



Absolute Fear

Lisa Jackson

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Every Serial Killer...

A serial killer is stalking the streets of New Orleans. The victims are killed in a ritual fashion, a series of numbers tattooed into their bodies. There are no clues, no connections except one: a crumbling old asylum that was once the scene of unspeakable madness--and is now the calling card of a new kind of fear.

Is Searching For...

Eve Renner knows Our Lady of Virtues Hospital well. As the daughter of one of its doctors, she spent her childhood exploring its secrets chambers, hidden rooms, and forbidden passageways. Now, somewhere in the decaying asylum lies the key to a betrayal from the past whose echoes are being felt with a vengeance--a crime beyond imagining that seems to lead to Eve herself.

The Perfect Victim...

As each new body is found and forgotten, memories surface, and Eve must race to put together a deadly puzzle, one terrifying piece at a time. A killer is watching, planning, luring her back to the ruins of Our Lady and the shocking truths hidden there. For the sins of the past must be revealed, and the price paid--in blood...

Absolute Fear Details

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Author : Lisa Jackson

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From Reader Review Absolute Fear for online ebook

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Absolute Fear, the 4th book in Lisa Jackson's New Orleans Series, is a nail biting, terrifying, suspense filled story that leaves you shocked, surprised and chilled to the bone.

As with the previous book, Shiver, its set in New Orleans with Our Lady of Virtues, the abandoned mental asylum, playing an integral part in the story.

Eve Renner has suffered from amnesia since the night she found her friend murdered and the attempt on her life. She has a vague recollection of seeing her boyfriend at the place of the murder and believes he may be the killer.

Cole Dennis, sexy, smooth and successful attorney loses everything in his life when he's arrested on suspicion for the murder and attempted murder. Released after not enough evidence to charge him, he's not only almost destitute but more than angry towards Eve. Despite being advised by his lawyer to keep away from her, he decides that he needs to find out who set him up. Adding to his problems, after receiving a call from her father, he arrives at his house and discovers that he has been murdered in the same way as Eve's friend was. A message written in blood slit throat and a number tattooed on his body.

Eve feels unsure about Cole being the killer and as they slowly begin to trust each other again, the killer strikes again, in the same way as the others before.

Everything that's happening seems to point to Eve's father, who had been the head psychiatrist at Our Lady of Virtues mental hospital and the doctor in charge of Faith Chastain, who had committed suicide 20 years ago.

Eve has recollections of the times she spent at the asylum as a child. She had seen and heard about the horrors that went on for a very long time.

She realizes that if she wants to get her life back, she will have to return to that dark and lonely and abandoned place, where she will find the answers to the dim memories she has and the secrets and the rumors of the horrors that took place there. The one scene where Eve enters the asylum was pretty freaky. I could almost taste her fear, feel the sense of evil and horror of the place.....

Detective Montoya and his partner, Rick Bentz, are racing against time in trying to unravel the killer's puzzling clues before he kills again. The stakes increase when they discover that the ritualistic murders are linked to both Eve and Montoya's now fiancé, Abby Chastain and that everything leads to Faith Chastain and Eve's father.

A calculating, evil and twisted killer labeled by the press as The Reviver, he's bent on revenge and killing the person/s responsible for what happened to him many years ago. He's determined to pay them pay for their sins.

What amazed me was that until the very end I had no clue who the killer and what the reason behind the

murders

was. When everything is revealed.....wow, I was more than shocked!!!!

But wait, not everything is revealed at the end of this book.....there's so much more than what I thought I had finally being given the answers to all those questions....which tells me that more revelations about the Our Lady of Virtues mental hospital are still to come

Another intricate and engrossing story by Lisa Jackson.

Jill says

I want to review this now, 68% of the way through it, because I like this genre and in particular, this author. I have rated Harlan Coben and Lisa Gardner's books a little bit higher than Jackson's in the past (nothing major, a half to one full star) but now I've discovered the New Orleans series and I am loving the building suspense. There are several things I can't wait to find out, and I hope to retain the 5 star rating. I have wracked my brain trying to figure out if Faith Chastain had a secret third pregnancy and if so, who's the person? I also obviously want to know who the Reviver is. I also want to know what the old nun did. And why Eve cared enough about Roy to leave Cole so late at night. And one more thing, is Eve's memory going to come back at a predictable time to explain away why she thought Cole shot her- and who did?? So with this said, this is a testament that this book has me in total suspense and completely entertained and interested, good pacing, and adding an abandoned asylum and a nunnery- creepy setting.

