



# Madness

*Jason Brant*

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## **Madness** Jason Brant

Asher Benson has once again fled to a secluded cabin in the mountains outside of the sleepy town of Arthur's Creek, West Virginia. Government agents surround him day and night, blanketing his entire life in constant surveillance under the guise of keeping him safe.

That facade is shattered when every cell phone in Arthur's Creek rings simultaneously. Anyone who answers the call is driven into a violent, psychotic madness that turns the entire town into a slaughterhouse.

And Ash is caught in the middle of it all.

\*Madness is the second book in the Asher Benson thriller series, full of snarky humor and nonstop action.

## **Madness Details**

Date : Published November 18th 2014

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Author : Jason Brant

Format : Kindle Edition 379 pages

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# From Reader Review Madness for online ebook

## Maria Elmvang says

Honestly, I can't quite figure out what I think of this book. It was every bit as captivating as the first book in the series, and I had serious problems putting it down, but it was a LOT more gory than I typically want my books to be, and I read most of it with a bit of a cringe on my face. The carnage started on page 5 and didn't end until 3 pages before the end!

But it *was* well written, I like the characters, and it ended with the main bad guy still not found, so I'm still contemplating whether or not I want to read the next book in the series.

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## Mr. Matt says

Asher Benson has retreated to an isolated West Virginia cabin. He needs to hide from the rest of civilization. The ability to seamlessly slip into other people's minds is more of a curse than a gift. Sometimes you just want to be in your own head - not everyone else's. His peaceful retreat is interrupted by a mysterious call placed to all cell phones in the sleepy WV town. Anyone who made the mistake of picking up the call is plunged into a murderous killing rage.

Part Two Weeks Later, part Stephen King's Cell, Madness is basically a zombie survival horror book. The twist is that Asher's ability to slip into other people's minds allows him some sort of connection with the twisted victims of the mysterious call. That and the fact that the insane retain reasoning powers - only they are twisted by this strange compulsion.

A pretty good little story. Action packed, but not entirely original. Three stars out of five.

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## Brad says

It has been 2 years since I read "Ash" (The first book of the series) so I was a bit rusty on some of the characters, but it didn't take long to get up to speed. The story was great and hummed along, but my biggest gripe with the book was the analogies.

It seemed at least every page contained one. "He was carving him up like a thanksgiving turkey". "He stunk like a ..." Just too many comparisons!

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## Donna Rice says

I thoroughly enjoyed Ash's exploits in this book. It was a much darker novel than it's predecessor, but the camaraderie was still there. The scenes in the town were horrific but well written. I'm now off to download book three.

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## **Steve says**

A good fast read not as good as Ash but looking forward to the Third instalment.

Well worth your time and money.

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## **Tracy says**

Story just keeps getting better and better (yes you must read book 1)

It's a page turner, thrilling, exciting to see what happens next and funny as heck! Can't wait to get started on the 3rd!

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## **M Jane Deneen says**

### **Too far out there**

The action was there but so totally unbelievable. I finished the book but don't expect to move on to the third in this series.

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## **Fred says**

A horrifying account of what homicidal madness can do to a small town where most of the inhabitants are afflicted. The main character and his friends try to survive and get help to control the situation.

Unfortunately, there isn't much more to the novel than that. It's well written, has exciting action, but there are some contradictions that make the story less believable than it would otherwise have been. For example, Asher, the main character, can and does shoot a teenager who is about to attack him, but when faced by a giant of a man intent on killing him, gives up his chance to kill him and instead engages in a physical fight which is really quite unrealistic.

Nevertheless, I am intrigued enough by the story to want to read the final novel in the series. I just have to read other books before I can come back to this one.

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## **Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says**

Asher Benson is back, the drunken derelict with his unique form of PTSD, is dragged kicking, screaming and staggering back into saving the world...again.

Asher Benson is exactly what I like and look for in a hero. He has a "gift" that sets him apart from most people. It is his "superpower". Unfortunately, this gift is also Asher Benson's curse. He cannot control this power, personally, I think for a hero to work, he must have his kryptonite.

Jason Brant has brought the whole gang back together again. You would be hard pressed to find a more

oddball group who work so well together, both as the story and within the story. Each one is a polar opposite from Ash in their own way. These characters pull the story together and put this story and the entire series that notch above many others.

Jason Brant's writing is a combination of fast paced action, witty dialogue and extreme characters. Madness is definitely a page turner, the fast pace pushes you to need to know what happens next.

I would highly recommend reading Ash first and then jumping straight into Madness. And with an ending like that I can't wait for book three.

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## **Michael Loring says**

Madness is the second in Horror/Thriller Author Jason Brant's Asher Benson series, continuing the unfortunate tale of telepath Ash and his merry band of wise-cracking friends.

It's been a few months since the events of the first novel, and Ash has relocated himself back to the cabin that he had escaped to after leaving the army. The government keep a close eye on him, and although he's displeased by it he doesn't really fight it. He's sunk into a near permanent drunken stupor, and he doesn't have any real plans on getting sober any time soon.

But, outside of his telepathic reach, there are dark things brewing. The town of Arthur's Creek has gone bonkers. After a mysterious phone call sends all who answered it into a homicidal rage, Ash is forced to pull himself off his couch to fight this new threat. From teenage boys with guns to behemoths with sledgehammers, Ash and his friends have quite the time trying to survive the madness of Arthur's Creek.

