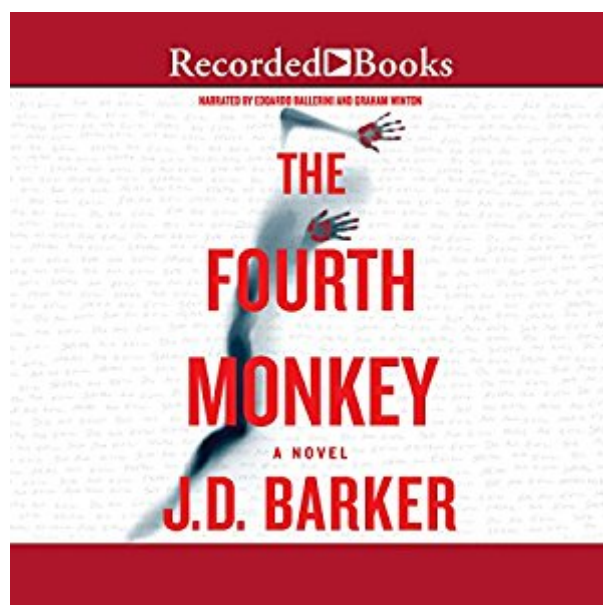


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The Fourth Monkey



Synopsis

Seven meets The Silence of the Lambs in this dark and twisting novel from the author Jeffery Deaver called "a talented writer with a delightfully devious mind". For over five years, the Four Monkey Killer has terrorized the residents of Chicago. When his body is found, the police quickly realize he was on his way to deliver one final message, one that proves he has taken another victim, who may still be alive. As the lead investigator on the 4MK task force, Detective Sam Porter knows even in death, the killer is far from finished. When he discovers a personal diary in the jacket pocket of the body, Porter finds himself caught up in the mind of a psychopath, unraveling a twisted history in hopes of finding one last girl, all while struggling with personal demons of his own. With only a handful of clues, the elusive killer's identity remains a mystery. Time is running out, and the Four Monkey Killer taunts from beyond the grave in this masterfully written, fast-paced thriller.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is like one of those episodes of Criminal Minds where the script spends a long time reveling in the pain and degradation inflicted on the current victim while the 'detectives' standing around saying dumb things to one another and not doing much detecting. The book is more like torture porn than a thriller.

Great book and hard to put down once you started.

Couldn't put it down. Kept you guessing what was next.

Whoo doggie...this is the best psychological thriller I've read since SILENCE OF THE LAMBS. I found myself reading slower than I normally do, savoring each word - and that wasn't always the easiest thing to do since this book contains some of the nastiest pages I've read in...well, forever. The story is set in modern day Chicago and tells of the Four Monkey Killer (4MK), a particularly savage serial killer, and also tells of Detective Porter and Detective Nash with Chicago Metro, that head up the task force that's been hunting this killer for seven years. Part of the story is also told from the serial killer's diary, a nasty piece of work from when he was a child. And that's all I'm going to write about the story because readers need to go into this book without any spoilers. I will say this is one of the best books I've read in years. Every word of it's perfect. I am very thankful that I received this book from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt through Net Galley in exchange for my unbiased review. I liked it so much I pre-ordered my own copy - so I can have the finished version for my library and also so I can support this author.

The Fourth Monkey by JD Barker 5 stars!!!
Sorry it took me so long to visit, I've been a very busy boy.
This book had me at Seven meets Silence of the Lambs, two of my favourite films EVER!! I love my crime thrillers, sometimes when I need a break from the world of romance my other love comes into play. I love CSI, I love Criminal Minds and this book was the perfect mix of the two, along with a gripping, thrilling investigation. JD Barker is a new to me author and if this book is any indication of his talents then I have quite a few books to look forward to. This was a book that I would love to see on the big screen, the scene setting, this authors play on words, an all-consuming plot all led to an unputdownable read, one that held my attention from the very first word until the very last. JD Barker turns the world of criminal thrillers on its head with The Fourth Monkey in so far as it starts with the death of The Fourth Monkey killer, a serial killer that has evaded capture in Chicago for over five years. A serial killer that never leaves any evidence, a serial killer so smart the police have nothing to go on, a serial killer that taunts them, teases them and makes them look like amateurs, time and time again. The clues are all there on the body, now it just needs someone with just as sick a mind to interpret them, to understand them and to find The Fourth Monkey Killers last victim. It is a race against time. Pawns must be sacrificed for the king to fall.
We all know the story of the three wise monkeys, hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil. According to lore there was a fourth monkey do no evil. So why would a serial killer be labelled The Fourth Monkey? Quite a contradiction considering the field this man excels in.

