



Stirred

J.A. Konrath , Blake Crouch

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This Bonus Content Edition includes an authors' introduction, afterword interview between J.A. Konrath and Blake Crouch, a linked cast of characters and storyline endnotes, and more!

Lt. Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels has seen humanity at its most depraved and terrifying. She's lost loved ones. Come close to death countless times. But she always manages to triumph over evil. Luther Kite is humanity at its most depraved and terrifying. He's committed unthinkable acts. Taken human life for the sheer pleasure of it. He is a monster among monsters, and no one has ever caught him. Each is the best at what they do. Peerless. Unmatched.

Until now...

In Luther's experience, people are weak. Even the strong and fearless break too easily. He wants a challenge, and sets his depraved sights on Jack. But with a baby on the way, Jack is at her most vulnerable. She's always been a fighter, but she's never had so much to fight for. So he's built something especially for Jack. His own, private ninth circle of hell - a nightmare world in a forgotten place, from which no one has ever escaped.

It's J.A. Konrath's greatest heroine versus Blake Crouch's greatest villain in *Stirred*, the stunning conclusion to both Konrath's Lt. Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels thriller series and Crouch's Andrew Z. Thomas series.

Only one can survive. And it won't be whom you think.

Stirred Details

Date : Published November 22nd 2011 by Thomas & Mercer

ISBN :

Author : J.A. Konrath , Blake Crouch

Format : Kindle Edition 505 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Horror, Suspense, Crime

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From Reader Review Stirred for online ebook

Shorty says

Angela Dawe and Phil Gigante narrated this audiobook.

Barb says

I thought NO ONE could write about Jack Daniels like J.A. Konrath. This latest installment has proved me WRONG. Blake Crouch did a wonderful job with this story - it was impossible to tell who wrote what. Another gritty, gory romp with Jack Daniels and company. I felt like I was at a super creepy family reunion. Thanks for bringing back Mr. Friskers and for adding Duffy the Basset Hound. Well done, Gentlemen!! I will remain a fan of Jack Daniels forever.

Katie says

One word. Horrific (and not in a good way).

Everyone who knows me knows I absolutely abhor cliff hangers. They leave me feeling cheated. Having said that, I cannot stress how much I wish the Jack Daniel's series had ended with the previous book's cliff hanger. I really wanted to like this book.

The first half of the book I still don't know why it was there. The only thing I can come up with is it was a marketing experience. I mean what else can it be when two main characters go for a long (chapter long) drive and their discussion is limited to a rehash of the plot of one of the previous books? The authors clearly chose to ignore the 'make every word count' writing rule. Telling a fresh story was ignored also although the repetition of previous story element was later explained.

After 50% it got better and I kept telling myself the book should have started here. Of course that was about the time I started not being able to ignore how disjointed the writing was and the lack of flow or maybe even plot. Shaken flowed in a consistent pattern with the time and POV jumps. This one didn't. The next third of the book just seemed like random jumps from one horrific, deprived situation to the next without editing for depth, pacing and rhythm.

Maybe it is my fault, because I re-read the previous books in the JD series before reading this. This was not the Jack character I've grown to love in the series. This was a wooden imitation that up until the birth I had trouble recognizing. You know something is off in characterization when Lucy and Donaldson are the only characters you can empathize with!

Once we got to the birth scene the story got much better. I was really hoping the quality of the last 10% of the book would raise the rating...then the sledge hammer came down. When you get a two page long explanation during the climax scene all I could do was grimace and shake my head while I tried to figure it out.

2.75/5 stars. I'm worried that the author has slipped from being hungry and writing quality stories to coasting on his laurels.

Steve says

Jack takes a serious trip to the dark side with this book. The antagonist is about as bad as one can get. He's got his kill-on for just about every single character in the book with the exception of Jack. He wants to leave her for last. It's fairly brutal, but true to Konrath's earlier work in this series, readers are spared explicit exposure to gory descriptors. That said, there is a whole lot of killing done in truly creative and dastardly ways.

The sequence in the killer's funhouse goes on a little longer than I would have liked, but the twist at the end makes both Jack and the reader look at the gathered evidence in an entirely new perspective. Everything we knew from page one shifts and alters what we thought we knew about the killer and his motives. This results in a creative twist that made for an interesting conclusion.

Mihir says

Review originally at Fantasy Book Critic

OVERVIEW/ANALYSIS: Stirred is a book for which both authors have been building up anticipation for their reading audience. The first collaboration between both these authors was “Serial” which was a download bonanza, and was the stepping stone in regards to the unification of their individual written worlds. Following in that direction, the authors soon expanded their collaborative efforts with Serial Uncut, Killers, Birds of Prey, etc... All of these books along with newer material were combined into a single volume called Serial Killers Uncut, which was a huge success as well as loved by the fans. I especially liked the book and was waiting to see how it would end in Stirred as I also read Shaken the penultimate book in the Jack Daniels series. Before starting on with the review for Stirred, I'll do a brief overview of Shaken before proceeding to the review.

