



Every Crooked Path

Steven James

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Who is the Piper? . . .

Special Agent Patrick Bowers returns in an electrifying prequel to the Bowers Chess series from critically acclaimed, national bestselling novelist Steven James.

A mysterious suicide and a series of abductions draw Patrick into a web of intrigue involving an international conspiracy where no one is who they appear to be and the stakes have never been higher.

Soon, Patrick discovers that the secret to stopping the Piper's current crime spree lies in unlocking answers from an eight-year-old cold case—and the only way to do that is by entering the terrifying world of the conspirators himself.

Dark, probing, and chilling, *Every Crooked Path* takes an unflinching look at the world of today's cybercrimes and delves into a parent's worst nightmare as it launches a new chapter of Patrick Bowers thrillers.

Every Crooked Path Details

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Author : Steven James

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From Reader Review Every Crooked Path for online ebook

Jason says

Dark, twisty, very good misdirection (I couldn't truly get a good guess on who the culprit was). Seriously dark subject matter with James' trademark exposition on mankind's agathokakological nature (kudos if you get the reference).

The next New York chapter, I'm confident, will be this good.

April Neill says

Decent read

I've read all the series but this one I couldn't grasp or relate to all the characters. Too many things going on with too many people. I never felt a connection with anyone.

Aaron says

This book was a tough book to read but a very important topic to touch on. While the story was fiction, the issue was not. This issue has become rampant in the America, and I applaud the author in delicately approaching this topic. Was also a good book that delve into the Patrick Bowers developing relationship with Christine and her daughter Tess.

Barbara says

On a scale of cotton candy to Brussels sprouts, Every Crooked Path by Steven James is homemade garlic bread. This hearty side dish fights for center stage and often wins it with the trifecta of flavor: crusty bread, garlic butter, and crisped cheese. Never underestimate the complexity of simple.

Agent Patrick Bowers witnesses a suicide, and as the clues begin to line up, he suspects that the suicide may have to do with a series of child abductions. The dark web holds all the clues. But, Patrick Bowers will stop at nothing to find and save the missing children. Can Patrick solve the puzzle before it's too late?

Steven James threads together another thriller that kept me on the edge of my seat. As each character within Patrick Bowers' community comes under scrutiny, I didn't know where to look. Having read Every Deadly Kiss this year, I enjoyed seeing characters at an earlier stage of life. The characters and story were believable and intriguing.

If you enjoy thrillers, this is for you. But, it's a dark book about child porn and abductions so that was difficult to read about.

Kahri Lynn says

Steven James does it again, except this time it is even more intense. The intensity comes from the subject matter which I did find difficult to get through, at first. I pushed through and it was definitely worth it. As an avid fan of Patrick Bowers, I love reading these prequels and getting to know him better from the beginning as well as Christy and Raven. I highly recommend this to everyone... you can read it as a stand-alone or in the series. Now on to the next one. I am both dreading and excited about finishing the series.

Cara Putman says

Gripping but hard subject matter

In classic Agent Bowers style, the plot races with twists and turns. I loved the introduction to Bowers earlier in his story. Be warned though that the subject matter is hard. Diving into the world of child molesters and pornographers is not an easy one.

Candy says

gritty as usual. The subject matter was difficult being a parent but James writing style is up to par as usual. He is a fantastic author!!!

Ryan Hillis says

Special Agent Patrick Bowers takes down an International Child Abduction Ring!!

Barbara says

FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers was introduced to the world via the "Chess" series of books, which are terrific. This is a prequel to that series. Bowers is present when a man commits suicide, and this event is linked to a series of child abductions and murders. Bowers also finds himself debating whether or not to settle down with Christie and her teenage daughter, Tessa, in NYC or to move to Omaha, where Christie's been offered a job.

This book shows the early years of Patrick Bowers, and how he started with the FBI and his relationship with Christie and Tessa. While Tessa's character can be grating at times, she becomes a key character in later books and the dynamic between her and Patrick is fun to read.

The plot deals with child abductions and murders, and while James doesn't wallow in the subject, it does get very intense. It's very hard to read about the depravity of child pornography. One of the main characters, an FBI analyst, seems to be sliding towards this world himself.

By all means, find Steven James and the Patrick Bowers series. Excellent storytelling and action, and some good character development are in every volume.

Katie says

I hate to be the naysayer, but here it goes...

I read, love, and own the original Bowers files. I love creepy suspense and Steven James fulfills it 100%. However, I struggled with this book. The suspense was there and I didn't guess the plot twists but I didn't believe the timing. This book is supposed to be before *Pawn* but it's written like it's set in 2015. Everyone had a cell phone, recorded cops, twitter, tweeting, etc like it's 2015 with all the media interest in police. But *Pawn* was written years ago before twitter and the crazy attachment to cell phones. Also, it weird to see Bowers in a relationship with someone who is dead in the series. Maybe it would've worked better with a different main character and Steven James starting a new series. But this continuation of the Bowers files did not work for me.

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

Although I didn't figure out who done it, the book felt total deja vu like as if I've read it before.

It was predictable but not, however, very entertaining and had me at the edge of my seat at times.

Certainly a very good read.