The Fourth Monkey got his name from the three white boxes that he sends to his victim's family, first the ears, then the eyes and then the tongue. While I felt the killing was a necessity for this serial killer, the thrill of the chase was what got this man off. The Fourth Monkey Killer was a master manipulator, he trails bread crumbs, he leads the investigating officers on a merry dance, a dance that had my rapt attention throughout. Detective Sam Porter is the lead on this case and the gift of The Fourth Monkey Killers diary is where it all begins and ends. The diary entries are what gives us an understanding of the man The Fourth Monkey Killer was, a diary that goes some ways into describing the events that moulded the man. From childhood to present all pertinent facts and events are described in all their gut churning glory. A vigilante of sorts who kills the innocent to punish the guilty. The morality of his reasoning will make you think and while you know it is wrong that streak of empathy will keep rearing its ugly head. JD Barker sugar coats nothing. This is a book that will turn your stomach, not only with actions but also with thoughts. I had goose bumps and the fear was real. This author really gets into your head and plays with your mind and that is the sign of an amazing psychological thriller. The twists and turns you will never see coming, the prose utterly engaging and positively chilling, but this is a story that you will never forget and will sickly want more of. Luckily, it was downhill. Mr. Carter had been a large man. This book is incredibly graphic at times and is definitely not for the faint of heart, many a time my hands were over my eyes as if I could somehow shield myself from what I was reading. This is where JD Barker exceeded with the visceral scene setting letting your imagination run riot and mine is extremely vivid. Engaging, absorbing, compelling, intriguing, suspenseful, sick and twisted but as I said above, one unforgettable read. If you love psychological thrillers then this is the cream of the crop. Totally loved every single sick second of it.

I read this book because of the hype surrounding it. Did I like it? Well, I ended up with mixed feelings. The plot revolves around the concept of three monkeys plus one. These convey 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil' and the fourth lesser known 'do no evil'. There is a serial killer who not only follows this but executes the same as well. This story is whodunit search for the serial killer by a cop. Barker is a storyteller. The change in scenes ensures a continuity in the narration. However, I felt something amiss. There were scenes that were described in graphic details. Yet imageries kept popping in a random manner while reading those descriptions. To be honest, I neither felt I was a part of the story nor was I a mute spectator. Hence, in the end I ended up being a reader. This is my personal view. The language is understandable but yes, the book does have mature content. Notwithstanding this, the storyline per se does have the ability to become a

blockbuster. There is a cliffhanger in the end and so I am hoping for an improved version of the story in part two. There are two major characters, an antagonist and a protagonist. However, with many characters being introduced every now and then, the duo didn't have the impact they ought to have had on me. I mean, I didn't end up thinking about a character after finishing the book. To sum up, by the time I finished reading, the ending did disappoint me a bit. Maybe, if it had been reworded a bit, the effect would have been different. The story in toto is really good and very likeable. The plot is a predictable one 'cop versus serial killer'. What makes a difference in such stories is the treatment meted out and the way narration of storyline flows. Keeping in mind a sequel coming up next, this story is good enough to set the tone and tenor. Read it if you love crime stories. P.S - Thank you Maxine and Booklover Catlady Publicity for a wonderful story in exchange of an honest review. The opinions expressed are mine alone without influence of any kind.

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