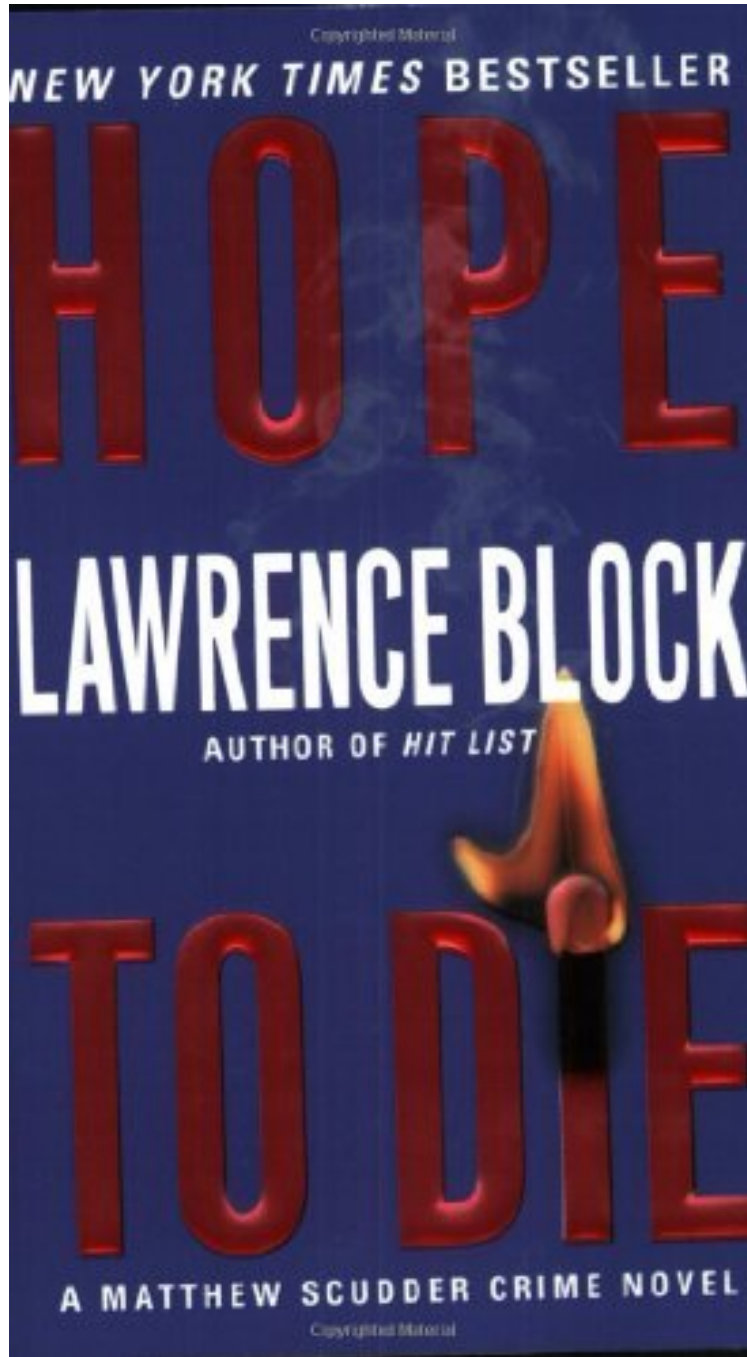


[Download] Hope to Die (Matthew Scudder Mysteries)

Hope to Die (Matthew Scudder Mysteries)

Von Lawrence Block

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Von Lawrence Block : Hope to Die (Matthew Scudder Mysteries) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or

not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hope to Die (Matthew Scudder Mysteries):

KurzbeschreibungThe city caught its collective breath when upscale couple Byrne and Susan Hollander were slaughtered in a brutal home invasion. Now, a few days later, the killers themselves have turned up dead behind the locked door of a Brooklyn hellhole -- one apparently slain by his partner in crime who then took his own life. There's something drawing Matthew Scudder to this case that the cops have quickly and eagerly closed: a nagging suspicion that a third man is involved, a cold, diabolical puppet master who manipulates his two accomplices, then cuts their strings when he's done with them. No one but Scudder even suspects he exists. And his worst fear is that the guy is just getting started ...

From Publishers Weekly
Unlicensed PI Matthew Scudder returns after a three-year absence to investigate the murder of a wealthy couple savagely slain in their Manhattan townhouse. Matt's now 62, and his age shows in this relatively sedate outing. There's less violence than in many cases past, and the urban melancholy that pervaded his earlier tales has dissipated, replaced by a mature reckoning with the unending cycle of life and death. The mystery elements are strong. To the cops, the case is open-and-shut: the perps have been found dead, murder/suicide, in Brooklyn, with loot from the townhouse in their possession. Matt enters the scene when his assistant, TJ, introduces him to the cousin of the dead couple's daughter; the cousin suspects the daughter of having engineered the killings for the inheritance. At loose ends, Matt digs in, quickly rejecting the daughter as a suspect but uncovering evidence pointing to a mastermind behind the murders. Block sounds numerous obligatory notes from Scudder tales past the AA meetings, the tithing of Matt's income, cameo appearances by Matt's love interest, Elaine, and his friend, Irish mobster Mick Ballou and he adds texture with some familial drama involving Matt's sons and ex-wife. His prose is as smooth as aged whiskey, as always, and the story flows across its pages. It lacks the visceral edge and heightened emotion of many previous Scudders, however, and the ending seems patly aimed at a sequel. This is a solid mystery, a fine Block, but less than exceptional. (Nov.)

Forecast: All Blocks sell and Scudder's return will do particularly well, especially with the attendant major ad/promo, including a 17-city author tour. Simultaneous Harper Audio and Harper large print edition.

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From Booklist
Byrne and Susan Hollander are living the good life. He's a lawyer, and she's a writer; their \$3 million Manhattan brownstone is within walking distance of Lincoln Center, where on this particular night, they attend a charity concert. When the concert ends, they walk home. That's when the good life ends: after interrupting a burglary in progress, Byrne and Susan are murdered. Within days, the police find the burglars, both dead, an apparent murder-suicide. Case officially closed. Unofficially, Matt Scudder takes an interest when the Hollanders' daughter hires him to explore the possibility of a third person's involvement. The clues are subtle--mostly circumstantial--but Scudder follows instincts honed over nearly 40 years of police and investigative work. Block, who writes best-sellers and racks up awards in equal measure, adheres to most of crime fiction's formulas, but he still manages to bring a rare depth and power to the genre. Scudder first appeared as a drunken ex-cop wallowing in self-pity, but he has evolved into a sober, often somber, self-aware observer of modern life. Readers of the series know that the hero's journey has been arduous and often painful. The crimes in the Scudder novels are vehicles to take us to the darkest corners of human experience. With Matt as our guide, we emerge from these visits to the dark side a little more fearful but always richer for the experience. Wes Lukowsky

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