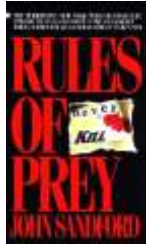


The Lucas Davenport series

By John Sandford

Rules of Prey [1989]

Louis "Maddog" Vullion is a young attorney . . . and a murderer. He kills for the sheer contest, playing an elaborate game for which he has written terrifying rules. Police Lt. Lucas Davenport, a brilliant games inventor, is going to have to outmaneuver the killer's clever plan--to beat the mad dog at his own deadly craft.



Winter Prey [1993]

Called in to assist the sheriff from a remote, rural area of Wisconsin in his investigation into a brutal triple homicide, Lucas Davenport begins to uncover a shocking series of vicious crimes that stun even Davenport with their evil intent.



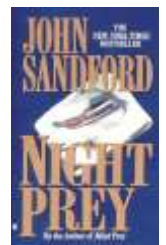
Shadow Prey [1990]

Alle Kurger was a nun, but she was also a psychologist, and when it became clear that the murders were the work of more than one man, Lucas Davenport went to her for advice.



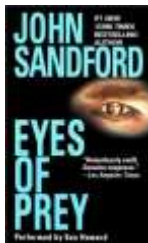
Night Prey [1994]

State investigator Meagan Connell is convinced that Minneapolis has a serial killer on the loose, but the city's police are skeptical. She passes on the case to her deputy, Davenport.



Eyes of Prey [1991]

In *Eyes of Prey*, a depressed and unfocused Davenport takes on a macabre case, tracking down a serial killer whose attacks are focused on the eyes of his victims. With all of his current inner turmoil, Davenport isn't sure that he should accept the case when he hears about the murder of Stephanie Bekker, the wife of a prominent physician. But when a second woman dies, her face cruelly maimed like the first, he feels that clutching intensity of interest that means he is involved whether he wants to be or not.



Mind Prey [1995]

When Davenport hears that psychiatrist Andi Manette and her two young daughters have been kidnapped, he knows instinctively that this will be one of the worse cases he has ever been on. Meanwhile, Andi summons all her skills to battle against an obsessed kidnapper and protect her children.



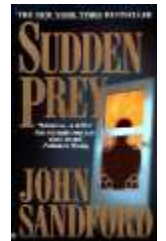
Silent Prey [1992]

When the serial killer he caught years before escapes from captivity, Lucas Davenport uses the occasion to draw his ex-lover into an investigation of rogue cops who have already committed three dozen murders.



Sudden Prey [1996]

The crime spree should have ended when Lucas Davenport killed the female bank robber during the shoot-out. But it's just beginning, because the woman's husband isn't about to let Lucas—or anyone he loves—escape retribution.



Secret Prey [1998]

The company chairman lay on the cold ground of the woods, his eyes unseeing,



his orange hunting jacket punctured by a rifle bullet at close range. Around him stood the four executives with whom he had been hunting, each with his or her own complicated agenda, and each with a reason not to be sorrowful about the man's death. If he read it in a book, Lucas Davenport thought, it would seem like one of those classic murder mysteries, the kind where the detective gathers everyone together at the end and solves the case with a little speech. But it wasn't going to be that easy, he knew. There were currents running through this group, hints and whispers of something much greater than the murder of a single man. He had felt this way not long before, sensed the curling of an indefinable evil, and not only had it nearly gotten him killed, it had lost him his fiancée, who'd never been able to recover from the violence of the encounter. Sometime soon, unless he could stop it, there would be another death, and then still another, and Davenport couldn't help but wonder if maybe this time, the final death might not be his own...

Certain Prey [1999]

Lucas Davenport confronts an entirely new kind of adversary in this harrowing new "Prey" novel. Her name is Clara Rinker, an attractive, pleasant Southern woman – the best hit woman in the business. But when she's hired for a job in Minnesota and a witness survives, that's when Davenport gets on her case – with no idea of the toll that it will take on him.



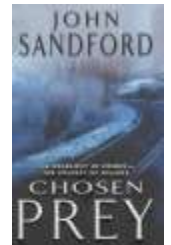
Easy Prey [2000]

In life she was a high-profile model. In death she is the focus of a media firestorm that's demanding action from Lucas Davenport. One of his own men is a suspect in her murder. But when a series of bizarre, seemingly unrelated slayings rock the city, Davenport suspects a connection that runs deeper than anyone had imagined—one that leads to an ingenious killer more ruthless than anyone had feared...



