



The Fifth To Die

J.D. Barker

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In the thrilling sequel to *The Fourth Monkey*, a new serial killer stalks the streets of Chicago, while Detective Porter delves deeper into the dark past of the Four Monkey Killer.

Detective Porter and the team have been pulled from the hunt for Anson Bishop, the Four Monkey Killer, by the feds. When the body of a young girl is found beneath the frozen waters of Jackson Park Lagoon, she is quickly identified as Ella Reynolds, missing three weeks. But how did she get there? The lagoon froze months earlier. More baffling? She's found wearing the clothes of another girl, missing less than two days. While the detectives of Chicago Metro try to make sense of the quickly developing case, Porter secretly continues his pursuit of 4MK, knowing the best way to find Bishop is to track down his mother. When the captain finds out about Porter's activities, he's suspended, leaving his partners Clair and Nash to continue the search for the new killer alone.

Obsessed with catching Bishop, Porter follows a single grainy photograph from Chicago to the streets of New Orleans and stumbles into a world darker than he could have possibly imagined, where he quickly realizes that the only place more frightening than the mind of a serial killer is the mind of the mother from which he came.

The Fifth To Die Details

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Author : J.D. Barker

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review The Fifth To Die for online ebook

Liz says

Let's get one thing out of the way. Don't even think of reading this book if you haven't read the first in the series. It just will not work. There are lots of moving parts here, some of which require the in depth knowledge from 4MK.

The story is told from multiple POVs as the timeline moves along. It's well paced and the story progresses in a linear fashion. This book kept my interest the entire time. It's another gripping, scary book. It's not as gruesome as 4MK, but that's not to say there aren't some gruesome scenes. It's all relative.

It's fascinating to watch all the various investigations, police, FBI and Porter's personal one, all move forward. Yes, there's lots going on here, but it's not difficult to keep track. This is all about the story. This isn't a book with great in depth character development. And know that going in, you need to commit to book three.

My thanks to netgalley and Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt for an advance copy of this book.

Debra says

"You can't play God, without being acquainted with the devil."

4.5 stars

This is the second in the 4MK Thriller series. Although this does work as a stand-alone novel, I strongly encourage you to read the first book in the series, "The Fourth Monkey". Trust me, you will be happy you did and may perhaps even become a HUGE J.D. Barker fan in the process!!! I know I am!

Anson Bishop, the Four Monkey Killer is still on the loose!!!! This guy is seriously playing a mean game of hide and seek! Detective Porter has been called off the hunt to investigate the murder of a missing girl who has been found beneath the ice of Jackson Park Lagoon wearing another missing girls' clothing. It appears there is another killer in the city. Is this the work of Bishop? Nah, the MO doesn't fit. But who? Why? How?

Intriguing.....

Porter just can't let go of the Bishop case. He is, shall we say, obsessed and keeps looking. He does some digging and, in the process, gets in trouble at work, but he still can't let it go. A serial killer has alluded him. He can't let that go. He is going to find Bishop no matter what! Or is he?

So by now, I'm salivating.....

What happens if he finds Bishop? What happens if Bishop finds him first? What happened with the girl

found under the ice? Who is the other killer????

I loved the parts with the other killer and his victims in this book. Man, was he deliciously evil in a twisted-guy-who-creeps-you-out kind of way. He was seriously messed up! While reading I kept wondering "what the heck is he looking for?" and "what is HIS story?" Well, as I kept turning the pages (I read this on a kindle, but you know what I mean!), I learned his story - part of it at least. Color me intrigued.

There are two different story lines going on in this book and it doesn't appear that they are connected but.... well, as differing story lines go...they often find their way together one way or another! J.D. Barker must have a very creative, imaginative and twisted mind, which I am thankful for! Plus, there is going to be another book in this series. When I got to the last page, I believe my words were "Are you fucking kidding me? Are you SERIOUSLY kidding me? That's it?????" As frustrating as that last page was, I have to say, well played Barker, well played.