I guess when I finish the book I will delete my musings but so far this is what I think: Faith Chastain had a third pregnancy but it wasn't Eve. What are the chances? I'm guessing it could be a boy, or twins. Eve seems way too obvious, sharing copper curls with Abby. I'm calling for a twist that makes it NOT Eve. Could it be the Reviver? Does he blame Eve for the doctor adopting her so fondly?

And, I feel that Eve's 2 brothers especially Kyle, the one whose wife says is working but she hasn't actually seen him in a while, the broody one...he fits for the Reviver as a brother feeling guilt for an attraction to a woman who grew up as his adopted sister. But again on this, I'm calling no. Too obvious.

So who is the Reviver? Well, he has rosary beads and is convinced God tells him what to do, to read it, he's schizophrenic. He's not Roy or Eve's dad. Obviously. I'm calling it, he's NOT Cole. But does Cole have a secret twin? I'm afraid the book might lose momentum by having the Reviver be a schizophrenic sociopathic man who was in the asylum when Eve's dad was a doctor. The boy whose mother warned him about girls? Oh, mother. We all go a little Psycho sometimes....but a little obvious. Instead of calling it let me just say I hope the book pulls off a killer shocking reveal of who the Reviver is.

So I'm just enjoying the ride, hoping at least some of the obvious doesn't happen. Will update as soon as I finish!

Emily says

This is the second Lisa Jackson book that I have listened to on tape. I enjoy listening to them because she

does a good job at keeping up suspense, and I wasn't expecting the killer to be who he was. Usually, I can pick out the killer at the beginning of the book.

However, I feel like the characters are sexed up way too much. The reader doesn't need to hear over and over again how the characters are sexy and beautiful, nor the repeated sexual thoughts of the killer. Once or twice would have been sufficient.

Even though I enjoyed the plot, I wish she had used her setting more. Besides some references to cities and food, this could have been set anywhere.

Gave this a two because it wasn't completely horrible, but it definitely is not my favorite. Probably won't read or listen another one anytime soon.

Kayla P says

Kayla Palos
6/3/12
BG3

Absolute Fear
By: Lisa Jackson

“Absolute Fear” written by Lisa Jackson is about this girl named Eve. She is in love with this boy named Cole, and he has been convicted for murder. When she was little, she would explore her father's work place. He worked in an asylum, so Eve would constantly be exploring the rooms, discovering secrets, and keeping secrets of her own. When new crimes are committed the common thing about them is, they are all tattooed a specific number. She believes that those numbers have something to do with Our lady of Virtues Hospital (the asylum). Once she uncovers a key to evidence about these murders, her thoughts and dreams are now scarred. She is practically handed evidence from her already dead friend, she had found years ago swimming in her own pool of blood. Eve went to New Orleans, to leave her past in the past and move on, but she can't stop thinking about her lover Cole. Her secrets have been keeping him off the hook from attempted murder. But does she really know the truth? Or does she just not want to believe it?.....

I liked this book ALOT.... it was constantly entertaining, had a lot to keep on, but it was exciting and overwhelming at the same time. I liked how Eve was mysterious and very much alert. Because she got shot, and it effected her memory, I think that is what made the book so long, because Cole was able to make it more of a challenge. I think the it was never really a dull moment. I know that because she was so scarred from everything that happened, she felt like she was a little bit of prey as well. I think that she had a good character and it was played out well. She wasn't too clingy, but she loved Cole enough that it made it a good romantic but “horror” story too.

I would recommend this book to anyone 35 years and younger, maybe 40 at the most. I know that is more of a bigger novel, but it was still fun and thrilling. I would rate this book a 5 out of 5 because it was just that good. It wasn't cheesy, and it didn't feel like it just ran on the same conflicts. Every chapter was like the same excitement as reading a new book, it kept me busy and wanting to read more, and I think that anyone would enjoy reading it.

Diane Morasco says

Absolute Fear picks up where Jackson's beyond creepy Shiver left off. Jackson's frighteningly delish New Orleans series*, brings back the awesome detective duo Bentz & Montoya. Unfortunately, with that we revisit the disturbing Our Lady of Virtues Asylum. *Cue sinister music*. Really!

While Absolute Fear is part of a series, it's not a prerequisite to read the other books in this outstanding series. Although, before immersing yourself in this spine-tingling indulgence, I would suggest it since there are countless components from the previous books that are exposed.

Allow me to introduce you to, Eve Renner. Eve is the adopted daughter of the head of Our Lady of Virtues Asylum.*shivers*. Eve used the hospital as her playground along w/ her best friend Roy Kajak. Eve unearths Roy's dead body & is almost killed herself.

Now, let me introduce you to Cole*sigh*. I was definitely enjoying all things Cole ;p. LOL!

