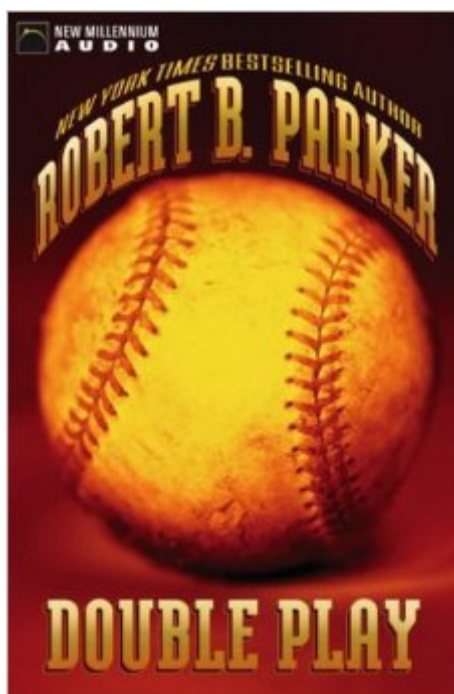


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# Double Play



## Synopsis

Robert B. Parker fans have been quick to embrace each addition to his remarkable canon, from the legendary Spenser series to the novels featuring Jesse Stone and Sunny Randall. And his occasional forays into the past-Gunman's Rhapsody, a fresh take on Wyatt Earp, and Poodle Springs, based on a Raymond Chandler story-have dazzled critics and confirmed his place among the greatest writers of this century. With *Double Play*, he presents us with a book he was literally born to write. It is 1947, the year Jackie Robinson breaks major-league baseball's color barrier by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers-and changes the world. This is the story of that season, as told through the eyes of a difficult, brooding, and wounded man named Joseph Burke. Burke, a veteran of World War II and a survivor of Guadalcanal, is hired by Brooklyn Dodgers manager Branch Rickey to guard Robinson. While Burke shadows Robinson, a man of tremendous strength and character suddenly thrust into the media spotlight, the bodyguard must also face some hard truths of his own, in a world where the wrong associations can prove fatal. A brilliant novel about a very real man, *Double Play* is a triumph: ingeniously crafted, rich with period detail, and re-sounding with the themes familiar to Parker's readers-honor, duty, responsibility, and redemption. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: New Millennium; Unabridged edition (June 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590074270

ISBN-13: 978-1590074275

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 5.6 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (70 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,640,190 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \( P \) > Parker, Robert B.](#) #552 in [Books > Books on CD > Sports & Outdoors](#)

#995 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Religious](#)

## Customer Reviews

*Double Play* introduces a new Parker hero, Joseph Burke, who barely survived a machine gun at Guadalcanal while serving as a Marine in World War II. Back in the states, he doesn't know where he is . . . but he's sure someone's out to get him. After a long physical recovery, his emotional

recovery just begins as the story opens. Burke is a tough guy, and (like Spenser) takes up boxing. But he's better at pounding away and surviving a punch than "floating like a bee" and he soon has to find another line of work. Having scruples makes him a poor enforcer, so he finds himself becoming a body guard. His first job is for a woman who needs to be protected from an abusive boyfriend who's connected . . . and her own bad habits. When that job ends, Burke finds himself in Brooklyn being asked to play the same role for Dodger rookie Jackie Robinson. The book reminds me of Huckleberry Finn with Jim on the Mississippi in many ways, as Burke finds himself not fitting into either the African-American or the WASP communities as he does his bodyguard work. Burke's awareness of what Jackie Robinson is going through grows, and the reader finds himself taken back to a world that we are hopefully leaving behind as fast as possible where race counted rather than what you did. Atop of this setting, Mr. Parker overlays gangland vendettas, a love story and his own perspective as a 15 year old on that fateful season in Brooklyn. For secondary entertainment, you can match up each character in the story to a character from the Spenser books. Although I think Susan would be annoyed to be matched to many of these female characters. The book has a weakness though that's annoying. It's a little too glib and easy about dealing with the racial hatred of the times.

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