So, the series will continue, and I will be there with bated breath wanting, no needing, to find out what happens next! I know it is going to be good! It must be!

Again, yet another well written book by J.D. Baker. Obviously, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I did enjoy "The Fourth Monkey" a tad bit more, but this was still very good. For me this book really shined when showing the new killer and the girls he kidnapped. Barker does a good job at keeping the reader guessing as to what this guy's motivation was and what he was hoping the girls would see. An added plus was the addition of Bishop's mother. Mom-of-the-year she was NOT! For those who read the first book in the series, you will know what I mean! Even she is creepy. I think there was a creep-a-thon going on in this book!

So, I think it is safe to say, I enjoyed this book and I think most of you will too!

Thank you to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and NetGalley who provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. The opinions in this review are my own.

See more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

Helga says

Where do I begin?

I am confused and my head aches, but in a good way. I NEED to read the first book again!

I loved The Fourth Monkey. We had a great relationship and understood each other. Ours was a considerably smooth journey.

The Fifth To Die? I am wrecked! I feel like I have been thrown in a washing machine and then left to dry in a desert all by my lonesome! Our devastating liaison is scandalous and outrageous.

I am using big words because there is no other way to describe this hurricane.

Talk about suspense! I need some time to heal. I need to sleep!

If you decide to read The Fifth To Die, STOP! First take a deep breath. Make sure you DO NOT begin late at night (unless you want to look like a zombie in the morning) and that you have done all your important chores and there is nothing or no one to interrupt you. Go grab The Fourth Monkey and start from there.

Happy reading!

Thanks to J.D Barker, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and NetGalley for providing me with a copy.

Krystin Rachel (Here's The Fucking Twist) says

My book ish: Blog | Insta

This is what you have to know going into the 4MK series:

This story is a marathon, not a sprint.

And I'm not just talking about this particular book, number two in the series.

J.D. Barker has crafted a rich, intricate world full of robust, personality-driven characters, and advanced story telling technique. And he is presenting it to us, the reader, one giant novel at a time.

You don't get conclusions around here. There is no end until it ends.

It's a train that never stops. It is always moving towards the next destination in this 4MK world where you'll be given new threads and new clues and new revelations that puts one more puzzle piece into the jumbled picture that is Anson Bishop and Detective Porter.

This series is detailed, not so much in visual description, but in depth of narrative and connections. They are flying all over the place, from past to present, from case to case. It could be too much maybe for some readers, but for me, it filled me with joy at how vast this puzzle really is.

And I don't want to oversell this, but HOLY SHIT, YOU GUYS, IT'S THE GREATEST THING OUT THERE RIGHT NOW ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

...yeah, that feels like the right amount of cap locks.

I won't attempt any kind of synopsis because it's just too much story to boil down into a neat little paragraph that will make any kind of coherent sense. But I will say there is a case of girls disappearing, being stuck in a basement cage like every good serial killer is want to do. There are dead bodies. There is an FBI takeover. There is a prison break. There is Anson's mother. There is a weird guy with a lisp and scars on his head. There is Porter doing a lot of travelling trying to figure out just what the fuck 4MK is up to. And there are more of Bishop's diary entries.

In the end, some things makes sense, but this really is a case of raising more questions than it answers.

And, yeah, that's about as much as I can tell you.

This is a not a book you can jump into without reading the first in the series. I mean, you could, but you'd be missing out on half of the beauty of what J.D. Barker is doing with this series.

This is a very intense and thoughtful nemesis epic. EPIC. E.P.I.C. It has elements of the Hannibal/Clarice

relationship. Or Archie and Gretchen. Good vs. Brilliant Evil.

Honestly, Bishop is just the fucking shit. He's so purely demented, and so maniacally intelligent that he makes things not only scary and thrilling, but fun too. We aren't people that want others to be murdered...but at the same time, if it means Bishop remains free, than yeah, kill away buddy!

