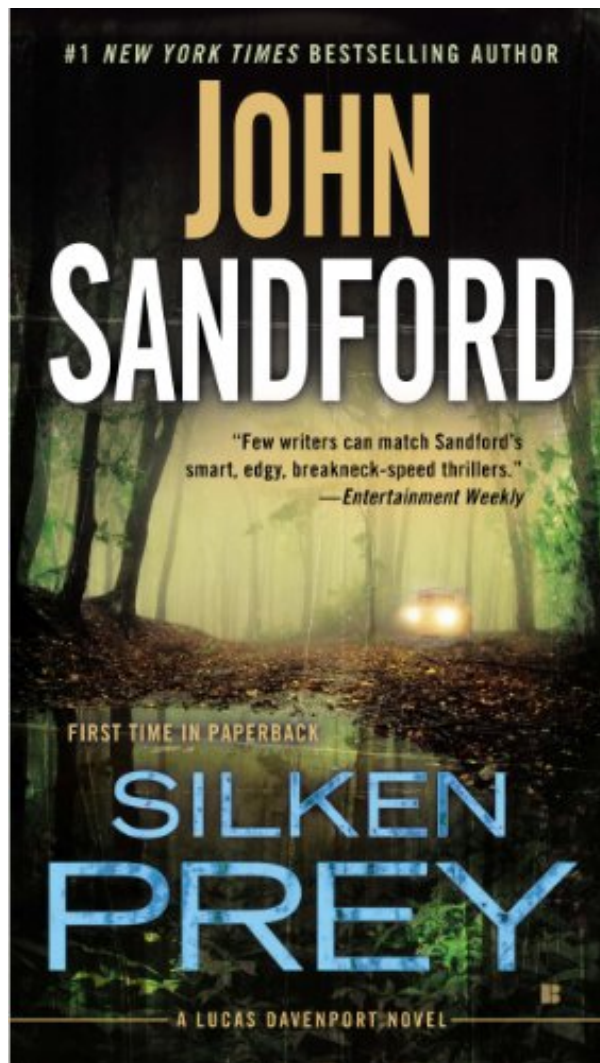


# SILKEN PREY: A LUCAS DAVENPORT NOVEL BY JOHN SANDFORD



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# JOHN SANDFORD

"Few writers can match Sandford's  
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—*Entertainment Weekly*

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Murder. Scandal. Politics. And one billionaire heiress so dangerous in so many ways.

An explosive Lucas Davenport thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author John Sandford.

All hell has broken loose in the capital. An influential state senator has been caught with something very, very nasty on his office computer. The governor can't believe it—the senator's way too smart for that, even if he is from the other party. Something's not right.

As Davenport investigates, the trail leads to a political fixer who has disappeared, then—troublingly—to the Minneapolis police department itself, and most unsettling of all, to a woman who could give Machiavelli lessons in manipulation. She has very definite ideas about the way the world should work—along with the money, ruthlessness, and cold-blooded will to make it happen.

- Sales Rank: #25506 in Books
- Brand: Sandford, John
- Published on: 2014-05-06
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- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 7.50" h x 1.00" w x 4.31" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 464 pages

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"Gunfight at the one-percent corral."

By Luan Gaines

Lucas Davenport gets down and dirty in a thriller that mixes murder and politics, a piranha-filled fish tank where the stakes are high and the money flowing. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agent gets pulled into a campaign scandal by the state's governor, who has political aspirations on the horizon and doesn't need any complications when Porter Smalls, a Republican running for US Senator gets catapulted into the headlines for child pornography on his office computer. The most likely candidate for pre-election dirty tricks is his democratic opponent, the bright, wealthy Taryn Grant, with an oversized ego and extravagant plans for her political future. Once Lucas starts digging, he finds not only carefully buried secrets, but the possible murder of a political operative-for-hire, Bob Tubbs, who has suddenly disappeared.

While the Lucas Davenport of the popular Prey series is adept at solving a wide variety of criminal cases in his position at the BAC, this particular scenario takes him into the rarified world of state politics, an equally comfortable venue for the sophisticated detective, where the anonymity of position and wealth provide cover for those who operate behind the façade of public service (strange bedfellows, indeed). Smalls is an old-school politician, a familiar figure with a clear agenda. His opponent, Grant, is one of a new wave of public servants, smart, attractive and ambitious. One of them is headed to Washington. And like the psychological



environment that favors physical appearance over integrity, Grant appeals to the narcissistic cult that propels public personalities into positions of power.

No slacker, Davenport is tech savvy and eager to use resources he has cultivated over the years. The particular skills of his computer whiz, ICE, and the current-artist/former-hacker, Kidd, add the spice to this thriller that keeps it contemporary. Criminals are conscious of the advantages of technology, but so is Davenport, who relies heavily on it to bolster his case (maybe not usable in court, but a sufficient vehicle of information to take down a sly operator). The behind-the-scenes shenanigans of the political class provide a grim reminder: power is not only a potent aphrodisiac; it is a motive for murder. It's Davenport's job to unravel an ugly scenario of blackmail and murder without a scandal before an important election. The good vs. evil theme of crime novels has been subtly influenced by technology, albeit an indifferent player, providing another shield against responsibility. Silken Prey loses some of the grit of earlier work, but Sandford has his finger on the pulse of his field, in step with the movers and shakers in the state house as well as on the streets of Minneapolis. Luan Gaines/2013.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Involving Story and Interesting People

By Louisa Livingston

The short first chapter opens with letting us know a little about Mr. Tubbs - who often helps people running for election. After midnight, he innocuously opened his door. The next thing he knew was gaining consciousness on the floor of a moving car, his head hurt and he had lots of blood on him. The following chapter introduces us to Lucas Davenport. He's a very interesting person - smart, knowledgeable, thorough, takes his work seriously, pretty easy-going, and not especially interested in politics. The state governor asked him to investigate the disappearance of Tubbs. I enjoyed the banter between Lucas and many of the people in his small town - including the many people he questioned to find out as much as possible about Tubbs's disappearance. Too many people were questioned for me to keep track of who was who.

The story was told well and kept me involved the whole time.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

I can't think of a good reason why it took me so long

By Howard Giordano

This was the first John Sandford book I read. Considering the ton of them he's published, I can't think of a good reason why it took me so long. I found the story of "Sudden Prey" to be a bit tedious in developing, and his characters not terribly interesting. Therefore, I doubt that I'll rush to catch up with all those "Prey" themed stories I've missed, as I suspect I'd find them much the same. That's a problem with writers that get too formula.

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