



## Darkness First

*James Hayman*

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## **Darkness First** James Hayman

The mutilated body of a young woman. The town doctor lying comatose in the road. A hundred and fifty tablets of Canadian OxyContin. This is the havoc that a merciless killer has wreaked on a sleepy Maine seaport.

As detectives Maggie Savage and Michael McCabe investigate, they realize the man they are after does not exist. Nobody knows his real name. Nobody has seen his face. But everybody fears his blade.

The only one who may know the murderer's true identity is an eleven-year-old girl—who has vanished into thin air.

Taut, twisting, and starring two unforgettable heroes, *Darkness First* will thrill fans of John Sandford and C. J. Box.

## **Darkness First Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Witness Impulse (first published September 12th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : James Hayman

Format : Kindle Edition 489 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Crime

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## **From Reader Review Darkness First for online ebook**

### **Monica says**

A drug dealer and killer is on the loose in a small Maine town. Detective Maggie Savage is called in by her father, the local sheriff to assist. Detective Savage later calls in her partner, Detective McCabe, for backup.

Though told primarily following/from Detective Savage's point of view, when there are other points of view, the shifts are done effortlessly.

The writing style and narrative are crisp, action packed, and descriptive without being overly verbose.

Vivid and varied characters fill various scenes and areas of life the detectives visit throughout their elusive and winding investigation.

Overall, a thrilling read!

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### **Dale Levy says**

#### **Now I have read 3 and....**

What I like the most is the permanent characters surrounding the murder and mayhem. In this one names of too many characters offstage would pop up at one odd time and there I am in the midst of the story asking and who is that....maybe a cheat sheet of the caste would work....this book was particularly grizzly and yet it worked....but what happened to Susan Marsh?

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### **Edith English says**

#### **Excellent**

I've come to enjoy the books by Mfr. )yt? F2f f2f'm

I've come to enjoy Mr. Hayman's writing and with this book he has proud

I have come to enjoy Mr. Hayman's writing. This book has exceeded my expectations. I recommend his books to my friends and he now has some new fans.

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### **Tania Walker says**

#### **Great story!**

Well, all I can say is I'm delighted that I took one of the reviewers suggestion to read this book. I couldn't put it down! The relationship between Maggie and McCabe showed the trust and security they both felt about each other. I enjoyed Tabitha and Harlan's relationship too because it showed me how special and smart Tabby was (not weird) and how protective and loyal Harlan really was in spite of the troubles he and his father shared. I would definitely refer this book to all suspense thriller lovers.

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### **Katie Sheridan says**

Hands down, the best one in this series.

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### **Cay says**

I liked this book (#3) the best so far of the McCabe-Savage series. Very happy to have less gore in this one, but still plenty of twists and turns, and red herrings to keep the reader guessing. This book is centered around the woman in the detective duo, Maggie Savage. I enjoyed getting to know her better and find out about her history. Well done, thank you!

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### **Carolyn says**

Another well-written thriller starring Portland ME detectives Michael McCabe and Maggie Savage in an interesting plot that kept me guessing until the end. In the first two books in this series, I more or less figured out who the "bad guy" might be about half way through the novel, but not so in this one. In this book, we meet Maggie's dad, brother, and her childhood friend as well as some additional law enforcement officers and other good and not-so-good Maine citizens, all with distinct and believable personalities. I enjoyed this book and recommend it.

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### **Chris says**

I don't think I enjoyed this third in the series as much as the first two. The setting has changed a bit - from Portland to the Eastport/Machias area. The main protagonist changes from McCabe to his sidekick, Maggie, but McCabe puts in a brief appearance near the end. Characters travel from one place to another quickly, which is a bit off-putting, because the distance between, say, Machias and Augusta isn't just a hop, skip, and jump like the plot implies. The whodunit part was cleared up early on (as far as I was concerned), which was a bit of a let-down. However, because the setting was so real to me, it was still a fairly decent mystery, and I don't hate the characters (though there's a bit of an interesting, though unsettling twist, in this one) I'll

happily look forward to a fourth installment.

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### **N.W. Moors says**

In this third book of the McCabe and Savage series, Maggie Savage goes home to Washington County when her best friend is attacked when she is witness to a murder. The murdered girl was a dealer of Oxycontin, a scourge in northern Maine, and seems to be part of a larger team that stole a large number of pills from Canada and is selling them in Maine. Maggie joins the local and State Police in trying to find the killer. I've read several of this series, all out of order not that it makes much difference as this can be read as stand-alone novels. I love the Portland-based books, but it was nice to move the setting to DownEast. I also liked that Maggie had the starring role in this book; usually, McCabe is the primary character but he only had a minor but important role here.

The plot moves along pretty fast and I think it was the tightest of all the M&S books I've read. I kept suspecting different people and even at the end, there was a twist that almost threw me. Another very enjoyable read by Mr. Hayman.

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### **Jovdb says**

Really well written book. The plot is well thought out and Maggie and McCabe are great characters.

Maggie is called to her home town by her father, sheriff of the town, when a woman is murdered and Maggie's best friend, Emily, is seriously injured. Maggie is determined to help out in the investigation, whether Sean Carroll, the hot shot detective in charge wants her to or not.

There is a connection between the murdered woman, Tiff, and a recent heist of Canadian OxyContin. And Tiff has a connection to Harlan, Maggie's youngest brother.

The Savage family dynamics play a part in this drama. Also, Maggie and McCabe's relationship undergoes a twist.

Can't wait to read the next in the series.

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### **Lori says**

#### **thriller #3**

I think this is my favorite of the three I have read. It was fast paced and I didn't want to stop reading.

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### **Pamela says**

#### **Savage and McCabe pair well**

This is a well-done, suspenseful murder mystery. It is very American. The characters are straight-forward. You can picture them in your mind's eye. The author is action focused, leaving the psychological aspects of the characters to your imagination, if you so choose to indulge. And action there is, solid and non-fantastical, but guaranteed to satisfy.

And Ed is so right! The price is the best. Nothing like getting satisfaction on sale!

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### **Lenny says**

I totally enjoyed this book. while a bit different from his first two books, was still a very good read.

It is the first in the series where the majority of the book is from Maggie Savage's perspective. So that was an interesting twist. He also revealed a lot more of Maggie introducing her father and a long time friend of hers, Dr. emily Kaplan.

the story was good, the plot above average. It was suspenseful, and I think the characters interactions add a level to the book. In ways it reminded me of the characters of the first few Dennis Lehane books--the push pull between the characters.

I will continue to read his books. I enjoy them and highly recommend them.

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### **Ed says**

This outstanding mystery/thriller is the third book in a police procedural series taking place in various locations in the state of Maine. The first two were evidently published in paperback only, while "Darkness First" is the first e book published by B&N and retailed for \$.99! The wonderful retail price belies the old saying about getting what you paid - it's a tightly drawn, fast paced mystery with a memorable bad guy pursued by the most intriguingly dynamic female detective I've ever read. While we all prefer to read mystery/crime series in order of publication, this third book works well as a stand alone that stands up and makes a big impression. James Hayman has created a group of Portland Maine based detectives, their families and associates that I like very much and hope to see again in a long running series. I don't know what the Kindle price is for this book but it's value far exceeds \$.99.

I'd also like to extend to all my Goodreads friends my most sincere wish for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year for you and your families.....Ed

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### **Olive Humphrey says**

#### **Excellent mystery**

The characters are absolutely wonderful. I really had a hard time taking a break. The story has twists and an excellent unexpected ending. I totally think you'll love this book.