If you want to **really** enjoy this book, you need to enjoy all that came before it. You need to know the relationship between Bishop and Porter from the very beginning, and become emotionally invested in all it's dark, creepy aspects. So if you haven't already gotten into this series, do it. Now. Run, don't walk. Pick up number one, *The Fourth Monkey*, and get read for number two, *The Fifth to Die*, when it comes out in July.

I've seen some reviews suggesting this can be read as a standalone, but in my honest opinion you'd be doing yourself a giant disservice by reading these out of order.

The only reason I'm calling this 4.5 stars instead of 5 is really because there wasn't as much action in this one as I was hoping. The first book was a mile a minute. It literally blew my mind. I'm still picking up the pieces. But this book focused more on the discovery of Bishop's past, how he got to be who and what he is, and less on the "serial killer" aspect of this serial killer thriller. I think it was brilliant, but it was missing that last, teeny-weeny little bit of **oomphf**.

Don't get me wrong, it's a bomb-ass book, it just a little bit more information heavy than I was expecting after reading *The Fourth Monkey*.

Okay, so for the rest of the review, I'm basically just going to be fangirling over J.D. Barker because at this point, after reading this and dealing with that cliffhanger, I'm convinced he's a motherfucking genius.

After I read *Into the Black Nowhere* I wanted to start a religion for Meg Gardiner. And I think it's only fair that J.D. Barker is brought into the fold. (I'm still only in the planning stages, so it's really not that difficult to alter the scripture.)

Like, if Meg Gardiner is god, then J.D. Barker is Jesus. Meg Gardiner is the water, J.D. Barker is the ice. They're taking on different forms, but are essentially the same energy.

Let me know if you're interested in going this cult...er, religion.

I'm open to robe/uniform suggestions and whether or not we should all just move into a spiritual commune together. I'm picturing something like The Source Family in LA back in the 70s, but you know, based around crime fiction and not on all having sex with each other. But I'm open to that too.

Just call me Father Yod.

Praise be for Barker, the ultimate literary god. His voice is so unique, his thoughts so twisted and his ability to create a story that never stop is unmatched. He's the serial killer epic master.

4.5 stars rounded up!

book source: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt via NetGalley in exchange for a review.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

The first book in this series *The Fourth Monkey* was one of my favorite reads last year...so when I saw this sequel go up I started looking a bit like this....

I usually just jump into series books wherever I want too but with these you are going to have to read them in order because you'll be totally lost...and you will miss out on some crazy time goodness.

Everybody is back from the first book and now some missing girls are starting to turn up. The town is still all creeped out from old Monkey Killing serial killer and they automatically think it is him. The MO is different but this is some gruesome happenings and well..the boy likes to play.

The killer completely stumps the team and the lead detective from the first book gets himself suspended during this investigation. That ain't gonna stop him if you have ever read the thrillars you would totally know that.

So stuff happens.

Now why didn't I go completely fangirl over this one? I think it's a case of second book syndrome..sometime it happens. There are some moments that I felt like the story went all over the place and lost me for a few. (That's not hard to do) Then that ending.....

I'll still read whatever this dude writes because I'm already drooling for the next one.

If your READING jam is serial killers you are totally gonna love these also. I capitalized the reading because everyone already thinks I'm a bit nuts.

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review.

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

???

Book two and follow-up to the wildly successful, **The Fourth Monkey**. And if you thought *that* one was dark and creepy...well friends, expect some sleepless evenings in your future! This one will leave you up all night with the lights on!

I won't get into any details about the storyline to avoid giving something away. (You're welcome!) But do be sure you start with book one – the author uses several tie-ins, setting the stage for this read. It helped readers like myself who read it many months ago.

This book is long! OY! At times, I felt like I was reading in slow motion, making little progress. Even though I'd devoted an entire weekend to reading!

A dose of patience! On one hand, it's a race against time. But on the other, it seemed to just be drifting with no true direction.

And the ending...well that just left me a bit (ok, maybe more than just a bit) frustrated!! Once you read this one you'll know what I mean. But now of course I'm anxiously waiting for the next in the series...because there has to be one more...right?!

A traveling sister with Brenda and Susanne!

