



Invitation to Die

Julian Starr

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Two women have gone missing in two weeks: the first, found dead, was slashed and dumped in a back alley in Boston. The second was discovered by a child in a Swan Boat Ride. As fear intensifies, Hunter, the head of the FBI Behavioral Unit, calls his star criminal profiler, Tracy Wrenn, to help on the case. Even though she had plans to become engaged that evening, Tracy quickly cancels her plans and rushes to Boston to help.

A beautiful, young professor of criminal psychology, Tracy has become renowned for her success at cracking cases no one else can. With her unusual insights and unique point of view, she is relentless at probing the inner minds of murderers. When a third woman goes missing, and when Tracy finds herself in danger, everything intensifies. In a shocking turn of events, Tracy finds out more not only about the killer, but about herself--and learns that nothing is what it seems.

Book #2 in The Killing Game will be released soon.

Invitation to Die Details

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Author : Julian Starr

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From Reader Review Invitation to Die for online ebook

Emily E. says

I want to give this book 2.5 stars. It wasn't that bad to deserve 2 but it wasn't good enough to deserve 3 stars. Firstly, let me say that Tracy is a horrible FBI profiler. Its unbelievable that she is so highly sought by police departments to consult on cases because she clearly doesn't have the investigative chops to figure out where Waldo is in a black and white picture book. Not to mention, she meets some random weirdo who is weirdly interested in the case she is working and rather than suspecting he might be involved, she openly discusses classified case details with him with no qualms whatsoever.

And of course Tracy is stunningly beautiful with the fashion sense of a 65 year old librarian...whose wardrobe really contains that much beige and linen? But of course every man she meets is just instantly attracted to her and bumbles through the book with suggestive glances and praising compliments for Tracy. Ugh....give me a break.

The biggest confusing thing though is her boyfriend's reaction to her taking an out of town job. If she's so highly sought after then there's no way this is her first out of town gig. So, there's no reason for him acting like a childish baby every time he calls her. I can't remember his occupation but I'm pretty sure it was something equally demanding, like a lawyer or something. So he should be a little more understanding and, I don't know... Sober maybe?? And if this in deed wasn't her first out of town job then chances are he's acted like a whiny bitch before on the phone and if that's the case then why the hell date an insecure Weiner like that...especially since every man and their dog can't resist Tracy's beauty and her "brilliant" mind. Haha I had to laugh at that last part because that was dripping with sarcasm of course.

Josephine says

SPOILER!

This book was just flat. As soon as Tad was introduced you knew he'd be the killer, and everything was quite predictable. I don't think Tracy was very likeable at all, and all the men in her life were quite pathetic. There were loads of spelling mistakes, has this even been edited? On two occasions Tracy was referred to as Tina which was just annoying, and on multiple occasions the first quotation mark was missing from the dialogue so you wouldn't know someone was talking until the end of the sentence. I powered through as I don't like giving up on books, but I don't recommend it.

CATHERINE says

Tracy is working for the FBI as a profiler. I think I genuinely started to hate her as a human being when the author wrote about Tracy being able to eat whatever she wanted without getting fat, at one point when she was off to present about a gruesome murder she wore a "lovely" biege dress! Every male character in this was pathetic. They fall over themselves to tell Tracy how amazing she is, how happy they are she is on the case, because they are stupid morons who don't have a clue. Tracy's almost fiancé seems to completely change his personality when she has to go and do her job. Yet we are supposed to believe in her professional judgement which is based on being able to "read people". Her amazing insights seem pretty standard to me. She also wanders off alone with complete strangers, she is patronizing, grating and irritating but apparently

gorgeous, with a natural way with people. I am supposed to believe that a father concerned about his kidnapped would give a crap about Tracy? The plot is dull and if you have managed to plow through it you will know who the killer is well before Tracy. I miss Temperance Brennan.