While I like this narrator for this series, I found in this book I got confused a few times while listening. He doesn't vary his voice a lot. So when multiple characters came in speaking and he used one voice for them in an earlier scene that matched a new character specifically a female, he would change the pitch if the prior male character and throw me off. But it wasn't too too bad.

Victor Gentile says

Steven James in his new book, "Every Crooked Path" published by Signet gives us another adventure with Special Agent Patrick Bowers.

From the back cover: Who is the Piper? . . .

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Dark, probing, and chilling, Every Crooked Path takes an unflinching look at the world of today's cybercrimes and delves into a parent's worst nightmare as it launches a new chapter of Patrick Bowers thrillers.

"Every Crooked Path" takes place after "Opening Moves" so Patrick is still new to this so while he is still his highly efficient self he does make a few mistakes. Steven James loads his high-octane thriller with so much misinformation and deceit that it takes a lot of concentration just to keep your head above water. The book races along at lightening speed and all the characters are put their paces trying to solve this crime spree and put all the pieces together. "The Piper" is an amazing character and I didn't figure out who he was so well done. Mr. James warns us in his Author's Note that this book deals with online predators. Mr. James does not lead us into the dark web to not just write about evil to magnify it; no, he writes about evil to show how it can be fought, contained and triumphed over. Child pornography and child sex-trafficking is at an all-time high level but it can be defeated. Do not start this book late at night because it will cost you sleep as you will not want to put it down. This is another really great offering from the pen of Steven James. If you enjoy a good adventure thriller then this is the book for you!

If you missed the interview for "The Knight" and/or would like to hear the previous interview where we discussed the first two books and would like to listen to it and/or listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to www.kingdomhighlights.org where they are available On Demand.

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Melanie says

Every Crooked Path is the newest addition in the Patrick Bowers Files and one of the tougher ones for me to read due to the subject matter. While it may have been hard to read, I felt like it was an important story and eye-opening.

As with all of the Bowers' books, I absolutely loved the characters. This glimpse of Tessa with her mom was great, as was seeing Tessa and Patrick connect and get to know each other better. My favorite character, as always, was Tessa. :)

The suspense was phenomenal! I had no idea who the "bad guys" were and was shocked by the ending, as I didn't guess it at all! I really liked how while things were wrapped up in the end, it also left you with a *little* cliffhanger and makes me anxious to read the next Bowers' book.

All in all, Every Crooked Path was a great thriller. I do recommend it, but with a warning. If you are at all sensitive, you might not want to read this story as it deals with child exploitation and things of that nature, which makes it tough to read at times.

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Neil says

Obviously, this was a fast read for me. It had a good flow to it; the character development was decent; it held my interest throughout the whole book. It was a crazy book; it involves the "darker" side of the Internet and apparently the steps somebody needs to take to access it. Some of the characters introduced in this story had good development over the course of the story. The story also had some twists in it that threw me off; I figured out some of it [when the "clues"/hints were pretty much "in your face" in terms of 'the reveal' hahahah] before the end, but there were a couple of parts that did throw me for a loop.

I do not know if I would say the character development for Bowers, Christine, or Tessa was "good" [considering they "first" appear in *The Pawn*, and this is a "prequel" to *The Pawn*]; "stuff" happens in this story that should have influenced their interactions in later novels but doesn't. So, to me, that would be a "weakness" in an otherwise solid story. (view spoiler)

This novel has several discussions involving "pros" and "cons" of different situations [as it were; I should have jotted them down for future reference] - I always enjoy the discussions between Tessa and Patrick. Their conversations are always smart, witty, and Tessa always makes excellent points in her discussions. I also enjoyed their "logic problems" for each other; those were fun to read and to try to figure out.

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

It is a dark book, that is for sure. It looks at "the Dark Web" and how this underbelly of the Internet is used to protect pedophiles, molesters, rapists, pornographers, and murderers, among other scum on the planet. It describes how predators prey upon children and the lengths to which they go to earn a child's trust. While dark, it is not as "spiritually sickening" as some of his other books; I am not quite sure why. Perhaps it has to do with how he does not have "graphic descriptions" of the crime [either being enacted or the aftermath, where they are discussing the acts that took place] like he does in his other books [which is fine with me]. Despite its darkness, it does have elements of light in it, as well.

It also talks about good and evil. It talks about how some of the characters hope there is justice after death and an "eternity" so that those who perpetrate evil against the weak, the helpless, and the innocent, can suffer for their crimes against humanity. It has some good philosophical discussion in the book, that is for sure. It also has some good philosophical discussions about various means by which crimes are investigated as well as why the "age of consent" should not be dropped to age twelve [as some groups apparently advocate].

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

Overall, I enjoyed the book. It was gripping and held my attention all the way through. It had fairly decent character development all the way through. It had some crazy twists and turns over the course of the novel, some which threw me for a loop as I did not see them coming. (view spoiler) It also serves as a "warning"/"wake-up call" about the dangers of cyberspace and how vigilant parents need to be in order to protect their children for as long as possible, as much as possible.

JD Sutter says

Oh my goodness! Such mixed feelings about this book. Gonna have to sort through this for a bit...
