



One by One

Chris Carter

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'I need your help, Detective. Fire or water?'

Detective Robert Hunter of the LAPD's Homicide Special Section receives an anonymous call asking him to go to a specific web address - a private broadcast. Hunter logs on and a show devised for his eyes only immediately begins.

But the caller doesn't want Detective Hunter to just watch, he wants him to participate, and refusal is simply not an option. Forced to make a sickening choice, Hunter must sit and watch as an unidentified victim is tortured and murdered live over the Internet.

The LAPD, together with the FBI, use everything at their disposal to electronically trace the transmission down, but this killer is no amateur, and he has covered his tracks from start to finish. And before Hunter and his partner Garcia are even able to get their investigation going, Hunter receives a new phone call.

A new website address. A new victim. But this time the killer has upgraded his game into a live murder reality show, where anyone can cast the deciding vote.

'Part comment on our reality TV obsessed society, it's punchy and fast paced' Sunday Mirror

Praise for Chris Carter:

'Gripping... not for the squeamish' Heat

'A page turner' Express

'You will not be able to stop until you have finished' ***** Crimesquad

One by One Details

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Author : Chris Carter

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Ami says

4.25 stars

I say this practically in every reviews I have written when it comes to Chris Carter's "Robert Hunter" series: a well-written series that satisfy my needs for serial killers and fast-paced procedural. Every single books that he has written just grips me from the get go -- it is so fast paced and intense, I always feel like on edge of my seat (or bed, wherever I am when I read).

This latest book again gives a captivating story -- but more so than the previous books, I feel that it also has a good message behind all those gruesome and horrific murders. Chris Carter questions *society that thrives on voting an outcome of someone else's life* (Chapter 34). Or in this case on the method of killing people, simply to fill their curiosity. How people enjoy violent things -- the more violent the better. I can't help thinking that since I love reading this; I'm also part of this 'sick' society. Though in my defense, this is fiction, and only in pages. But at the same time, I know that it could easily happen in real life.

And the motivation between the murders sadden me as well. Because again, it taps the question about society and how they're easily giving out vicious comments on Internet on things that they don't completely know or understand. Simply because it's entertaining. The Internet trolls. The people who are willing to videotape a crime and upload it, comment on it, like/dislike it on Internet.

So, story wise, this is really, really good. I have formed a strong attachment of Robert Hunter and his partner in Homicide Special Section Carlos Garcia. Combined with how it makes me ponder about the era of Internet and social media, it easily makes this latest installment another favorite.

I do have complains. I don't really like how Robert solves the case. It's a bit out of the blue. Robert can't find or link any clues related to the murders beforehand. Then suddenly he (view spoiler) and his mind clicks. It is too "*deus ex machina*" of a plot for me. In addition, this story also introduces another character -- whom I would like to read about more -- Michelle Kelly, head of FBI Cybercrime Division in Los Angeles. I'm rather sad that there is no more information about her in the end.

The ending is -- well, not a cliffhanger, but maybe more of an open choice, and I would be waiting on what decision will be taken.

Paula Brandon says

Det. Robert Hunter and his partner Det. Carlos Garcia must track down a serial killer who is broadcasting his murders over the internet. Viewers are given a choice as to how they would like the victim to die.

The movie "Untraceable" was released in 2008 and starred Diane Lane. It had the exact same plot, in which a killer broadcasts his murders over the internet. This book was published in 2013, five years later. The killers in both even have the same motive! This book skates uncomfortably close to outright plagiarism!

Worse than that, it's not even any good. The characterisation is as flat as you can get. I've read all five books

so far, and Robert and Carlos still don't feel like real people! I've kept returning to the books because they're usually gruesomely fast-paced, but Carter's flaws as a writer are much more evident when the plot is boring and predictable (because it's already been done, almost down to the letter!)

There are no real plot twists, just stomach-churning torture scenes in between the detectives turning up at crime scenes or trying to find a link between victims. There's one measly attempt at a red herring that's over almost before it begins. It's strange to slog through a 500 page book where nothing really happens! Gross death. Outrage. Investigate crime scenes. Rinse and repeat! Attempts at condemning modern society's soullessness due to our current age of technology are obvious and heavy-handed.

I can't believe this has such a high rating! Oh well, hopefully the next book will restore some originality. And a notice to Chris Carter - torture porn was already past its use-by-date by the time "Untraceable" came out in 2008!

Raven says

Chris Carter has quickly carved out a niche for himself in the realm of the psychological serial killer thriller, and *One By One* marks the fifth outing for his detectives Robert Hunter and Carlos Garcia. Tapping into the fertile world of social networking and the sometimes insidious influence of the Internet, Carter has produced a truly chilling crime read, which most scarily could eventually happen...