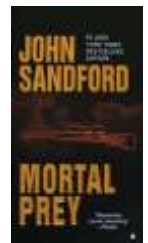
Chosen Prey [2001]

A shallow grave and a pornographic drawing draw Lucas Davenport into a deadly quest for a predator with a single-minded hunger for his chosen prey. In the mist and rain of a Minnesota spring, a shallow grave is found. It contains the body of a young woman, apparently strangled. When the murder is connected with a brilliantly-executed erotic drawing, where the victim's face has been grafted onto a pornographic internet image, Lucas Davenport becomes involved. More of the drawings come to light and Davenport, with the help of a local sheriff's deputy, makes a grisly discovery. The drawings may represent more murder victims, strangled with a starter rope from an antique outboard motor. As Lucas investigates further, he uncovers a web of deceit, related to a series of young women involved in the arts. All of them had some connection to the local university, and all of them had a new boyfriend who remained unseen by their friends. There the trail seems to end until further investigation of the grave site results in a horrific discovery. On the misty, oak-covered hillside south of Minneapolis, the case begins to come together in Lucas' mind, but the mixture of ferocious intelligence and madness which he faces means that the deaths must continue, that the chosen prey must be stalked...



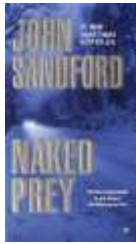
Mortal Prey [2002]

Clara Rinker is a pleasant, soft-spoken, low-key Southerner. She's also the best hit woman in the business. Deputy Chief Lucas Davenport should know – she almost killed him. That was then and this is now. Clara is retired and living in Mexico with her boyfriend, the son of a local drug lord. But her new life is shattered when a sniper's bullet narrowly misses her and kills her boyfriend. The boy's father vows vengeance, but Rinker knows something he doesn't: the boy wasn't the target – she was. Now she is going to have to disappear to find the killer herself. The FBI and DEA draft Lucas Davenport to help track down the missing assassin, and with his fiancé deep in wedding preparations, he's really just as happy to go – but he has no idea what he's getting into. For Rinker is as unpredictable as ever, and between her, her old bosses in



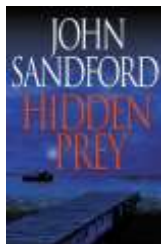
the St. Louis mob, the Mexican drug lord, and the combined, sometimes warring, arms of U.S. law enforcement, this is one case that will get more dangerous as it goes along. And when the shooting starts, anyone standing in the middle won't stand a chance...

Naked Prey [2003]



His old boss, Rose Marie Roux, has moved up to the state level and taken Lucas with her, creating a special trouble-shooter job for him for the cases that are too complicated or politically touchy for others to handle. Of course, Lucas is married now, and a new father, all of which is fine with him; he doesn't mind being a family man. But he is a little worried. If there's one thing Lucas Davenport knows, it's that for every bit of peace you get, you have to pay – and he's waiting for the bill. It comes in the form of two people found hanging from a tree, in the woods of northern Minnesota. What makes it particularly sensitive is that the bodies are those of a black man and a white woman, and they're naked. 'Lynching' is the word that everybody's trying not to say – but, as Lucas begins to discover, the murders are not, in fact, what they appear to be. Neither are they the end of it. There is worse to come – much, much worse... Filled with rich characterization and exceptional drama that are his hallmarks, this is Sandford's most suspenseful novel yet.

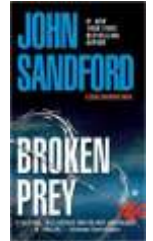
Hidden Prey [2004]



Six months ago, Lucas Davenport tackled his first case as a statewide troubleshooter, and he thought that one was plenty strange enough. But that was before the Russian got killed. On the shore of Lake Superior, a man named Vladimir Orslov is found shot dead, three holes in his head and heart, and though nobody knows why, everybody – the local cops, the FBI, and the Russians themselves – has a theory. And when it turns out he had very high government connections, that's when it hits the fan. A Russian cop flies in from Moscow, Davenport flies in from Minneapolis, law enforcement and press types swarm the crime scene – and, in the middle of it all, there is another murder. Is there a relationship between the two? What is the

Russian cop hiding from Davenport? Is she – yes, it's a woman – a cop at all? Why was the man shot with..fifty-year-old bullets? Before he can find the answers, Davenport will have to follow a trail back to another place, another time, and battle the shadows he discovers there – shadows that turn out to be both very real and very deadly.

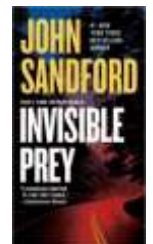
Broken Prey [2005]



The "Big Three" are a trio of inmates locked up in the Minnesota Security Hospital over the years, each a particularly vicious serial killer, each with his own distinct style and propensities. Everybody feels much safer knowing that they're behind bars. Except...there's a new killer on the loose. And his handiwork bears a disturbing resemblance to some of the finer points practiced by the Big Three, details that never even made the papers.