Thank you to Edelweiss and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Ellen Gail says

You can't play God without being acquainted with the devil.

That cliffhanger needs to be unhung right now.

If you've read *The Fourth Monkey*, (and if you're reading this, you really should have), you will be quite familiar with J.D. Barker's love of a good plot twist. And boy oh boy is *The Fifth to Die* loaded with them. Quite a few I liked and one very big one that I have some...feelings about.

SERIOUSLY WHAT!? What was that ending?

So this sequel picks up with Detective Porter and his squad of sassy and badass detectives no longer on the *Fourth Monkey* case. That's federal territory now. They have plenty to occupy them though, especially when a girl's body is found frozen in a lagoon under seemingly impossible circumstances. But can Porter learn to let go of his obsession with Bishop (and now his mother?) And how far will he have to go, even into his own mind, to risk catching him?

So, lets chat. First, as far as serial killer novels go, this is top notch. I can't even imagine how difficult it must be to develop such a sadistic yet intriguing character, THEN create a detective to be a sort of foil. Gives me total Will Graham/Hannibal Lecter vibes.

Second, the chemistry between the team is AMAZING! I loved the addition of Sophie Rodriguez from *Missing Children*. She fit right in with Detectives Porter, Nash, and Norton, and Kloz the IT guy. I even liked FBI Agent Poole, though he wasn't exactly part of the team. Like creating this kind of chemistry between a group of coworkers and/or friends is no easy task.

I also liked that we got the victims' POV again! The layout in general is pleasing; multi-perspective but not too many, interspersed with whiteboard updates and diary entries.

A girl can't just disappear in today's world, not with cameras and the Internet everywhere. A girl disappears completely, and you gotta know something bad happened.

As far as the plot goes, my feelings trend positive, but there are some things that bug me. I did like that the story took a different direction. You couldn't just shrug and say, 'whelp, that dude is cutting off ears again, the rascal'. Where would be the fun in that? And it wouldn't have felt authentic to his character either. Bishop is many things, but he's not boring.

To discuss a spoiler real quick, (view spoiler)

The Fifth To Die is a really solid and exciting sequel, and a series I'd be happy to see continue.

p.s. I'd totally read a spin off staring Clair and Sophie as they terrify high school children and eat mini donuts.

Big thanks to Edelweiss and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the review copy!

all quotes were taken from drc and are subject to change

Jilly says

(Warning - slight spoiler from the first book ahead)

First thing: You HAVE to read the first book to understand this one, and if you read it a while back, do yourself a favor and reread the diary part of it before starting this. There is barely a touch of re-capping and you will miss a lot unless the diary is pretty fresh.

Plus, it's a creepy killer's diary. What's not to love?

The diaries of monsters are so entertaining!

This book wasn't as good as the first one - for a while. It took a few more pages until I was glued to it, but don't worry, by the end I was giving it a standing ovation. In my head. You know, sitting there expressionless. That's how I roll.

I never seem to give the correct reaction to things.

We get to follow around the cop friends we made in the first book, but our main guy is kinda in trouble for letting the serial killer escape in that one. Sheesh! Picky, picky!

It's in the FBI's capable hands now. They will totally catch the guy. But, that's okay because our team has their own case to solve. And, it's totally not related. At all. Back off, FBI!

I said BACK OFF. You didn't see anything. Good day, sir!

Now, you might think from my happy little silly jokey review that this book is all fun and sunshine and unicorns. You would be wrong. It's dark. Really dark. There are horrible things happening, so don't read it if you don't like murder, death, evil, and mayhem.

Luckily, it's not in cursive, so go for it, Millennials!

Theresa Alan says

J.D. Barker will keep you awake well past the time you should go to bed. This is a taut, well-done thriller. I'd advise you to clear your schedule so you can do nothing but turn pages as quickly as you can.

However, my other recommendation to you would be this: Unless you have a great memory, maybe wait until all the books in this series are complete so you can just read them one after the other. THESE ARE CLIFFHANGERS, NOT TRUE STANDALONES.