Absolute Fear is an incredible thriller filled w/ nail biting suspense that is sure to steal your breath away.

Amy says

There are two books in this series that takes place in Louisiana. Great books! Very scary and suspenseful.

Jim C says

This is part of a series. I believe each book is meant to be a stand alone but this book really delves into aspects of the previous book. Reading this book's predecessor would help understanding this one. In this one, Eve is called to her friend's house. When she gets there her friend is murdered and right before she is shot, she sees her lover.

The books in this series are connected by the investigators of the crimes. There is also a connection with a convent and mental institution that is now shut down. I like the use of the mental institution as a place that is suppose to help the helpless but unfortunately that is not the case. The institution has become a character in this series. I liked all the characters in this book and the author does a terrific job of building up the tension with the antagonist stalking our main character. I had no idea who the culprit was and that is what I want from a book of this genre. All the ingredients were there for a really enjoyable book. Then what went wrong? The main character's actions. She pissed me off so many times. First we get the tiresome trope of a person who is in mortal danger but refuses police protection. Does this ever work? Also, she vacillated with her feelings toward her lover so many times that I actually lost track of her current position with him.

This book could have been so much better. All the stuff was there for it except the actions of the main character and I could not get past them. If you take her actions with a grain of salt this could be an enjoyable read.

Sheila says

Eve Renner is lured to a cabin in the woods and discovers Roy's brutally murdered body with the number 212 written in blood and is shot in the head at the cabin. At the time of the shooting she is positive that the shooter is her fiancé Cole who gets sent to prison.

After months of rehab in Atlanta staying with her brother Eve now has returned home to New Orleans on the same day that Cole gets set free on a technicality. Very involved story by one of my favorite authors. I give it an enthusiastic ★★★★★'s.

Denise says

Another great book by Lisa Jackson, kept me hooked from page one. I like how she brings back some of the same character's from previous books.

Diane says

This book pretty much picks up where "Shiver" left off, a good read, good suspense, lots of angst tossed in, some red herrings, and twists and turns. The main story plays around the Asylum again and the nuns to an extent. Montoya and Bentz are tasked with finding a demented killer again. The main 2 characters are newbies to the series - good strong characters, not sure if they will be in future books, but they could very well be - don't want to give out any spoilers.

2 thumbs up and 4.5 stars

Mary says

again another excellent book

Chintzy says

Unfortunately, this book is part of an ongoing series so I was initially confused upon reading this book. Thankfully, it wasn't too complicated and I knew I couldn't put the book down until I had read the last word on the last page.

In the aspect of crime-writing, Lisa Jackson's books wouldn't completely fit in as her books are more based on finding clues through old documents and other human sources, compared to other books where crime scenes and how they were processed was described in more details. However, that doesn't necessarily mean

Absolute Fear is a bad read. On the contrary, is a good read, a damn good read, well, in my opinion, that is.

Instead of reading the usual crime scenes being described more vividly, Lisa Jackson tackle readers psychological-speaking with villains armed with a disturbed childhood or forced to go through a trauma, in other words, having mental issues. Absolute Fear is one such book that bring readers into a person's clearly disturbed mind. However, don't expect detailed explanation but only the story that causes them to kill.

Lisa Jackson also focuses a lot on the characters and is no doubt successful in bringing them to life. In certain parts of the story, I could almost imagine myself in the scenario, facing the same horror as the protagonist. Moreover, the author had managed to linked together a truly astonishing story and this is only for Absolute Fear which is a part of a series. This fact clearly illustrates how promising the other books will be.

Overall, Absolute Fear is an awesome read and definitely commendable although it may not appear to the liking of many but I'll remain steady in my own judgement.

beloved books by Tine says

am Schluss hab ich sogar ein paar Tränen vergossen ?

Aparna says

Stars: 4 / 5

Recommendation: Bone-chilling thriller with the touches of romance, lust and twisted minds - a perfect medley to enjoy the read despite the shivers it leaves in the reader's spine.

Absolute Fear is the fourth book in the New Orleans series with Detectives Rick Bentz and Reuben Montoya published in April of 2007. The plot begins where the third book Shiver (My review of that book is here: <https://inspirethoughts.livejournal.c...>) leaves off forming a sort of sequel to it.