Davenport and his team quickly home in on a possible suspect, a man named Charlie Pope, who was released from the same hospital prison a few weeks earlier, and who now seems to have cut himself free from his court-imposed ankle bracelet and disappeared. But is he really the one? And why do the Big Three look so agitated?

Invisible Prey [2007]



In the richest neighborhood of Minneapolis, two elderly women lie murdered in their home, killed with a pipe, the rooms tossed, only small items stolen. It is clearly the random work of someone looking for money to buy drugs. But as Davenport looks more closely, he begins to wonder whether the items are actually so small and the victims so random – if there might not be some invisible agenda at work here. Gradually, a pattern begins to emerge, and it leads him to...certainly nothing he ever expected. Which is too bad, because the killers – -and, yes, there are more than one of them – the killers are expecting him.

Phantom Prey [2008]

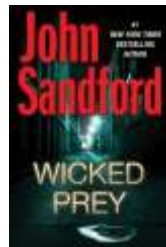
A widow comes home to her large house in a wealthy, exclusive suburb to find blood everywhere, no body – and her college aged daughter missing. She's always known that her daughter ran with a bad bunch. What did she call them – *Goths*? *Freaks* is more like it, running around with all that makeup and black clothing, listening to that awful music, so attracted to death. And now this.



But the police can't find the girl, alive or dead, and when a second Goth is found slashed to death in Minneapolis, the widow truly panics. There's someone she knows, a surgeon named Weather Davenport, whose husband is a big deal with the police, and she implores Weather to get him directly involved. Lucas begins to investigate only reluctantly – but then when a third Goth is slashed in what is now looking like a Jack-the-Ripper series of killings, he starts working it hard. The clues don't seem to add up, though. And then there's the young Goth who keeps appearing and disappearing: Who is she? Where does she come from and, more important, where does she vanish to? And why does Lucas keep getting the sneaking suspicion that there is something else going on here...something very, very bad indeed?

Wicked Prey [2009]

Having spent the past two years in hiding following a daring and successful heist, a big-time robber is back in Minneapolis, having spotted the opportunity for an even greater steal. It's a couple of weeks before the big Republican Party convention: thousands of people spending cash, which is flowing into a relatively inadequate Brinks warehouse, protected by only three or four armed guards. The robber's plan is to distract the cops by manipulating and alerting them to a possible assassination attempt. Lucas Davenport meanwhile has problems of his own, targeted by a psychopathic pimp, who blames Davenport for the fact he's in a wheelchair. Only it's not Davenport he's going after; it's his innocent daughter, Letty.



Storm Prey [2010]

This time, there's a storm brewing... Very early, 4:45, on a bitterly cold Minnesota morning, three big men burst through the door of a hospital pharmacy, duct-tape the hands, feet, mouth, and eyes of two pharmacy workers, and clean the place out. But then things swiftly go bad, one of the workers dies, and the robbers hustle out to their truck and find themselves for just one second face-to-face with a blond woman in the garage: Weather Karkinnen, surgeon, wife of an investigator named Lucas Davenport.



Did she see enough? Can she identify them? Gnawing it over later, it seems to them there is only one thing they can do: Find out who she is, and eliminate the only possible witness...

Buried Prey [2011]

A house demolition provides an unpleasant surprise for Minneapolis – the bodies of two girls, wrapped in plastic. It looks like they've been there a long time. Lucas Davenport knows exactly how long.



In 1985, Davenport was a young cop with a reputation for recklessness, and the girls' disappearance was a big deal. His bosses ultimately declared the case closed, but he never agreed with that. Now that he has a chance to investigate it all over again, one thing is becoming increasingly clear: It wasn't just the bodies that were buried. It was the truth.

Stolen Prey [2011]

Lucas Davenport has seen many terrible murder scenes. This is one of the worst. In the Minnesota town of Wayzata, an entire family has been killed – husband, wife, two kids, dogs. On the wall, in blood: "Were coming." No apostrophe.



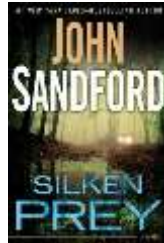
There's something about the scene that tugs at Lucas's cop instincts – it looks an awful lot like the kind of

scorched-earth retribution he's seen from Mexican drug gangs. But this is a seriously upscale town, the husband ran a modest software company, the wife dabbled in local politics. None of it seems to fit. Until it does. And that's when everybody starts coming to town: the DEA, the Mexican Federales, and some independent operators who are decidedly less welcome.

