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I Hunt Killers (Jasper Dent)



Synopsis

The first book in this thrilling, terrifying series by New York Times bestselling author Barry Lyga is perfect for fans of Dexter. It was a beautiful day. It was a beautiful field. Except for the body. Jazz is a likable teenager. A charmer, some might say. But he's also the son of the world's most infamous serial killer, and for Dear Old Dad, "Take Your Son to Work Day" was year-round. Jazz has witnessed crime scenes the way cops wish they could--from the criminals' point of view. And now, even though Dad has been in jail for years, bodies are piling up in the sleepy town of Lobo's Nod. Again. In an effort to prove murder doesn't run in the family, Jazz joins the police in the hunt for this new serial killer. But Jazz has a secret--could he be more like his father than anyone knows? From acclaimed author Barry Lyga comes a riveting thriller about a teenager trying to control his own destiny in the face of overwhelming odds.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I Hunt Killers is an out-of-control hearse with one busted headlight, blood on the grille, a madman at the wheel, and laughter pouring out of the open windows... Climb in, buckle up, and go for a ride."â •Joe Hill, author of Horns and Heart-Shaped Box* "A superb mystery/thriller that explores what it's like to have a monster for a father...but it's Jazz's internal conflict about his exposure to his father's evil that adds extra dimension and makes the book shine."â •Publishers Weekly, starred review

Barry Lyga is the author of several acclaimed young adult novels, including *I Hunt Killers*, its sequel *Game*, and his debut, *The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl*. He now knows way too much about how to dispose of a human body. Barry lives and writes in New York City. His website is barrylyga.com.

I really was drawn into this book. It was so interesting to read about how a child was trying to resist what he thought could possibly be his destiny that simply because his father was a serial killer he was meant to have the same madness he had. His inner conflicts and fighting with himself and how he felt and what he thought was very interesting. I could not read this book fast enough I really enjoyed it. I was slightly unhappy with the ending as it seemed to leave a few questions on answered for me.

This was one of the most psychologically chilling young adult books I have ever read. I'm usually a weenie when it comes to this type of book, but I couldn't put this book down (except for the occasional night)! Barry Lyga really created an intense experience when he wrote *I Hunt Killers*. Jazz is the son of one of America's most notorious serial killers, Billy Dent. Billy has been sentenced to 25 life sentences for the murders he's committed, and Jazz was up close and personal for many of them. Let's just say, this hasn't given Jazz the healthiest of childhoods. The layers that Lyga created within this novel make it so complex and rich. Emotionally, physically, and psychologically, Jazz fights against the legacy of his father and the cold possibility that he is just like "Dear Old Dad". Throughout the events of the book, Billy's voice echoes in Jazz's mind, urging him to act the way Billy wants: heartless and violent. This reality brings up two different arguments: Are we a product of our parents or are we our own person? There is also a layer of nature versus nurture and survival of the fittest. The mix of psychological danger on top of the physical danger makes everything hyper-intense. Speaking of physical danger, while Lyga doesn't go into graphic detail, there are descriptions of murder scenes that don't shy away from the grizzly parts. The way the descriptions are crafted really gets you into the mindset of the murderer, and highlights how screwed up Jazz's life was growing up. This is definitely not a story with a villain who has redeeming qualities; Billy Dent is a sick man, and becomes the boogiemaniac of the novel. But don't think Jazz is without hope because he has some amazing friends in his life to keep him anchored. Howie is his best friend, and has been ever since Jazz saved him from some bullies

when Jazz first moved to town. Howie stands by Jazz no matter what happens, and some bad stuff happens. Connie, Jazz's girlfriend, believes he is more than Billy Dent's son, and that he can make a new life for himself. Without these two, Jazz would probably have done something that he couldn't walk away from. I Hunt Killers is like Dexter wrapped in The Hardy Boys, and is a novel that thrill seekers and mystery buffs will enjoy. Out in bookstores and libraries, this is one book that you shouldn't miss. Believe me, if this weenie can handle it, so can you!

I Hunt Killers was one of my favorite books in 2012. I've been eagerly awaiting this one...and it didn't disappoint. To be quick and spoiler-free...all the best things from I Hunt Killers are alive and well in Game. The slowly tightening noose of psychological suspense, the gritty realities of death and dying--but most of all, the blisteringly honest inner dialogue of Jazz. Two warnings, though...the crime scene descriptions are even more gruesome than in the last book, so squeamish folks and younger teens should read with caution. And the cliffhanger--make sure you're alone when you read it, so you don't frighten anyone with your scream of outrage! Seriously...I almost knocked a star off out of spite for that ending. If you're up for these things, though, be prepared for a hell of a ride.

K This book was a good murder mystery, but it had some weird inappropriate sexual stuff. So if you are trying to avoid that, don't read it. There isn't a whole bunch, but what is there is pretty graphic. Otherwise it is a good mystery. I just wish it didn't have as much sexual content.

Yay for the kindle daily deal which made me willing to take a chance on a book not in my preferred genre. The one thing I wish I'd known before I bought and read this book is it is the story of a 17 year old trying to decide if he's a sociopath or not. From the blurb I thought the story was driven by the hunt for a serial killer. This left me initially frustrated. At 30% I realized it was the story of the boys search to truly understand his nature. And there was a serial killer. Then I was good the rest of the book. The character development was excellent. The protagonist was sympathetic despite his admitted manipulative tendencies. Loved the book.

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