



Eclipse: A Thriller

By Richard North Patterson

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Damon Pierce is a gifted California lawyer whose work is starting to seem soulless. Then, from out of nowhere, two life-altering events take place: First, Damon's wife announces that she's leaving him. Next: A woman from his past reappears. Damon could never forget Marissa Brand Okari, his one-time great love. Now, she's in trouble...and Damon decides to do everything in his power to help her.

Marissa's husband, Bobby Okari, is a freedom fighter in a corrupt west African nation—one that's being torn apart by global lust for its vast supply of oil. One day, during a solar eclipse, Bobby leads a high-profile protest rally against an American oil company...only to see everyone in his home village massacred by government troops. Already an enemy of the country's savage dictator, Bobby is promptly arrested. Now it's up to Damon to take on Bobby's case and save him—and Marissa—from almost certain death. And risk his own life in process.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Patterson, a former lawyer turned bestselling fiction author, returns with his latest thriller featuring Damon Pierce, a down-and-out lawyer who finds fresh purpose when contacted by a former lover whose husband is being held captive in the West African nation of Luandi. Peter Francis James takes command of the material, offering up realistic African dialects that chillingly convey the hostage's terror and the ruthlessness of his captors. James's vocal ability creates a stirring experience that is at once personal and emotional while entertaining and theatrical, making for a truly rousing performance. *A Holt hardcover (Reviews, Oct. 20). (Jan.)*

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Richard North Patterson is an anomaly in the whiz-bang world of political thrillers. A meticulous stylist with a keen understanding of human nature—in that sense, at least, his novels recall those of spymasters Robert Littell and John le Carre—Patterson constructs taut, gripping plots without sacrificing his characters' humanity. In *Eclipse*, he handles complex relationships with a "jeweler's eye" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) and his ripped-from-the-headlines story with the sangfroid of an old pro. As the *Washington Post* notes, the novel succeeds on many levels. An endnote gives the book added historical weight, describing its inspiration—the death some 15 years ago of Ken Saro-Wiwa, an environmental and human rights activist hanged by a Nigerian general.

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From [Booklist](#)

Patterson veers away from American politics in his latest and takes readers to the fictional African country of Luandia. California lawyer Damon Pierce responds to a cry for help from Marissa Brand Okari, who he fell in love with years ago but lost to another man, when her activist husband is arrested in Luandia. After Bobby Okari holds a peaceful demonstration in the town of Goro against the oil company PetroGlobal Luandia, he's framed for the murder of three PGL employees. The government's response is swift and appalling: soldiers slaughter civilians in Goro and arrest and torture Bobby. Damon agrees to defend Bobby before a tribunal, despite the extreme personal danger he faces in Luandia and the near certainty that Bobby will be killed. Patterson has done his research, modeling his tale on the execution in Nigeria of the activist Ken Saro-Wiwa. If the result isn't quite edge-of-your-seat thrilling, his descriptions of the complex internal and external politics of Luandia are fascinating. Though most of the time it does feel like Pierce is wielding a "paper sword" (as one character aptly describes his efforts), Bobby's plight and Pierce's efforts in the face of insurmountable odds should engage Patterson fans. --Kristine Huntley

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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