Sheila Myers says

I don't usually find myself unable to finish reading a book. It's even more rare that I stop reading one before I even finish the first few chapters. The problems with this novel are numerous and begin with the number of typos almost from page one. I can overlook some mistakes, but not when they're so obvious. The next problem are the facts of profiling. Unless things have changed I haven't heard about, the process and ideas used by the main character are far from the way things are done. And finally, the main character is called to help a man who the author describes as the head of the FBI Behavioral Unit and then makes him sound like a complete idiot who has no clue what he's doing. And all of this in the first couple of chapters.

Erika Sobin says

Mixed feelings

I think this book could have been a lot better than it was. The story line was ok - I couldn't wait to find out who the killer was (although I did know way before they announced it). But the characters were just blah. I didn't like a single one. First you have Tracy, the star profiler, who is smarter than everyone (which I thought was funny seeing that she made mistakes that the supposed best profiler in the country wouldn't have made. I won't explain because it would be a spoiler) and more beautiful than everyone (as you can tell by every man fawning over her, and by her "lovely" clothes and by the way she "tossed her hair over her shoulder" on her way to the front of the room to discuss a killer). Then you have every male character that gushes over her, throwing compliments at her every chance they get. Except for August, who seemed to hate her and acted like a petulant child most of the time. And last, but not least, you have her soon-to-be fiancé, who has a complete meltdown and personality change when she has to cancel plans because of a double homicide.

Emma says

If it wasn't for the awful spelling and grammar mistakes then I would've rated this two stars, but it's so unprofessional for a published book to have not been proofread that my only option was to give this one star.

The plot isn't bad. I think Starr had a good basis for the story line but it's undeveloped and at times very boring: if you chisel it down to the simple story I think it has a lot of potential. But I found myself skipping over a lot of paragraphs that bored me and found that I still understood the plot and what was happening which says a lot about the necessity of most of the writing. If it doesn't add anything then don't put it in. Also the structure is very strange. It's a mystery/crime book that makes it very obvious who the killer is. You can write this type of book like this, for example Capote's *In Cold Blood*, but it has to be done well. I knew who the killer was as soon as he was introduced thus causing me to instantly lose interest.

My biggest issue was the characters. I hate Tracey Wrenn. She is poorly written it's unbelievable. She's boring and awful at her job. Starr spends so much time in the book telling us about how amazing Wrenn is at

her job (and practically everything else) but Wrenn misses vital points that are very obvious. I knew right from the moment it was mentioned what the key link between the girls is. If you wanted to creating a shocking "wow I didn't realise that" moment, you need to make the characters smarter than the reader and hide key details effectively. It made me so infuriated when Starr stops the narrative to tell us Wrenn looks particularly good that day as she's had time to replenish her makeup and change outfits. The male characters are just as awful. They throw themselves at Wrenn and constantly compliment her which I don't believe is very professional for a top FBI case. They're all severely underdeveloped and bring characters that I couldn't help but either feel nothing towards or hate. The only character I felt was okay was Tad but that's probably because in comparison to the others he's not a boring idiot.

I wish Starr had proofread the novel and spent more time on the character development and plot because it has potential. I think this book needed a few more years before it was published, it just was not ready. Unlike other people, I don't care about whether it was free or cost money. Yes this book is free but I don't believe that should excuse it from upholding some sort of standard. Regardless of how much you pay for a book, it should at least not contain drafts within the novel, spelling and grammar mistakes and continuity errors.

Paul Hayes says

It's not often I don't finish a book but this was one of them. The writing is terrible, and I'm not just talking about the numerous mistakes in the kindle addition.

Marjorie says

Sooo.... this wasn't my favorite, but I started so I couldn't not finish it. To me, this book just felt slow. It felt like you could skip certain pages and not miss anything. The ideas were cool but the characters, I felt, weren't developing well. They would change their minds quickly or their actions would simply be explained as "it's just because I'm amazing and the best at my job that I got to this conclusion" which doesn't fly well with me. Also, the actual "clues" in the book felt given away to you or that there were no clues for the reader to find on their own. This book was very "I'll fill you in when it's time to fill you in." Though I didn't stop reading it, I was bored, I felt like there were too many easy outs used, and that the characters were kind of simple. I wouldn't really recommend this book, but if the descriptions given by others makes you interested, jump in!

