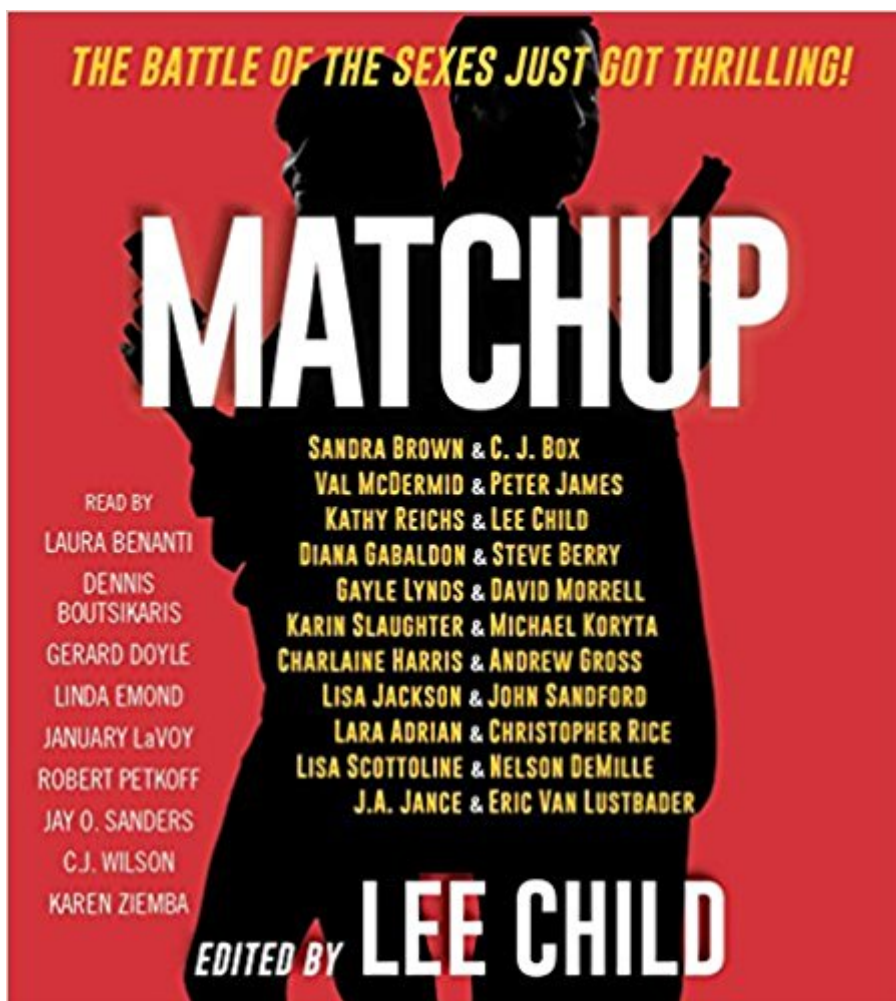


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# MatchUp



## Synopsis

In this incredible follow-up to the New York Times and USA TODAY bestseller *FaceOff*, twenty-two of the world's most popular thriller writers come together for an unforgettable anthology. *MatchUp* takes the never-before-seen bestseller pairings of *FaceOff* and adds a delicious new twist: gender. Eleven of the world's best female thriller writers from Diana Gabaldon to Charlaine Harris are paired with eleven of the world's best male thriller writers, including John Sandford, C.J. Box, and Nelson DeMille. The stories are edited by #1 New York Times bestselling author Lee Child and feature:

- Lee Coburn and Joe Pickett in "Honor & Glory" by Sandra Brown and C.J. Box
- Tony Hill and Roy Grace in "Footloose" by Val McDermid and Peter James
- Temperance Brennan and Jack Reacher in "Faking a Murderer" by Kathy Reichs and Lee Child
- Jamie Fraser and Cotton Malone in "Past Prologue" by Diana Gabaldon and Steve Berry
- Liz Sansborough and Rambo in "Rambo on Their Minds" by Gayle Lynds and David Morrell
- Jeffrey Tolliver and Joe Pritchard in "Short Story" by Karin Slaughter and Michael Koryta
- Harper Connelly and Ty Hauck in "Dig Here" by Charlaine Harris and Andrew Gross
- Regan Pescoli and Virgil Flowers in "Deserves to be Dead" by Lisa Jackson and John Sandford
- Lucan Thorne and Lilliane in "Midnight Flame" by Lara Adrian and Christopher Rice
- Bennie Rosato and John Corey in "Getaway" by Lisa Scottoline and Nelson DeMille
- Ali Reynolds and Bravo Shaw in "Taking the Veil" by J.A. Jance and Eric Van Lustbader