I read *The Fourth Monkey* a year ago and was mildly traumatized by it (because of the descriptions of the torture of the girls kidnapped—there wasn't tons of details of that, but enough to set my teeth on edge). I should have been traumatized by this one, too. I really hope it isn't a measure of me becoming desensitized to torture that I wasn't. I would definitely read that book before this one.

On the off chance you need a plot review, here goes: Basically, what appears to be a new serial killer is in town when the body of a girl missing three weeks is found trapped in ice—wearing another girl's clothes. *The Four Monkey Killer* (4MK) is still on the loose, and Detective Sam Porter is secretly still after him (even though that case has been given to the Feds), even while after this new guy.

This is a well-written, well-paced book. One pet peeve: Why does Barker refer to all the male cops by their last names throughout the novel and all the female cops and characters by their first names?

If you're a person who doesn't mind waiting a year to find out what happens, (please say this is only a trilogy, and they'll catch 4MK at some point?!) this is a great read.

Thanks so much to NetGalley and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the opportunity to review this book, which RELEASES JULY 10, 2018.

For more reviews, please visit: <http://www.theresaalan.net/blog>

Susanne Strong says

4 Stars

The body of a young girl named Ella Reynold's is found in a Lagoon, frozen under the ice, yet forensics show she drowned in salt water. The mystery, besides the fact that she has been murdered? She is wearing different clothes than the ones she went missing in. Turns out they belong to a different girl named Lili Davies, whose body turns up shortly thereafter, having drowned the same way. Porter, Nash and Clair & Kloz investigate and unfortunately for them, the body count continues to rise. It has to be a serial killer and while the signature is different than 4MK's, they can't help but wonder.

The FBI, including Agent Poole, took over 4MK's case and though the FBI is headquartered at the department, they cut the police out of the investigation completely. Porter however, can't let it go, thus he takes off on his own to try and find Bishop, who continues to haunt him, whether he likes it or not.

These two separate suspense stories intertwined in a fascinating way that left my head spinning and my heart racing. This one is a doozy. While not quite as captivating as the first book, "The Fourth Monkey," (which I suggest you read before this one) "The Fifth To Die" - is a worthy follow up that kept my attention and scared me just a little.

This was a sister read with Brenda and Kacey.

Thank you to NetGalley, Edelweiss, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and J. D. Barker for a complimentary copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on NetGalley, Edelweiss, Goodreads, Amazon, Twitter and Instagram on 6.19.18.

Meredith says

I'm not going to lie, The Fifth to Die pissed me off. At the same time, it was a riveting and intriguing read.

I am keeping this review vague to avoid spoilers. This also won't make much sense if you haven't read 4MK.

Let me begin by saying that *The Fifth To Die* is a whole lot of book to process. There are multiple story lines, multiple POV's and multiple bad guys. There's just too much going on for me to even attempt to write a summary.

At first, things feel a little disconnected. I was waiting and struggling and waiting and struggling and then finally everything began to come together and clicked! Once it did, I was riveted. **But then I got to the last page, which is when my anger set in--I yelled for a bit. OK, maybe for longer than a bit.** This is a really long book and there's not exactly a payoff. However, at the same time, I could have kept reading and reading and reading, which is always a good sign. **I am ready for book three NOW.**

There is a lot of development with Porter's character and some intriguing revelations about his past. And of course, Bishop, aka 4MK, is wonderfully creepy. But I wanted more of him. I enjoyed Poole's character as well. There's also a new killer. **While he was twisted, I wish he had been even more twisted (this says a lot about me). The addition of Bishop's mother is chillingly fabulous!**

So if you decide to read *The Fifth to Die*, be prepared to feel a little angry; you will be left wanting more.

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley and St. Martin's Press/Minotaur Books in exchange for an honest review.

Christine says

4.5 stars (rounded to 4 stars)

Holy cow, what a thrill ride! Despite that, this one was hard for me to rate. There are some really 5+++ star features, but also some things that I really didn't like.

