson's *GONE* stars Michael Bennett, former NYPD Detective now attached to the FBI. Mexican Cartel boss, Manuel Perrine, a very evil man, has been on a killing campaign directed not only at rival drug gangs in southern California but also the brutal termination of law enforcement officials. Bennett captured Perrine once before but he escaped while in his custody. Perrine publically threatened annihilation of Michael Bennett and his ten-member extended family. This resulted in Bennett and his family being placed in the witness protection program and secretly ensconced on a ranch in an isolated area of northern California. The president declared Perrine the number one security threat to the United States. Michael Bennett is reluctantly dragged back into active service with the FBI to join the chase to bring Perrine to justice, thus leaving his family alone and vulnerable to Perrine's henchmen. The newly formed task force includes the FBI, CIA, NSA, and military special ops units from the three services. The story bounces back-and-forth from tactics of the operational chase, to Bennett's family who are still in hiding, and to Perrine's personal and murderous activities in southern California and Mexico. Bennett's FBI partner, Emily Parker, seems to stay on the sidelines. Her character was never fully developed. I think she would have enhanced the story as a love interest. In fact many characters seem to make brief appearances and are never heard from again. The story seems to have no central theme and little spark. The novel, co-authored by Michael Ledwidge, who I assume did most if not all the writing, is not one of Patterson's best--actually far from it. I rate the novel a moderate 3.

I considered this a decent come back in terms of story line. For a slight synopsis, this book follows the ongoing entail of finding and capturing the drug cartel head/murderer/kidnapper Manuel "The Sun King" Perrine. Previously, Manuel Perrine was finally captured and was being put on trial. He escaped custody mid trial. Meanwhile the rest of the story focuses around Michael Bennett's personal life. There was his personal life with some sprinkles of action and then after Manuel's escape, Bennett and family went into the witness program. For me the reader, the previous book was good with an element missing for an expected Bennett novel. But I feel that this side of the story makes up for it. There was a lot of action, movement, and progress that ultimately lead to Manuel's

capture and later his death. Even his new hit woman dies at the hands of Mary Catherine. And the family of Michael Bennett will be able to move on with their lives after this threat has passed. I definitely endorse it with a 5 stars. Ok, I would give it the 5 plus a 6th star just for the fact that I feel passionately that this book made up for an amazing conclusion to a slower book previous in this 2 part story.

Michael Bennett and Alex Cross were two really engaging characters. They were well-defined and I knew and cared about how they reached where they were when i first met them. I looked forward to each new and thrilling story. Then Mr Patterson decided to check out. As I understand it, he produces a treatment of 60 to 80 pages, establishes the plot and characters, then he hires a writer to turn it all into a full-length book. I absolutely would not mind this if the hired writers were as talented as Mr Patterson, but they're not. I wouldn't buy their books and I feel conned into doing it just because I want to read about the main characters' storylines. This latest Michael Bennett story is a prime example. There are pages and pages about the children and the family which I feel are written at a level suitable for early teens. Then suddenly we leap to obscenely violent episodes, then presto chango we're back with the family in the witness protection program (or a very watered-down version of it) and it's not at all convincing. It's fluffy page-filling at best. I checked and i think that I could skip almost every family chapter and not only would it not really affect the story, but I would probably enjoy the whole thing a whole lot more. I have decided that I will not buy any more James Patterson books because they are no longer written by him and I have no interest in what is now being published under his name. Mr Patterson: I read about seven or eight books a month and Alex Cross was one of the most exciting characters i had ever met. His style, family and history were rivetting. His life was intense and I introduced him to so many people. I am very sad that you set him adrift to be used and abused by amateurs.

Michael Bennett you've done it again! This book twists and turns you in many directions. However best of all it doesn't confuse you like some books that jump around the country and from one scene to another. I really really enjoyed this book, but I love the Michael Bennett series completely. This will be a brief review....I just want to say that it would have been nice to have this book be a cliff-hanger to make you want the next book that much more. But I was very happy with the ending and it did in fact give me goosebumps. Just saying! Happy Reading, Heather

I love the Michael Bennett series and each one has been a page-turner. This was good but I didn't

turn the pages very fast. It dragged on & on. The ending was very good but it was a crawl to get to it. On to the next book in the series!

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