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for MATCHUP "Highly recommended as entertainment, this anthology is a great place to start if you've not yet sampled some of these authors." (Publishers Weekly, starred review) "Even readers who don't love short stories will find this anthology, starring some of the world's best-known thriller writers and most-loved characters, appealing and varied.... This box holds a chocolate or two that will be to everyone's liking." (Kirkus) Praise for FACEOFF "So good it demands a sequel." (Publishers Weekly) "A thriller reader's ultimate fantasy. How cool would it be if a pair of celebrated crime-fiction protagonists, the creations of different authors, teamed up together on a case, in a story jointly penned by the two writers? Even if it was just 1 pair, it would be pretty darn cool, but 11 pairs? Way cool. . . . Great fun for thriller fans." (Booklist) "A marvelous anthology. This innovative concept entertains as each author works in concert with another to deliver a story worth every word on the page." (RT Book Reviews, 4.5 Star Review) "Familiarity with the authors and their creations is a huge plus in reading this collection, but not knowing a particular character or writer should not be a deterrent. . . . Some great collaborations and stories." (The Associated Press) "An impressive accomplishment that celebrates the genre in both style and substance. Enthusiasts will dig it for what it is • an abundance of chills and thrills delivered by an inspired lineup of literary heavyweights • while casual readers just might be tempted to pick it up for the sheer novelty of it all. Regardless of motivation, they will find themselves turning pages late into the night. This just may be the optimal summer read." (Hartford Books Examiner) "A box of chocolates. You can start at one corner and methodically gorge yourself, or study the chart and pick out the caramels. With an anthology, you can start at page 1 and read through, or peruse the table of contents for favorite writers. If the anthology is good enough, it won't matter. And FaceOff is. In fact, it is brilliant. . . . The teaming up is what makes this anthology so special. It's a fair bet that fans will first turn to their favorite authors, but after devouring those stories, try the others. It is like a wonderful box of chocolates -- without the guilt." (The Newark Star-Ledger) "FaceOff is like a literary Mortal Kombat." (The Chicago Tribune) "Pow! That's the sound of thriller fans' heads exploding when they hear the bold premise of this anthology. . . . This collection is 11 fever dreams come true." (Reader's Digest) -- This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Edited and introduced by #1 New York Times bestselling author Lee Child and stories by Sandra Brown, C.J. Box, Val McDermid, Peter James, Kathy Reichs, Diana Gabaldon, Steve Berry, Gayle

Lynds, David Morrell, Karin Slaughter, Michael Koryta, Charlaine Harris, Andrew Gross, Lisa Jackson, John Sandford, Lara Adrian, Christopher Rice, Lisa Scottoline, Nelson DeMille, J.A. Jance, and Eric Van Lustbader.

I bought this book primarily because of the "matchup" of two of my all-time favorite fiction characters, attorney Bennie Rosato (Scottoline) and detective John Corey (DeMille.) I don't generally like short stories, because they are over too soon, and this one was no exception. A full-length collaboration with these two would be like turning a kid loose in Disneyland. I liked the story as far as it went, however. I was disappointed with Diana Gabaldon's contribution. While it had the Scottish setting of "Outlander," and a brief glimpse of Jamie Fraser, it had the same failings as most short stories. There wasn't enough of it. If you enjoy the authors listed here, and you don't get irritated at the short story format, go for it. While I have not finished all of the stories, most of the ones I have read were worthwhile.

As would be expected some stories were more engaging than other some of the other stories. It was interesting to see how each pair of authors engaged each other's character. Most were unique and fun to learn about while some were lacking in character building that would have strengthened the story's plot. Overall entertaining to read and especially fun to read some stories by authors I would not have learned about.

This was a great way to sample some authors of my favorite genre without having to buy an entire book. I did discover several new authors to read, and one or two that did not appeal at all. The results of the collaborations were really great, the introductions really interesting. Great idea. I will probably get the first volume as well.

I loved the premise behind this book, matching up two popular mystery writers to create one story, each using their most popular character. I got to read new stories featuring some of my favorites and got a glimpse of new-to-me characters that are worth checking out further. If you enjoy any of these authors, I would recommend getting this book. And don't just read the ones that your favorite authors wrote--read them all!

These were great short stories by great match ups. Besides the wonderful stories, they introduced me to a huge group of mystery writers that I wasn't aware of. I bought 3 more match ups and I have

also found new books with new characters to read.

Great showcase of the best thriller writers! I love the format of pairing top men and women writers collaborating to create short stories featuring their respective characters together. A must read if you enjoy the thriller genre. Also a great introduction to some top writers I haven't yet read.

John's wife Joanne got this because it had so many authors in it that are favorites. The stories are done so well. The best thing about it is some of my favorite authors have linked with unfamiliar writers. That means I have a whole new set of writers to be excited about and read. Brilliant idea!!!!

Can't really say that this was worth the price, either in money to buy it or time to read it. Far from the best collection of short stories I've ever read, it wasn't the worst, either. Can't really recommend this anthology.

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