First of all, do not even try reading this without reading the first book, *The Fourth Monkey*. It is just not an option. I had to suspend reading early on and go back and re-read 10-15% of *The Fourth Monkey* (which I read a year ago) just to refresh enough to get my bearings. Talk about a flow-breaker. I was a little miffed that there was not enough backstory in the current book to get me up to speed without having to backtrack to the first book.

Once I got oriented, the book took off! There are dual plotlines, both highly gripping. We are back in the chase for 4MK and possibly for other killers as well. There are several investigations going on at once in three different cities. There are 134 relatively short chapters allowing for all the investigations to be covered at the same time. PLUS, we have more of 4MK's diary! This was a highlight in the first book and definitely a high point of this book as well. If this sounds confusing, it's not. It is very well written, but again you need to have the background of *The Fourth Monkey* to follow this one.

Detective Sam Porter is in trouble with his superiors in this book, but that doesn't keep him chained to his easy chair. It does allow us to see the rest of his team in action without him. Clair Bear, Kloz, and Nash are prominently featured doing their thing. There isn't a lot of character development of the good guys, but for once that didn't bother me because the investigations themselves are so deliciously engrossing. Oh, and of course, we get 4MK's diary to study—talk about a character study!

I got tired of the scenes of the teenage girls in captivity with the sicko. I think the more I read thrillers, the less tolerant I am of these scenes. They don't do much for me other than make me wish them to be shorter. It doesn't take much for me to appreciate how evil and twisted someone is.

The last 40% of the book was fabulously suspenseful. I didn't know what the hell was going on (in a good way) and enjoyed racking my brains trying to figure it all out. I defy anyone to predict what happens. The ending was a stunner. Well done, Mr. Barker, very well done indeed. But did you have to leave those great big loose ends? I guess you did, as I hear you are planning to conclude the saga with a third book! I do think knowing that almost cancels out my irritation over the lack of a nice red bow at the finish.

This is a true 4.5 read for me. It is way better than the usual 4, but the demerits noted above won't let me rate it a 5. I do know one thing—I'll be there when book 3 is available. I highly highly recommend this little series. Just don't jump into the middle of it!!

Many thanks to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Net Galley, and J.D. Barker for an ARC of this novel. Opinions are totally mine and are not biased in any way.

Carrie says

The Fifth To Die by J.D. Barker is the second installment of the 4MK Thriller series. A police procedural series in which the detectives have been tracking a serial killer known as the Four Monkey Killer. Picking up where the story had left off it would be best enjoyed reading in order to get to know the characters and what had happened up to this point.

The story now has resumed with Detective Porter and the rest of the team having been pulled from chasing the Four Monkey Killer but Porter just can't let the case go. As a new body is found frozen beneath a lake it becomes apparent that this is a new killer on the loose but Porter goes against orders and continues his search meanwhile the other detectives begin to track down the new killer.

With the detectives separated in this installment the story is told from multiple points of view all throughout. There are also still peeks into the diary of 4MK that Porter has hung onto. As both are going on it's a bit like following two different stories but as with most books you know things will eventually come together once again and learning just how definitely keeps the pages turning.

I would warn once again that this series is dark and disturbing and can be quite graphic but when chasing someone as twisted as a serial killer the content wouldn't be sunshine and roses. Being someone that can be hit or miss with a police procedural I loved the first book of the series and was looking forward to this second and rejoining the detectives once again. The casework seems realistic, the detectives likable and the story has plenty of twists and turns. This one did seem a bit long to me and perhaps could have moved a tad bit faster but overall it was right back to what I had come to expect from the series and now the wait begins yet again.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

(Bern) Mom to 2 Posh Lil Divas says

? WOW! This book left me in a tailspin, wanting more! Book 3 ASAP please J.D. Barker! ?

?

Where do I begin? There was A LOT going on here but it's important to note that you can NOT dive in if you haven't read Book 1 - The Fourth Monkey. These books are highly intertwined and the storyline flows through each of them. You definitely need the backstory from the first book, in order to fully appreciate this

one.

?