Shaken was released earlier this year and is the seventh book in the Jack Daniels series, what was especially special about this book was that it had qualities of a prequel and sequel bundled smoothly within. The story has three distinct threads featuring Jacqueline “Jack” Daniels in three different time periods of her life, the first time period is set twenty years ago, the second timeline being focused on events three years ago and lastly the third plot is set in present day. The focus of the story was on Mr. K, a killer of note and one who has refined his methods over decades. The three timelines showcase Jack struggles with him in these various time-periods. The best part about the book is its ending and how it ties into this book, via the presence of Luther Kite who has set his sights on Jack as he sees her as his ultimate competitor via bonds of alpha predators.

There's also a tie-in to this book via several chapters from Serial Killers Uncut as Luther, Donaldson & Lucy return and are worse for the wear. The story begins with Jack who is now nearly eight and half months pregnant, this however hasn't necessarily dulled her senses and she is now even more alert. Due to reasons revealed in the climax of Shaken, Jack's friends and everyone around her is hyper alert for the presence of

Luther Kite and his plans. The biggest problem is while Jack is about to deliver, she just plain refuses to accept her physiological condition thereby further endangering her own life as well as that of her baby. Luther on the other hand has been rather inspired by Dante and his most famous work and goes about his enigmatic ways to recreate the nine circles of hell in an abandoned are of the country as well targeting several other individuals to raise the stakes of his grand plan. Thus begins the final chapter in the worlds of Jack Daniels and Luther Kite, wherein only one predator can survive and for that to happen the other must be terminated as that is the only way to survive.

This book while building upon the two previous titles does its absolute best to out thrill both the previous titles. This book is supposedly the end to not just one but two series of two different authors. Not only does it raise the stakes twice over but it also raises the question how effectively two authors can jointly write a saga and manage to make their numero uno character come out on top. As a fan of the Jack Daniels series, it was hard to imagine what fate would befall her however in the back of my mind, I knew J.A. Konrath planned to write a series about Jack's grandson thereby ruining the surprise a bit but knowing the author's deviousness and previous book plots, it could have very well turned out that Jack could still be dead and her baby might survive.

This book's strongest point is in its visceral twists and turns, Luther Kite strongly moulds the story alongside his devious plan that causes Jack and her friends but the readers as well to rack their brains as to what might be his ultimate aim. This aspect along with the plot's express pace is what makes this book an excellent thriller as well as one of the best serial killer titles. The authors have to be lauded for their ingenuity in coming up with all the twists for this tale and also for planning the ultimate twist in the climax of this story. I had raised a question in regards to a certain plot occurrence in *Serial Killers Uncut*, which was severely contradicted by events taking place in *Shaken*. I had raised this query in my review and also asked Blake Crouch for clarification, to which he had replied that everything will be revealed in *Stirred* and to my surprise it was. The contradiction plays perfectly into the massive twist planned by the authors and kudos to them for planning and executing it. All in all this I couldn't put down the book once I started it and as far as thrillers go, this is what every thriller aims for.

As for as any negative points to this book, I couldn't find many. Some readers might take umbrage with some of the twists as well as some of the things which occur might be near impossible for a nearly full term woman to do all of which Jack Daniels does. But if we start questioning too much into these events, the thriller aspect might just fall apart completely. I think that while such issues can be detrimental to the story they can't be completely ignored. Take the book for what it is, a thriller book featuring serial killers of the most depraved kind and a cop who hunts them at the expense of her own life as well as that of her near & dear ones. It's not a medical manual about what severely pregnant females can and cannot do.

CONCLUSION: A fitting finale to two series and with more action and intrigue packed in it to satisfy the most veteran readers. *Stirred* brings a strong, emotionally satisfying end to a saga of various characters with almost no room for ennui of any kind. Once again J.A. Konrath & Blake Crouch effectively show why they can be counted upon in the future to write plots mixing cerebral & visceral thrills and to thoroughly entertain their fans.

Mylene says

Sob..... I don't want to be finished! I liked this last chapter of the Daniels/Kite/Thomas saga but I didn't love it. Some parts worked (Donaldson and Lucy, and the fake Luther Kite with the circles of hell), while others

didn't (the cemetery scene was lame, and Jack is shown as more lucky than good). As a whole, Konrath and Crouch rock! Someone who likes police procedurals, strong older women characters, horror, and memorable villains needs to read Konrath and Crouch. I, for one, am a big fan!!

Debbi Mack says

STIRRED finds (retired) Lieutenant Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels (formerly) of the Chicago Police Department seated not-so-comfortably in the ER with her significant other, Phin, a bank robber-turned-nice guy. Apparently. Jack is, not to put too fine a point on it, preggers out to here. Eight and half months into pregnancy and suffering from preeclampsia. As in pre-eclampsia. Eclampsia being a condition that could kill her and/or her unborn child. So. Not. Cool.

