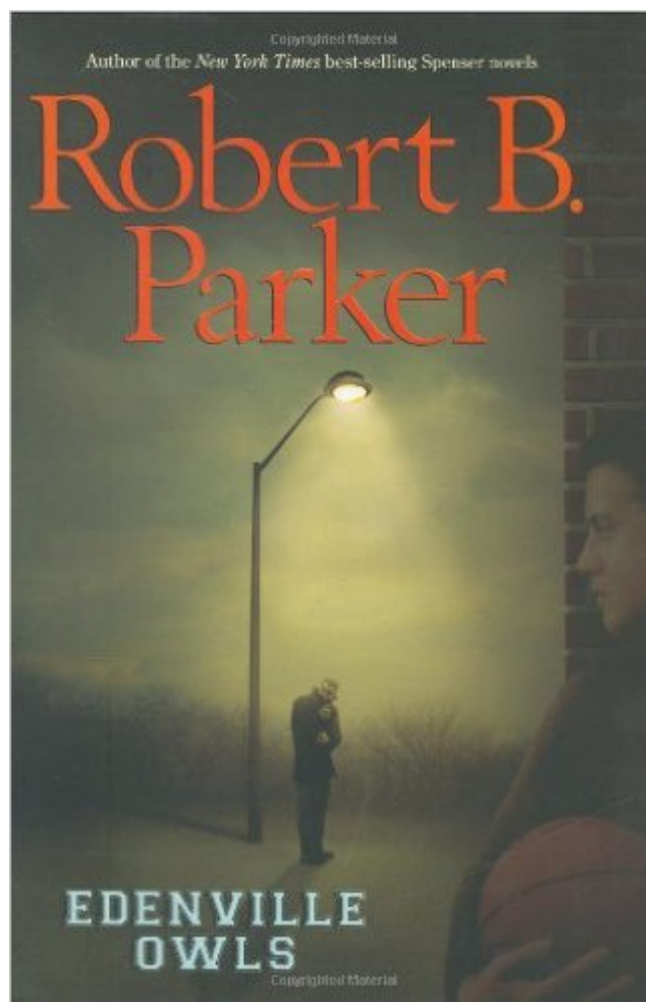


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Edenville Owls



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Robert B. Parker's first novel for young readers. There is something evil in the air; Bobby senses it. Who is that man he saw arguing with his pretty new English teacher? Bobby knows he should mind his own business, but times are confusing. World War II just ended, and the world is changing? Bobby's world, especially. There's Joanie, for one—why does being her friend feel awkward? And then there are his buddies, the junior varsity Edenville Owls—basketball players in need of a leader. Can they help each other off the court as well as they can on it? They will need to.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Spenser fans everywhere are going to love this book. Although Spenser was raised by his father and uncles in Laramie, Wyoming, 14-year-old Bobby Murphy almost comes closer to the childhood many longtime fans envisioned for Robert B. Parker's signature character. Bobby Murphy is a wonderful, though idealistic, protagonist. He's more or less the brains and eventual leader of a five-man junior varsity basketball team called the Edenville Owls. They ended up calling themselves that because the only uniforms they could find were all yellow. He's on the cusp of young adulthood, just starting to notice the finer intricacies of the world: such as the opposite sex and problems in the adult arena that normally stay behind closed doors. After his last teacher was removed from the school, Bobby and his class got a new teacher: Miss Delaney. Miss Delaney is young and beautiful, the perfect teacher for a young boy on his way to becoming a man to fall in love with. However, Miss Delaney also apparently has some dark secrets. While in detention, Bobby and one of his friends

sees Miss Delaney arguing with a man. After a heated exchange, Miss Delaney slaps the man. Bobby shouts at the man to leave her alone, then he and his buddy charge to the rescue but are made to return to detention. Later Miss Delaney asks Bobby to forget he ever saw anything. In just those few moments, Bobby's plunged into a mystery that will tear away a lot of his remaining innocence as he pursues the truth of who the man is and exactly what's going on. Three main storylines weave throughout the book: the mystery involving Miss Delaney, Bobby's work to bring his basketball team to the state tournament, and his evolving relationship with Joanie, a girl he becomes friends with that eventually comes between him and Nick, one of his best friends. Any one of the stories would be enough to keep a reader turning pages. That they're all together and complement each other well is just excellent writing. Parker is going to take a lot of heat over Bobby, though. Bobby THINKS like Spenser. He ACTS like Spenser. And both characters are troubled over the same vagaries of life. But these are the themes that Parker constantly writes about. Readers familiar with Parker's work are going to find a lot of familiar ground here, though altered somewhat because the story is set in the 1940s and Parker does, for the most part, stay within the conventions of his youthful heroes. However, argument can be made that the Hardy Boys were taking on much more dangerous assignments on a regular basis. The fact that World War II was only an eyeblink ago in the story's setting is important. The villains are made more menacing because of that. And Parker is given a freer rein to talk about wickedness. Strangely enough, some of that wickedness is still in our world. The writing is as pure and economical as always. There's an innocence about Bobby that is endearing, but at the same time he comes across as older than his 14 years. Parker weaves his plotlines effortlessly and readers will cruise through this one. More than that, this is a book that adults and young readers can share and both enjoy. I've handed off my copy to my 18-year-old, whom I've also introduced to Parker's work, as well as Crais's and other writers. I envy the young readers who will find this book. This will be their FIRST Robert B. Parker novel and they'll find SO many more books waiting for them as they grow up. Hopefully Parker will find time in his busy schedule to pen another Bobby Murphy book.

Because Robert B. Parker's name was above the title, I ordered the book even though it was destined for young adults. How can a Parker book not be a great read? How many adults did I know that were reading and salivating over Harry Potter? I read the book in two sittings and was not surprised at the dialogue and textures that Parker placed on each page. My nephew is still a tad young for this book but in a year perhaps not. And if he likes this (and he'd be a fool not to) then Edenville Owls will be a great introduction to Robert B. Parker's writing style that is comfortable and

entertaining. Once that occurs, then my nephew will enter the worlds of Spenser, Jesse Stone, Sunny Randall, Burke, Everett Hitch, Virgil Cole and Wyatt Earp. At that point, Power Rangers and Pokemon cards will remain on his shelves replaced by what is sometimes called the theatre of the mind. Thank you Dr. Parker. And a book about Spenser's first case as a detective after leaving the DA's office would be greatly appreciated. I highly recommend Edenville Owls for its textured plotting and finely drawn characters. The traditional themes are there and the ending is not blown all out of logic and proportion. Worth the price. Hopefully it will find its way into school libraries across the country.

I enjoyed the novel "Edenville Owls", Robert Parker's first official novel for younger readers. The book actually reads like a regular Robert Parker thriller, only the sex, violence and profanity is turned down, and the characters are mainly all kids. One thing I did find strange is that Mr. Parker seemed to be a bit reluctant to have younger readers see his characters placed in truly dangerous situations (being subjected to a few nasty verbal threats was about the worst the kids had to endure), yet there's quite a bit of ugly language on the part of the racist minister who runs a white supremacist youth group. I don't think there was anything wrong with that- younger readers can probably handle (and benefit from) a glimpse at the seamier aspects of life- but kids probably would have found the story a little more gripping if there was more actual danger on display. Still, the book was a good, fun, fast read, and I'll likely pick up the next adventure featuring Bobby, Joanie, and the rest of the "Owls" gang. But not until I read another one of Mr. Parker's reliably snappy regular offerings.

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