In **Fifth to Die** Detective Porter is still obsessed with pursuing serial killer Anson Bishop, even when it means putting his career and possibly his life on the line. Porter's team is faced with a new case - missing girls. The first girl is found frozen in a lake, wearing another missing girls clothes. Can these missing girls be connected to 4MK?

?

Porter decides to continue chasing Bishop unbeknownst to the rest of his team. Porter essentially goes rogue and things get complicated - very complicated. Bishop has an intricate network of associates adding to the twists & turns. Everyone continues to be several steps behind him as they work to put the puzzle pieces together. I honestly enjoy how his mind works - *he is a brilliant sociopath!*

?

Overall, this was a solid continuation to the 4MK storyline. It definitely leaves you wanting the conclusion but also fills in some essential gaps.

Thank you to NetGalley, J.D. Barker and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for providing an advance reader copy in exchange for an honest review.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: Darkness.

It swirled around him deep and thick, eating the light and leaving nothing behind but an inky void. A fog choked his thoughts - the words tried to come together, tried to form a cohesive sentence, to find meaning, but the moment they seemed close, they were swallowed up and gone, replaced by a growing sense of dread, a feeling of heaviness - his body sinking into the murky depths of a long-forgotten body of water.

ABOUT THIS BOOK: In the thrilling sequel to *The Fourth Monkey*, a new serial killer stalks the streets of Chicago, while Detective Porter delves deeper into the dark past of the Four Monkey Killer.

Detective Porter and the team have been pulled from the hunt for Anson Bishop, the Four Monkey Killer, by the feds. When the body of a young girl is found beneath the frozen waters of Jackson Park Lagoon, she is quickly identified as Ella Reynolds, missing three weeks. But how did she get there? The lagoon froze months earlier. More baffling? She's found wearing the clothes of another girl, missing less than two days. While the detectives of Chicago Metro try to make sense of the quickly developing case, Porter secretly continues his pursuit of 4MK, knowing the best way to find Bishop is to track down his mother. When the captain finds out about Porter's activities, he's suspended, leaving his partners Clair and Nash to continue the search for the new killer alone.

Obsessed with catching Bishop, Porter follows a single grainy photograph from Chicago to the streets of New Orleans and stumbles into a world darker than he could have possibly imagined, where he quickly realizes that the only place more frightening than the mind of a serial killer is the mind of the mother from which he came.

MY THOUGHTS: OMG! Intense! Mind-blowing! Bizarre! Addictive! Twisted and twisty. . . Never saw that coming. Full marks Mr Barker, you utterly sucker-punched me with that one.

I remember going to the movies as a child, a vastly different experience to what it is today, and before the main feature there would be a newsreel, a cartoon or two, and a serial. The sort where, at the end, the girl is tied to the railway tracks with a train approaching, the hero riding hell-for-leather to get to her before the train did. Cliffhanger to ensure you returned the next week which, of course, we did.

Reading The Fifth To Die is like that. Don't expect any resolution baby, because you ain't gonna get it. You are going to be left teetering on the edge of a cliff, the ground crumbling beneath your feet as the villain races towards you from one direction intending to push you off, and the good guys race towards you from the opposite direction intent on sweeping you to safety. All you can do is stand there helplessly wondering who is going to get to you first. . . and let me assure you that, unlike the old serials, the outcome is not guaranteed!

But this is one hell of a ride. One that will leave you breathless, exhilarated, and screaming AAAAARRGH! when your heart is pounding, your blood racing, and the final sentence reads 'To be concluded. . .'

Mr Barker? I hope you are writing fast. Because I want that next damned book. Now!

Warning - You really need to read The Fourth Monkey first.

Recommendation: read the author's acknowledgements which includes, among other things of interest, this little gem 'Finally, to Anson Bishop - are you ready to finish this little dance?' I am glad I can't see inside your head, Mr Barker, I imagine it to be a very scary place indeed.

Thank you to publishers Houghton Mifflin Harcourt via Netgalley for providing a digital ARC of The Fifth To Die by J.D. Barker for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

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