Through it all, Jason Brant once again brings the wit and humor that the first novel was so admired for. Ash is, as always, a snarky bastard with a horrible potty mouth and an incessant need to make unnecessary commentary when faced with danger.

The Asher Benson series is definitely one to keep an eye out for. I, for one, am extremely excited to see what comes next! Especially after an ending like the one Madness had!

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## **Jamie says**

### **Madness Review**

I really enjoyed Ash: the first book in the Asher Bensen series. In fact it's one of my favorite books ever and Asher is one of my favorite heroes of all time. I can really relate to him. He has had a really rough life which is honestly a huge understatement. He suffer's from survivor's guilt, PTSD and probably a huge bout of depression on top of it. And then there's his drinking. I think it's safe to assume that Asher is definitely an alcoholic but who can blame the poor guy. If you've read Ash then you know by now that he while in the military his convoy was hit by an IED and most of his friends and comrades were killed and after waking up in the hospital he started hearing voices in his head. It didn't take him long to figure out that he could hear other people's thoughts. Being psychic sounds cool but would it really be? Especially if you can't control it

very well. I don't think I'd want to know what everyone is thinking and I sure wouldn't want anyone knowing what was going on in my mind. As the day wears the mind grows exhausted just like the body does so has an even harder time shutting out all the echoes and alcohol seems to be the only thing that helps him do that so it's no wonder he drinks all the time. I know I would.

Madness was such a good book. I really thought Ash would be next to impossible to top. It was nonstop action and the interaction between the characters was hilarious so it felt like it was an impossible feat to write an even better sequel but wow was I so wrong. Madness was sheer awesomesauce. Not only that but the title of the book was very fitting. Even the chapter titles are awesome. Take chapter 14 for instance which is titled Gigantor and Short Round Go for a Ride. How does that not grab you by the eyeballs and make you want to read it? sheer awesomesauce.

After the hectic events in the first book Asher has barely had time to recover. He's back to his old smelly, drunk self and who can blame him when Drew his detective friend shows up with the ever short and sassy Nami in tow to recruit his help against Agent Smith who is still out on the loose. Even Sammy shows up so we're reunited with the old cast once again. They barely have time for some witty banter before all heck breaks loose. Agent Smith unleashes a new weapon of terror on the locals in the town where Ash lives and once again he and his friends are stuck smack dab in the middle of the chaos. Once again the world needs a hero to stop Smith's evil. Unfortunately all we have is Asher. Fortunately though Asher is completely badass and up to the task.

The whole town has gone insane and Jason Brant effortlessly draws upon his experience writing horror novels to instill a great deal of nightmarish dread into the story. The events that take place are truly horrifying but between crazy townfolks running around torturing and killing everything in sight you're treated to some of the best dialogue in any series ever. The banter between Asher, Drew and especially Nami had me cracking up the whole book. In times of stress Asher falls back on his wit and sharp sense of humor to help lighten the situation and his snarky comments and sheer badassery are only topped by Nami's sharper tongue and colorful language. I hope the two of them will go on many more adventures together because having them both in the same room is just too much fun.

I could literally go on all day long about this book. I've come to expect great characters, witty dialogue, non-stop action along with insane twists and turns that are extremely unique. And trust me Madness has some extreme twists to it that I never would have guessed. Jason Brant pulls out all the stops with this one and once again hits a home run. There's a big reason why he's one of my favorite authors of all time and each new book just cements his place in my hall of fame. It's impossible not to have a great time reading his books. It's impossible not to fall in love with his characters and to come away from each book wanting more. I truly cannot wait for the next Asher Bensen story. The author has such a unique way of telling stories and I've rarely seen anyone write so many books where the action is full throttle from start to finish. There's never a dull moment in Madness and I'm always completely blown away that with as much action as there is his characters seem to just grow in depth throughout the story. It's hard to balance action and character development at the same time but this seems to be a skill that Jason Brant has mastered a long time ago. I really can't say enough good things about Madness. If you can only buy one book this year then this is the one to get. If you can buy two then make sure you get the first book Ash also. This is one series you do not want to miss.

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**Rose says**

Since I read The Gate, I can't get enough of the amazing stories from this author!

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**Jim Kratzok says**

**Couldn't put this one down!**

Incredible story. Love the characters and dialogue! It's amazing how horrifying and funny a story can be at the same time. Once again, Ash, Drew, and Nami team up against the evil Smith who has staged a a mind blowing attack on the small West Virginia town near where Ash has been living. A lot of good people are lost in this one....

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**Mala M. says**

**Oh my...**

How I loved book two. Though it was purchased as a Christmas gift, I took my time reading it because I had feared book two would be the last. Imagine my excitement when today of all days, my kindle directed me to book 3! Jason I'm not sure that you will ever see this review, but you have no idea what your books have done for me. Given me a reason to get out of bed when nothing else would. I absolutely am in love with you're writing style. You have a number one fan in me. Thank you.

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**Kellye Geurin says**

**Fast & fun read**

Loved the characters & fast paced action. It still is somewhat of an "unbelievable" story but with technology today who knows? Very fast read & continuation of the Ash story

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