Kimberly says

This was my first time reading this author and I was disappointed. I read a lot of suspense/psychological mysteries and this book was a difficult read - I put it down a couple of times and then got back to it. I was surprised to find it was part of a series and that this author has written many other books.

While the story at first grabbed me, there were just too many things I found implausible: Tracy meets with a man from the tip line; she shares info about evidence in the case with an individual she is interviewing; her relationship with Wess seemed disjointed, distracting and it never came together. Why was he behaving that way? What was up with all of the drunk phone calls? Why was he acting as though he wasn't aware of the demands of her job? Why did she keep indulging him?

Additionally, I figured out who the killer was before the book revealed it...never a good thing.

Cheryl says

I've never been in the position where I've felt I had to write a few lines before I'd even finished the book & I've barely begun!!

The main character Tracy has no redeeming qualities - she's conceited, egotistical & seems to be suffering from Superwoman syndrome - only she can save the day!

The writing seems stilted with superfluous words, as if the author is just trying too hard.

However I will plow on & see if it improves.

Page 35 of 203 on my e-reader.

Sorry just couldn't read any further!

Sudha Sunder says

I am in the first few pages now, and I am wondering if the FBI guy Hunter is really really dumb, or if he is skeptical. He seems to taking everything for granted! Like if there is a clue, he seems to go - "Bah.. not interested", "Not important", "Do we need this now?".. Not sure how he is being potrayed in the remaining pages. :/

Renay Joplin says

Amateur writing

This book reads like an author's first attempt. The events are disorganized and the ending completely disconnected. The author over does the idea of making the main character a heroine to the point it's annoying she receives praise for nothing. And the boyfriend adds unnecessary drama which isn't resolved in the book.

Marcus says

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review

This is basically a story about FBI procedures using a profiler, but is not a dry and bare bones presentation. From page one, the author sucks the reader in with a murder and from there until the end, there are twists, turns, plots, subplots, suspects, and even romantic interests to keep the reader interested. The characters are well developed and thought out, action is intense, but not overblown, and the climax will have you wondering.

Grace says

Based on the numerous typos and formatting issues especially with consistency with indentation, I would say this book was self-published. Since I have considered self-publishing, I certainly have to give Starr credit. I have read worse by authors who did find a publishing house.

The book was written in an amateurish manner. The writing style was almost clinical, and she made a lot of mistakes common to beginning writers. She tended to tell a story rather than show the story. She used way too many adverbs and needs to make a goal of close to zero adverbs per book. Instead of an adverb she needs a stronger verb or again show the reader what is going on. Instead of: Tracy walked slowly; Tracy trudged along. Or Tracy walked with her head down paying more attention to the cracks in the sidewalk...blah, blah, blah.

The author had too much redundancy. Tracy was "sure of it" all too often. Starr used too many cliches. And she didn't know how to create interesting conversations with the characters relying on phrases like joined the conversation. Instead of: "Yes, I'll do it," Tracy sounded excited. How about an action tag like: "Yes, I'll do it," Tracy nodded with a smile.

Finally, Tracy needs to add some interesting twists to her plot. I knew it was Tad, the minute she put in a section about him. I also gathered early on there was a church connection. The forensic psychologist needs to be smarter than the reader.

As a solitary writer without a publisher, putting out a good book is a challenging task. What Starr needs is someone like me who would enjoy hearing her ideas and playing devil's advocate with the plot and help her add depth to her characters. She also needs someone to help find all those typos and correctly format her manuscript. Her idea is great and has a lot of promise. Hopefully she will take efforts to improve her work.

Mary Asbury says

Very disappointed

I love the storyline but the author made almost all the characters look like idiots.

I mean come on Tracy, the profiler didn't know who the killer was.

I will definitely not be reading the 2nd book. I really had high hopes for the book
