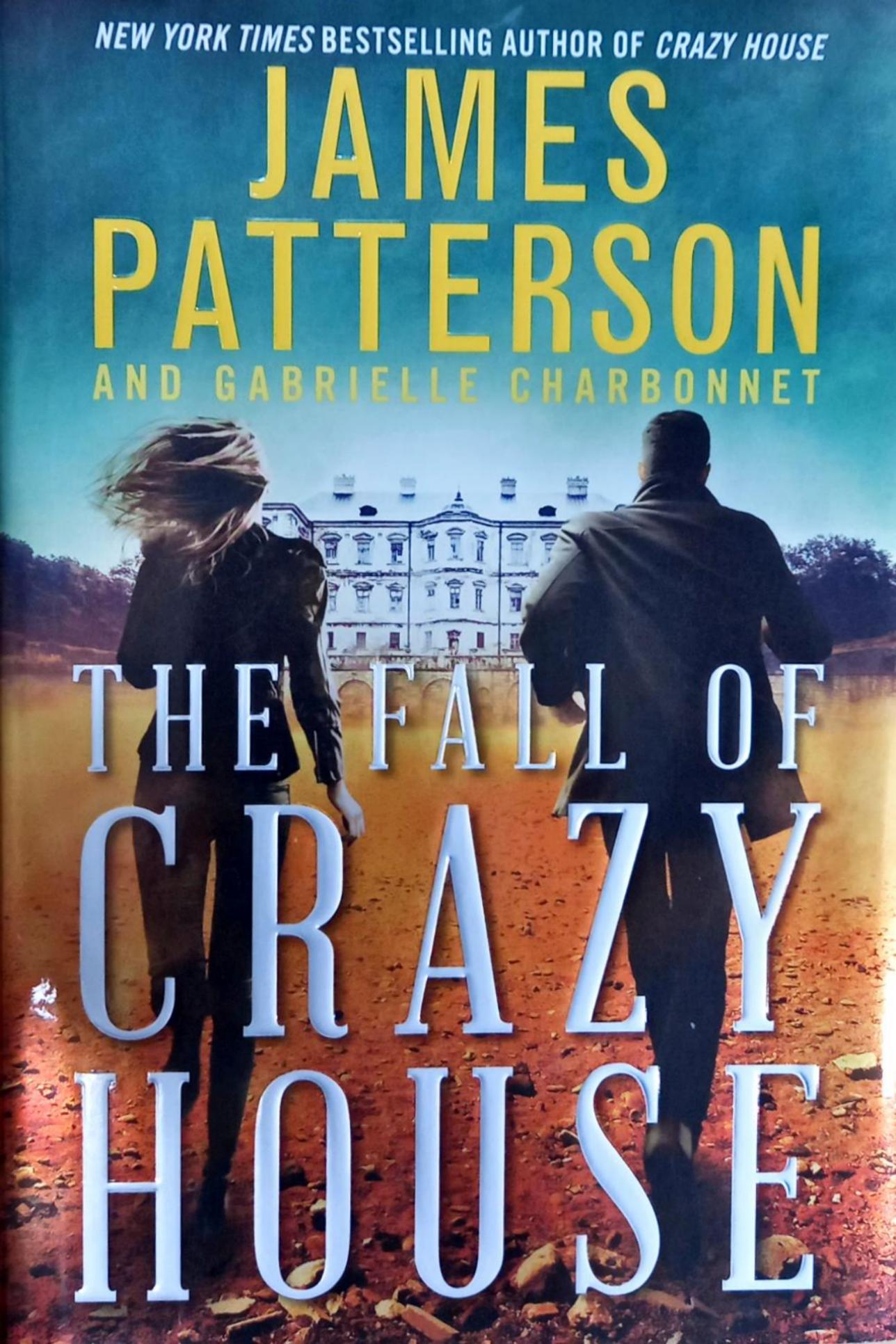


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *CRAZY HOUSE*

JAMES
PATTERSON

AND GABRIELLE CHARBONNET



THE FALL OF
CRAZY
HOUSE

THE FALL OF CRAZY HOUSE

JAMES PATTERSON


AND GABRIELLE CHARBONNET

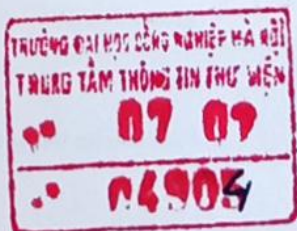


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THE FALL OF CRAZY HOUSE

1

CASSIE

MY HEART WAS BEATING SO hard I was sure the United soldiers could hear it. It radiated out from my sore, bruised chest, ricocheting off the unyielding trees, the ice daggers hanging from every branch. The woods vibrated with my heartbeat, echoing *life...or death. Life...or death.* Over and over.

My hands were numb and I clutched my rifle by instinct rather than feel. With every breath I pulled in, more lung cells froze, iced over, became hard and brittle. I would never recover. Recovering wasn't even the point anymore.

It was me against United soldiers, and my heartbeat betrayed my position every second.

For the last hour, I'd been holding steady, but in the Resistance, simply *staying alive* is the lamest possible default. As much as I

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

James Patterson received the Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community from the National Book Foundation. He holds the Guinness World Record for the most #1 *New York Times* bestsellers, including *Confessions of a Murder Suspect* and the Maximum Ride series, and his books have sold more than 385 million copies worldwide. A tireless champion of the power of books and reading, Patterson created a children's book imprint, JIMMY Patterson Books, whose mission is simple: "We want every kid who finishes a JIMMY Book to say, 'PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER BOOK.'" He has donated more than one million books to students and soldiers and funds more than four hundred Teacher and Writer Education Scholarships at twenty-one colleges and universities. He has also donated millions of

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—**TIME**

"The plot twists will give
you whiplash."

—**WASHINGTON POST**

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