Robert Hunter of the LAPD Robbery Homicide Division finds himself receiving the very personal attention of a cold calm killer: a killer who posts videos online of his victims on the verge of death, their fate to be decided in a voting system by those who click the link. Thanks to the propensity of video to quickly go viral globally, Hunter and his stalwart partner Detective Garcia, along with the finest brains in the FBI Cybercrime Division, face a race against the clock to reveal the connection between the victims of this twisted killer's game and close in on the perpetrator of these heinous acts. Carter has a natural knack for tapping in to our worst nightmares and by bringing this storyline so realistically alive, the reader is imbued with a real sense that horrifyingly this plot is all too easily imaginable in a world so influenced by the power, and less than savoury activities, to be found on the medium of the internet. Once again, I would issue a warning to the more fainthearted of readers as to the visceral detail of the crimes committed, but for the more ghoulish amongst you they really are quite engrossing and the killer's motivation is an interesting, and a surprisingly sympathetic one, when they are eventually unmasked.

Perhaps due to the demands of the compressed and quickly moving plot, which Carter unfolds in his normal meticulous style, there is little time for any real further development of the relationship between Hunter and Garcia- a kind of cerebral Batman and Robin. However, regular and new readers alike will quickly recognise the intrinsic understanding and closeness between them, gleaned from not only this book, but by the careful addition of references to previous investigations. As the two have plumbed the depths of a series of evil and twisted killers, there is almost a sense of telepathy between them in their actions and reactions that is seldom replicated in other crime novels, and in Carter's portrayal of these two men, and the differences between them in a psychological sense, once again, their professional and personal relationship lies at the heart of the strength of this series. *One By One* homes in on, not only the natural humour and camaraderie between them, but also the strength of their symbiotic relationship, when this killer comes a little too close for comfort to one of the detectives nearest and dearest. Throw into the mix, Michelle Kelly, a former hacker and now a cyber geek for the FBI who teams up with our intrepid duo, who I found a very compelling character and liked what she brought to the plot, and you will not be disappointed. With great plotting, a

precision control of pace and tension, and assured characterisation, Chris Carter once again proves his worth in this thrilling and chilling tale. Scary stuff...

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

A serial killer is at work. Not just any serial killer, but one that puts the power and choices in the hands of the public. Broadcasting live on the internet, this serial killer asks the general public to vote on which more horrific manner of death they want a total stranger to undergo. And vote they do. Human beings voting to see a horrific death.

That's the fiction part of the book, but you know what? I bet that if such a scenario did happen live on the internet that there is plenty of sick people that would vote, and not only vote but WATCH, with glee. It's a dark world out there.

I love Chris Carter's writing because his imagery is fantastically horrific, this book had me turning away in sections and I am not easily turned, I read the most horrific of serial killer and horror novels, but yet again Chris Carter got under my skin with some of the kill and torture scenes. Sheer genius.

If you have not met Detective Robert Hunter before, now is the time, he is a genius Detective, super brainy and has the special skill of seeing the psychological element in any murder, profiling and second guessing the killer. All of the books featuring him are fantastic, I have read a few now. He works with his partner Andy Garcia and both are very likeable and tangible characters. Robert Hunter is a loner, I feel sad for him at times, but on the job he is outstanding and really likeable. Somewhat flawed yes, but outstanding.

The serial killer in this book is broadcasting first direct to Hunter and Garcia scenes of a human being trapped in an unknown location, the killer gives Hunter the choice of death method WATER or FIRE and forces Hunter to choose. Horrific in itself, but then the killer throws in a twist, and it's mind blowing, evil, shocking and graphic.

The hunt is on but this killer is cyber clever, avoiding even the most advanced searches for him on the internet, and the killer is cleverly avoiding being pinpointed by the most expert of police and FBI cyber crimes computer geniuses. He has the upper hand for most of the book, it's edge of your seat stuff.

The killer's next ploy is to broadcast on the web his next victim and let the public vote on the method of torture and death, and vote they do. It's all streamed live on the internet, the torture and kill methods are bizarre and cruel, shocking and the stuff of nightmares, we are not talking slasher killings here. Not for the weak of stomach I might add. Even this hard core serial killer fiction reader was struggling with some images.

The plot is fantastic, paced well from the start, the dialogue is great, the characters really shine, the story reveals itself bit by bit but you really are kept guessing for the majority of the book, no clues as to the killer's identity or indeed if Robert Hunter is going to get even close to capturing the killer in time before more and more lives are lost in this most barbaric of ways.

What will the public vote next?

I read this book over a few hours, could not put it down, by the final third of the book I was frantically turning pages, the ending is spectacularly good, I was nearly hyperventilating reading it! Chris Carter manages to keep his reader well engaged from start to finish in books that for me, are a cut above most of the crime fiction books I read and love. He's up there with the very best.