Where it all leads...will take Lucas into the darkest nightmare of his life.

Silken Prey [2013]

At 1:15 a.m., a Minnesota political fixer answers his doorbell. The next thing he knows, he's waking up on the floor of a moving car, lying on a plastic sheet, his body wet with blood. When the car stops, a voice says, "Hey, I think he's breathing," and another voice says, "Yeah? Give me the bat." And that's the last thing he ever knows.

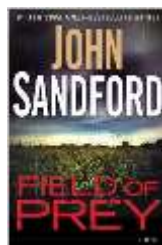


Lucas Davenport is investigating another case when the trail leads to the man's disappearance, then – very troublingly – to the Minneapolis police department itself, and then – most troublingly of all – to a woman who could give Machiavelli lessons. She has very definite ideas about the way the world should work, and the money, ruthlessness, and sheer will to make it happen.

No matter who gets in the way.

Field of Prey [2014]

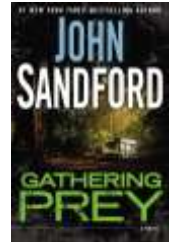
The night after the fourth of July, Layton Carlson Jr., of Red Wing, Minnesota, finally got lucky. And unlucky. He'd picked the perfect spot to lose his virginity to his girlfriend, an abandoned farmyard in the middle of cornfields: nice, private, and quiet. The only problem was...something smelled bad – like, really bad. He mentioned it to a county deputy he knew, and when the cop took a look, he found a body stuffed down a cistern. And then another, and another. By the time Lucas



Davenport was called in, the police were up to fifteen bodies and counting. And as if that wasn't bad enough, when Lucas began to investigate, he made some disturbing discoveries of his own. The victims had been killed over a great many years, one every summer, regular as clockwork. How could this have happened without anybody noticing? Because one thing was for sure: the killer had to live close by. He was probably even someone they saw every day...

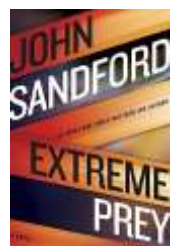
Gathering Prey [2015]

They call them Travelers. They move from city to city, panhandling, committing no crimes – they just like to stay on the move. And now somebody is killing them. Lucas Davenport's adopted daughter, Letty, is home from college when she gets a phone call from a woman Traveler she'd befriended in San Francisco. The woman thinks somebody's killing her friends, she's afraid she knows who it is, and now her male companion has gone missing. She's hiding out in North Dakota, and she doesn't know what to do. Letty tells Lucas she's going to get her, and, though he suspects Letty's getting played, he volunteers to go with her. When he hears the woman's story, though, he begins to think there's something in it. Little does he know. In the days to come, he will embark upon an odyssey through a subculture unlike any he has ever seen, a trip that will not only put the two of them in danger – but just may change the course of his life.



Extreme Prey [2016]

After the events in *Gathering Prey*, Lucas Davenport finds himself in a very unusual situation – no longer employed by the Minnesota BCA. His friend the governor is just cranking up a presidential campaign, though, and he invites Lucas to come along as part of his campaign staff. "Should be fun!" he says, and it kind of is – until they find they have a shadow: an armed man intent on killing the governor . . . and anyone who gets in the way.



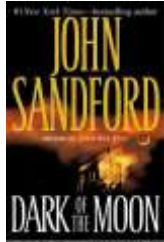
The Virgil Flowers series

Also by John Sandford

Also the author of the **Virgil Flowers** series, featuring characters that cross over with the Lucas Davenport series.

Dark of the Moon [2007]

Virgil Flowers is sent to Bluestem, a small town where everyone knows everyone else, to investigate the murders of a man burned to death in his home and a doctor and his wife, unaware that he is tracking a murderer who may be targeting Virgil as his next victim.



Heat Lightning [2008]

John Sandford's introduction of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension investigator Virgil Flowers was an immediate critical and popular success. Flowers is only in his late thirties, but he's been around the block a few times, and he doesn't think much can surprise him anymore. He's wrong.



It's a hot, humid summer night in Minnesota, and Flowers is in bed with one of his ex-wives (the second one, if you're keeping count), when the phone rings. It's Lucas Davenport. There's a body in Stillwater - two shots to the head, found near a veteran's memorial. And the victim has a lemon in his mouth.

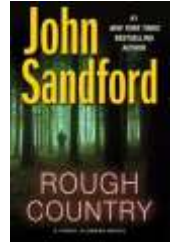
Exactly like the body they found last week.

