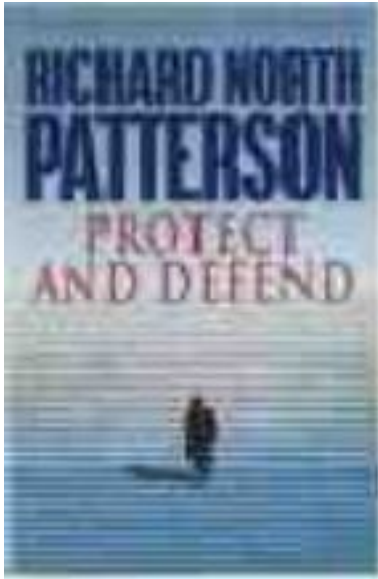


PROTECT AND DEFEND



ISBN:	9780099175520
Autor:	RICHARD NORTH PATTERSON
Categoría:	Literatura
Editorial:	ARROW (RANDOM)

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'She was a girl, really, with short red hair and a waif-like slimness. But despite the flowered dress she wore, her belly had begun to show. Immobile, the girl gazed at the clinic as though it were a thousand miles away.' The young woman is Mary Ann Tierney.

She is fifteen years old. Within days her name will be known to millions across America, her court case a television must-watch for everyone from the President downwards.

As Mary Ann takes on her own parents and the constitutional law of the United States in a desperate bid to protect her future right to bear children, the ramifications of 'the Tierney case' bring a threat to the new President, Kerry Kilcannon, to his nominee for Chief Justice, Caroline Masters, and to his main rival for the Presidency, Senator Chad Palmer. All have dangerous secrets in their past, secrets that would not only threaten careers, but bring death and tragedy to innocent lives.