In Shiver, Detectives Bentz and Montoya not only solve the serial killings by someone connected to Our Lady of Virtues Mental Hospital, but they also manage to solve the abuse and murder of Abby and Zoey's mother Faith Chastain who had resided at the Hospital two decades ago. However, Lisa had ended the plot with quite a few segues into the plot for Absolute Fear. One would expect Lisa to pursue this further with, yet she pulls the Detectives into another case – a case where Eve Renner, the victim had been shot by her fiancée Cole Dennis, barely missing her. As Detectives work to nail him, he escapes finally due to the victim's amnesia. Now Cole Dennis is bent on finding why someone was trying to frame him while Eve Renner is struggling to understand why the love of her life had shot her. In the midst of all these another serial goes on a killing spree pulling the Detectives into another chilling hunt. And this time again all roads lead to the Our Lady of Virtues Mental Hospital, but this time through Eve Renner. And Eve and the Detectives are once again forced to race against time before someone close to Eve or herself is killed next.

The way how Shiver ended, it is a given to the reader that Lisa Jackson would concentrate on the step-sibling

of Abby and Zoey Chastain who is yet to be identified. Going into it I was prepared to have this step-sibling portraying a key role in the plot. But what it did not prepare me was for the twists and hidden secrets that Lisa throws at the reader along the plot. Whoa! A real twist indeed. Oh the connections between the characters drove me crazy, but it all made so much sense.

Again Lisa has a very intelligent antagonist who knows more about past sins of the player than the players themselves and who uses it smartly so he is always a step ahead of the Detectives and Eve. She makes her Detectives not dumb either, though they are a bit behind so they work fast to catch on. Lisa also ties in the past of Detective Bentz wherever possible neatly with the current plot. This in itself makes me wonder if she would have a plot in a future book in the series solely on Detective Bentz's past. Not having read the remaining books yet, I can only guess. And can't wait to read them soon either.

Between the twisted mind of the killer, the continued clash between Eve and Cole, the hidden secrets from Eve's past and the twisted way it all connects to that happened two decades ago at Our Lady of Virtues Mental Hospital keeps the reader gripped to the plot, anticipating something to jump at the reader at every turn of the page.

As always the language is impeccable, description of the scenes and sceneries are spot on. This time around author Lisa almost gives away who the killer could be in the previous book Shiver itself. However, she doesn't make the road leading up to revealing the killer any less treacherous or filled with any lesser terror. A bone chilling thriller with a touch of romance, love and human emotions that a killer normally doesn't understand. Not a read for faint hearts but for those brave ones who can read it while sitting in a corner in a darkened basement too. If you are one, I would say go for it.

Spoiler Alerts:

1) Plot Reveals:

a. So the biggest twist would be that Eve Renner is not only related to Abby and Zoey Chastain but also to Detective Bentz and his daughter Kristi – Apparently Father James McLaren – Bentz's step-brother whom we met in Cold Blooded (<https://inspirethoughts.livejournal.c...>) – had affair with Faith Chastain while she was residing at Our Lady of Virtues Mental Hospital and Father James was the visiting father at the chapel. In the process he gets Faith pregnant and she gives birth to Eve Renner. In a twisted way Eve is step-sister not only to Abby and Zoey Chastain and also to Kristi Bentz, and also niece of Detective Rick Bentz, and apparently will be related to Detective Reuben Montoya by way of his upcoming wedding with Abby Chastain. A very big happy family Lisa Jackson created out of these characters. I hope she doesn't have any more twists there cause this in itself makes your mind spin.

b. At the end of the plot, Kristi Bentz wakes up from coma with visions of seeing death around her father. She somehow unlocks her ability to see people at death's door. And since she sees her father would die soon, this is a clear segue that Lisa Jackson gives the readers that her next book would follow this plot. I just have to read it to prove my thought. :)

2) Grammatical / Historical / Location / Character / Geographical Errors:

a. On Pg. 180, Lisa shows the dark van following Eve after she leaves her home. But on Pg. 225, she mentions through Eve that after Eve left the police station she had seen the dark van following her. Both are contradictory as to when Eve sees the dark van the previous day.

b. On Pg. 283, Lisa shows how the killer stabs Sister Rebecca in her chest and kills her. But on Pg. 287, she mentions through the Detectives that Sister Rebecca was killed with a slit to her throat. I read twice the entire scene to see if I missed anything, but I didn't see Lisa mentioning anywhere about Sister being killed by slit to her throat on Pg. 283. A clear contradiction on the way Sister Rebecca was killed. Perhaps a miss on part of the author on Pg. 283.