The more Flowers works the murders, the more convinced he is that someone's keeping a list, and that the list could have a lot more names on it. If he could only find out what connects them all...and then he does, and he's almost sorry he did.

Because if it's true, then this whole thing leads down a lot more trails than he thought – and every one of them is booby-trapped.

Rough Country [2009]

Virgil's always been known for having a somewhat active, er, social life, but he's probably not going to be getting too many opportunities for that during his new case. While competing in a fishing tournament in a remote area of northern Minnesota, he gets a call from Lucas Davenport to investigate a murder at a nearby resort, where a woman has been shot while kayaking. The resort is for women only, a place to relax, get fit, recover from plastic surgery, commune with nature, and while it didn't start out to be a place mostly for those with Sapphic inclinations, that's pretty much what it is today.



Which makes things all the more complicated for Virgil, because as he begins investigating, he finds a web of connections between the people at the resort, the victim, and some local women, notably a talented country singer. The more he digs, the more he discovers the arrows of suspicion that point in many directions, encompassing a multitude of motivations: jealousy, blackmail, greed, anger, fear. Then he finds that this is not the first murder, that there was a second, seemingly unrelated one, the year before. And that there's about to be a third, definitely related one, any time now. And as for the fourth...well, Virgil better hope he can catch the killer before that happens. Because it could be his own.

Bad Blood [2010]

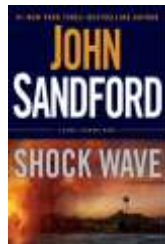
One late fall Sunday in southern Minnesota, a farmer brings a load of soybeans to a local grain elevator – and a young man hits him on the head with a steel bar, drops him into the grain bin, waits until he's sure he's dead, and then calls the sheriff to report the "accident." Suspicious, the sheriff calls in Virgil Flowers,



who quickly breaks the kid down...and the next day the boy's found hanging in his cell. Remorse? Virgil isn't so sure, and as he investigates he begins to uncover a multigenerational, multifamily conspiracy—a series of crimes of such monstrosity that, though he's seen an awful lot in his life, even he has difficulty in comprehending it...and in figuring out what to do next.

Shock Wave [2011]

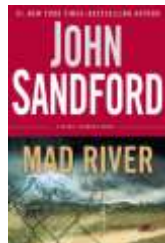
The superstore chain PyeMart has its sights set on a Minnesota river town, but two very angry groups want to stop it: local merchants, fearing for their businesses, and environmentalists, predicting ecological disaster. The protests don't seem to be slowing the project, though, until someone decides to take matters into his own hands.



The first bomb goes off on the top floor of PyeMart's headquarters. The second one explodes at the construction site itself. The blasts are meant to inflict maximum damage – and they do. Who's behind the bombs, and how far will they go? It's Virgil Flowers's job to find out...before more people get killed.

Mad River [2012]

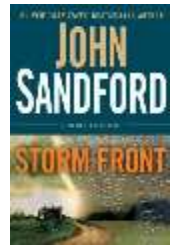
Bonnie and Clyde, they thought. And what's-his-name, the sidekick. Three teenagers with dead-end lives, and chips on their shoulders, and guns.



The first person they killed was a highway patrolman. The second was a woman during a robbery. Then, hell, why not keep on going? As their crime spree cuts a swath through rural Minnesota, some of it captured on the killers' cell phones and sent to a local television station, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension investigator Virgil Flowers joins the growing army of cops trying to run them down. But even he doesn't realize what's about to happen next.

Storm Front [2013]

In Israel, a man clutching a backpack searches desperately for a boat. In Minnesota, Virgil Flowers gets a message from Lucas Davenport: You're about to get a visitor. It's an Israeli cop, and she's tailing a man who's smuggled out an extraordinary relic – a copper scroll revealing startling details about the man known as King Solomon. Bad men are chasing the relic, and they don't care who's in the way or what they have to do to get it...



Deadline [2014]

In Southeast Minnesota, down on the Mississippi, a school board meeting is coming to an end. The board chairman announces that the rest of the meeting will be closed, due to personnel issues. "Issues" is correct. The proposal up for a vote before them is whether to authorize the killing of a local reporter. The vote is four to one in favor.



Meanwhile, not far away, Virgil Flowers is helping out a friend by looking into a dognapping, which seems to be turning into something much bigger and uglier—a team of dognappers supplying medical labs—when he gets a call from Lucas Davenport. A murdered body has been found—and the victim is a local reporter...

Compiled for the
Just Desserts mystery fiction discussion group
Lincoln City Libraries – Lincoln, NE
2/2016 - SDC

