



Cape Fear: A Novel

By John D. MacDonald

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How far would you go to save your family? In John D. MacDonald's iconic masterwork of suspense, the inspiration for not one but two Hollywood hits, a mild-mannered family is tormented by an obsessed criminal—and with the authorities powerless to protect them, they must take the law into their own hands.

Introduction by Dean Koontz

Sam Bowden has it all: a successful law career, a devoted wife, and three children. But a terrifying figure from Bowden's past looms in the shadows, waiting to shatter his pristine existence.

Fourteen years ago, Bowden's testimony put Max Cady behind bars. Ever since, the convicted rapist has been nursing a grudge into an unrelenting passion for revenge. Cady has been counting the days until he is set free, desperate to destroy the man he blames for all his troubles. Now that time has come.

Praise for *Cape Fear*

"The best of [John D. MacDonald's stand-alone] novels . . . an acute psychological study of base instinct, terror, mistakes, and raw emotion."—**Lee Child**

"A powerful and frightening story."—*The New York Times*

"Terrific suspense."—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Originally published as *The Executioners*

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for John D. MacDonald

“*The* great entertainer of our age, and a mesmerizing storyteller.”—**Stephen King**

“My favorite novelist of all time . . . All I ever wanted was to touch readers as powerfully as John D. MacDonald touched me. No price could be placed on the enormous pleasure that his books have given me. He captured the mood and the spirit of his times more accurately, more hauntingly, than any ‘literature’ writer—yet managed always to tell a thunderingly good, intensely suspenseful tale.”—**Dean Koontz**

“To diggers a thousand years from now, the works of John D. MacDonald would be a treasure on the order of the tomb of Tutankhamen.”—**Kurt Vonnegut**

“A master storyteller, a masterful suspense writer . . . John D. MacDonald is a shining example for all of us in the field. Talk about *the best*.”—**Mary Higgins Clark**

“The *consummate* pro, a master storyteller and witty observer . . . John D. MacDonald created a staggering quantity of wonderful books, each rich with characterization, suspense, and an almost intoxicating sense of place.”—**Jonathan Kellerman**

“There’s only one thing as good as reading a John D. MacDonald novel: reading it again. A writer way ahead of his time, he is the all-time master of the American mystery novel.”—**John Saul**

From the Inside Flap

An insane criminal threatens to destroy a family, and the police are powerless to protect them. For fourteen years convicted rapist Max Cady nursed his hatred for Sam Bowden into an insane passion for revenge. He lived only for the day he would be free -- free to track down and destroy the man who had put him behind bars.

Murder was merciful compared to what Cady had in mind -- and what Cady had in mind was Bowden's innocent and lovely teenaged daughter . . .

"A powerful and frightening story." -- The New York Times

About the Author

John D. MacDonald was an American novelist and short-story writer. His works include the Travis McGee series and the novel *The Executioners*, which was adapted into the film *Cape Fear*. In 1962 MacDonald was named a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America; in 1980, he won a National Book Award. In print he delighted in smashing the bad guys, deflating the pompous, and exposing the venal. In life, he was a truly empathetic man; his friends, family, and colleagues found him to be loyal, generous, and practical. In business, he was fastidiously ethical. About being a writer, he once expressed with gleeful astonishment, “They pay me to do this! They don’t realize, I would pay them.” He spent the later part of his life in Florida with his wife and son. He died in 1986.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Norsworthy:

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Rick Fountain:

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