

James Patterson Reads...

Can you tell the difference between a James Patterson novel (for example, [*Alex Cross's Trial*](#)) and the novels [*Mrs. Bridge*](#) and [*Mr. Bridge*](#) by Evan S. Connell? Patterson recently recommended the novels, saying:

“Both Mrs. Bridge and Mr. Bridge capture the sadness, and boredom, of the unexamined life. The Bridge family’s material needs are met – and yet confusion and futility close in and suffocate them. Connell describes their situation with great compassion, and precision. This succinctness, and the many short chapters in *Mrs. Bridge*, were definitely an influence on my writing.... A serious, but highly entertaining novel. It manages to be comic and satirical, but also kind and gentle.”

You can read the entire essay by James Patterson at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120500589&ft=1&f=1032>