3) Sub – Plots:

- a. In Hot Blooded (<https://inspirethoughts.livejournal.com>), Dr. Samantha Leeds brother Peter Williams disappears from their lives more than ten years ago. Detectives couldn't find anything about him either. Will Lisa Jackson bring him back in a future book?
- b. Although the case is closed, author Lisa Jackson leaves a big door open with regards to Father John's character from Hot Blooded. Was he truly vanquished by the Detectives or will he re-appear in a future plot by Lisa is something we have to wait and see.
- c. Norm Stowell – an FBI profiler – and Andre Navarrone – ex-cop at Houston PD - appear briefly in Hot Blooded. However they left me with an impression that they might come back as major ones in a future book. Have to wait and see if Lisa would resurrect them.
- d. In Cold Blooded, Detective Montaya's girlfriend Marta Vasquez goes missing and doesn't get solved at the end of the plot. Perhaps it is for another book in the series.
- e. What will the fate of Sarah Restin and her no-good husband Leo Restin be? These characters appeared in Cold Blooded.
- f. Unanswered questions about Bernadette and Reggie from Cold Blooded also perhaps will be answered in a future book.
- g. Jennifer Bentz - Rick's ex-wife - has been murdered. Her character background is shown in both the first book Hot Blooded and second book Cold Blooded. But there is enough left off to make me feel that Lisa Jackson would bring her back in some book in future.

Esther says

Very intriguing mystery.

Jane Stewart says

I wanted to buy the audiobook but I didn't because I don't like the narrator Joyce Bean. She is bad with male voices.

Dina says

This book tries too hard. There are too many unexplained/unnecessary/underdeveloped characters, too much detail, too many elements of murder/suspense/psycho novels for one book, too far-fetched, too formulaic...didn't know it was part of a series until several pages into the book. Allusions to other situations/characters were made that didn't always work if one hadn't read the other book first. I had expectations from the book as Jackson is a "NY Times best-selling author". Well, the Times needs to be a bit more exclusive with that label because it is devaluing its meaning by slapping it on every written word. Be a bit more exclusive, like the GH seal of approval! Story gets one star for some redeeming elements in the book -- were it half the length and twice as good it might be salvageable. Get your hand off the mouse, Ms. Jackson! Whoever edited this at the publishing house should be fired!

Absolute Fear is the perfect example of why I need to learn it's ok to stop reading a book mid-way if I think it is ludicrous. Had I not been stuck at home two sick days in a row I would've trashed it. As it was, I was a captive reader. Psycho sex killer books, like their celluloid counterparts, are overdone, cliched, and trite. Shame on me for not pitching this thing.

Becky says

I've read a few Lisa Jackson's books - this was, in my opinion, an even better read than the others.

I liked the setting - the mental hospital, the vague suggestion of secrets and wrong-doing, the fact that Eve, the main character, used to spy on the mental patients when she was a child. The whole book came across like a lite-horror movie to me, and it worked for this book.

I liked the chemistry between Eve and Cole, and how Jackson keeps you in suspense as to whether Cole tried to kill Eve. Overall the story flowed smoothly and consistently, I was on the edge of my seat and had to force myself to stop reading last night so I could get some sleep!

The only thing I felt was confusing and therefore impeded the flow of the book was all the coming out of the family tree in the end - half brothers, sisters, uncles, incest, priests, etc - I felt like I needed a flow chart to determine who belonged to who.

That was really my only dislike of the book - the ending leaves you waiting for the next book but not in a negative way - the ending is the new beginning for the next book. I look forward to reading it!

Kathi says

This book must be a sequel or part of a series, but no mention of other books with the same characters is made anywhere on the jacket or in the introductory pages.

The story starts out with a bang, but the editing left something to be desired. One character puts on his heavy gloves twice in two consecutive paragraphs. Characters just seem to drop out of the story and new ones conveniently appear. A lot is missing between the conclusion of the last chapter and the epilogue, the story never really finishes. It moves, I kept reading, in suspense, waiting to see what was going to happen next.

This is not one that I will be passing on to my family book circle.

Colleen says

I enjoyed the story. Like every other book written by Lisa Jackson I think she goes into detail way too much, but I've learned where to skim through her words and where I need to pay attention. While I guessed part of what was going on, I definitely did not figure out the entire story of who the killer was and why until it was revealed and for that, I give the author kudos.

Yes, is some of the story far-fetched, absolutely! But it's FICTION, not true crime. IMO, it's like in the movies when someone enters a scary place and you find yourself yelling at the t.v. - don't go in there and they do (they always do). Of course they do, it's what sells, just like in books. Same goes with the part that everyone seems to be related to one another - I personally thought that part was downright hysterical (which means it's entertaining and isn't that what it is all about).

As for leaving things untied, I see how that happened with Eve's brothers, no real ending with them (which makes me think maybe something more will be explained in another book?). As for Eve's relationship with Cole, I thought there was nothing wrong with the way it ended. And of course the Epilogue sets up the next book, it's a series isn't it?