I can't rave enough about how much I enjoyed this book, I love it when I can read and lose track of all surroundings around me until I emerge back into reality when the book ends. Robert Hunter is a formidable character that I love, I love his brain and how he operates, the whole series is fantastic.

Highly recommended. 5 easy stars, would give it 6 if that was an option. If you are looking for a top notch crime book with a sophisticated serial killer plot, plenty of tense moments, some new and interesting kill scenes and a race to the spectacular finish line then you have found it. Here it is. Bet you love it!

Which of the kill scenes will YOU find the most disturbing? I am not telling which one was mine. But seriously, I might have nightmares.

Richard White says

Graphic as hell but like the previous books really good . Great series!

Siobhan says

After picking up the first in the Robert Hunter series and thoroughly enjoying it I went ahead and picked up the rest in the series, finishing them in next to no time at all. One By One, is without a doubt my favourite in regards to the crime that took place. It was such a unique take on crime, really interesting to see, with information being kept from you until the right moment meaning a lot of time was spent dealing with the emotional side of what was taking place.

Chris Carter is one of those authors capable of writing a truly gripping story. Each Robert Hunter story is better than the last, keeping you gripped throughout. Each story is more shocking than the last, filled with twists and turns that you very rarely see coming. There are one or two moments of predictability here and there, yet such a thing is nothing compared to most of the crime thriller books that you will find on the market.

If you're a fan of the genre I highly recommend picking up a Chris Carter book. It is for the best if you read the series in order however it is not necessary. Each book can be tackled as a standalone, should be your wish. Should you decide to read it as a standalone, however, you will soon want to read them all.

Also, just as a point, you should know that this is another 'just one more chapter' book. With the short chapters and shocking storyline you'll be finished before you know it.

As it stands I have yet to read the next one but it is high up on my to-read list!

Vicky says

This, my dear friends, is how you write an exceptional, cold-blooded thriller readers won't be able to put down. I've only read one of Carter's previous books so far but it instantly became one of my favourite books this year and put Chris Carter right on top of my 'favourite crime writers' list. But even though I knew One by One would be just as brilliant as The Night Stalker (and I'm sure most of his previous books) was, I wasn't sure if he'd be able to top that level and write something even more intense, more twisted. Well, he did. One by One is no doubt one of the scariest books I've ever read and one I'm not likely to forget anytime soon.

I suppose one of the things that makes it so terrifying is that Hunter's team is dealing with an incredibly smart killer this time. You know, Hannibal Lecter and Jigsaw smart. Someone who is always one step ahead of you and knows how you would react to his traps, someone who is (nearly) impossible to outwit and someone who isn't likely to make mistakes. So how do you catch such a killer? How do you catch someone who's been playing a cat and mouse game with you from the very beginning and who is always ready for your next move? Oh, it's a clever idea.

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Emma says

Upping this to 5 stars on my reread because it's bloody terrifying. I knew it deserved an extra star when I was forced to check all the potential hiding places in my hotel room last night. Just in case....

Maraia says

4.5 stars

Craig "NEEDS MORE DAMN TIME TO READ !!!!!" says

Rather enjoyed this! This time the killer was quite untouchable and quite a nasty person. Then when things finally 'clicked' it was quite a revelation not to mention similar to, again, the motives of 80's slasher movies, which isn't a bad thing. Quite a nice race against time finish too!

Downsides were the author going back to descriptions of face rubbing, hair tugging etc which were absent from the previous book and the Chief saying "is this for real" every other chapter when things were obviously 'real' as the book went on :)

Tonkica says

Inteligentno, zanimljivo, jednostavno, dovoljno okrutno. Za triler, stvarno ima sve što treba!

Serijal se ne veže, tako da se slobodno uzme bilo koji naslov i gušta! Nema greške!

Carmina says

Großartiges Buch! Vielleicht der beste Band der Reihe. Unfassbar spannend von der ersten bis zur letzten Seite!

Elaine Tomasso says

I have read all the books in the series and loved them but I found One By One a little drab in comparison. Don't get me wrong this is still a great read which held my attention all the way through but I just felt it lacked something and was a bit lacklustre in comparison with its predecessors. Robert Hunter and Carlos Garcia are great protagonists who work very effectively as a team and are a pleasure to read. The plotting (covered by the synopsis) is intricate, gruesome and definitely not for the faint hearted but compulsive. What I liked the most about this book was the sense of helplessness the detectives felt when they were outmanoeuvred by the protagonist as I think this is more realistic of police work than many authors would like. Ok, the sudden breakthrough was a bit corny but it moved the plot on. What the book has to say about reality television is truly revolting but sadly believable and makes me glad I gave up watching years ago.

Mandy White says

This series just more and more gruesome as it goes! I love it!. So many sick and twisted ways to kill people. Robert Hunter has to be one of my favourite characters.. these books are just so good!!

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