Mid-examination, Jack learns that a sociopath named Luther Kite -- a man she both hates and fears more than anyone else on earth -- has killed someone in the most spectacular way.

Well, what's a little eclampsia when a maniac is out there, maybe after your ass? Jack hops off the table, pulls her clothes on (maybe), runs out the freaking door and catches a ride with her reluctant chauffeur/business partner Harry McGlade straight to the crime scene.

And learns that Luther left a message inside the body for Jack.

Turns out this message is a clue to the next murder. Because there is a next murder.

It's all part of huge game (involving Dante's *Divine Comedy* and the nine circles of hell) that Luther's devised for Jack, who's so stubborn/determined/scared/idiotic/take your pick that she just has to be the one to apprehend this man. Even though eclampsia is nothing to sneeze at. It's a freaking serious condition that requires bed rest or you could seriously kill yourself. Honest!

Thing about thrillers is that they are big concept stories. And one concept here is the amazing, sometimes awful capacity for people to survive ordeals.

Read the entire review at <http://thebookgrrl.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Kate says

Super serial killers versus super cops---an epic battle and the perfect ending to this series. Lots of twists and turns and action.

Kimberly A. Bettes says

It would be cliché to say that Stirred is Konrath & Crouch at their best. After all, when aren't they at their best? But this is one of their best collaborations, possibly their best to date. The way they brought in all their characters, both villains and heroes, and wove them all together in one story is simply amazing. The fact that it worked so well is a testament to both their writing abilities and their working relationship. Add in the

interactive element, and you have a real masterpiece here. (They made the story interactive for those who haven't read their previous works and are unfamiliar with the characters. The reader is able to click on the name of the character during their first appearance, and will be able to learn about them. However, if you have never read anything by either author, you will still be able to keep up. The authors have done such a wonderful job of answering any questions a new reader would have without the reader even knowing they're being given back story. And there's a couple little treats along the way for faithful readers.)

Stirred was a great read, full of surprises. With tension and suspense, humor (who doesn't love Harry McGlade?), and drama, there's something here for everyone. These two have knocked it out of the park again.

Mort says

Hell YEAH!

The next time I am at the dentist and need to go to my happy place...

- Pardon the segue, but I feel the need to share this. When I thought about how I am going to start this review, my original idea was: The next time I have to go for a prostate exam and have to go to the happy place in my head...

But then I thought that most of my Goodreads friends are female, and statistically they tend to skip the mandatory prostate exam altogether, they might not be able to relate to the fear most men have watching any medical person snap on a latex glove while sitting there bare-assed. It's a fear that pierces the core of your very being, making your sphincter constrict like it was sucking on a lemon. Think I'm joking? This is a direct quote:

"You need to relax, sir, you are pinching my finger..."

Oh, the horror! At least the nightmares are getting better - I'm down to only one or two a night. -

I know, much too drama-queen.

Where was I...right, the happy place in my mind is where I am after finishing this book.

Konrath's heroine - Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels - and Crouch's villain - Luther Kite - come together in this smashing book by two brilliant writers.

Here's what you can expect:

Retired Jack Daniels is more than eight months pregnant and suffers from preeclampsia - for those of you who don't know this medical term, you either have a penis or are much too young to read these kinds of books.

She is difficult and hormonal - no, I have also impregnated a woman, so I will not throw the inappropriate line in there of: How can you tell? - but most of all she is scared. At 48, the idea of becoming a parent is nearly as scary as the bad guys she has chased throughout her career.

Luther Kite is back, as promised at the end of the previous JD novel SHAKEN, and he's coming for Jack and her baby, leaving a trail of dead bodies in his wake to send her the message.

Will her friends, Herb, Phin and Harry - for the sake of argument, let's call him a friend, okay? - be able to protect her or will Luther be able to drag her down to the nine circles of Hell - As in, Dante, The Divine Comedy - and do whatever his twisted mind can come up with?

And then there is the unlikely unknown of the messed up killers Lucy and Donaldson - from SERIAL UNCUT - who are barely hanging on to their lives, but team up to hunt down a common enemy.

Will this truly be the end of Jack Daniels and Luther Kite, as the authors planned?

Here are my thoughts on this novel:

If you allow yourself to get on the bus, to truly give into their storytelling and allow some unlikely (yet still plausible) scenarios to ensue, you won't be able to stop yourself from loving this book. The ride is truly amazing.

As always, the funniest scene in the book is when Mr. Friskers and Harry McGlade are in the same room. And Harry, as rude, offensive and irritating as usual, will be relatable in some scenes - that in itself is some brilliant writing!

And Luther Kite - independently wealthy, charming when he needs to be and absolutely without remorse - have shades of my ultimate villain: Dr. Hannibal Lector.

I refuse to criticize this story - it did everything I wanted it to do, was brilliantly entertaining and over too soon. What in the world more would you need?

Remember, though, you will love the Jack Daniels series more if read in order, but it can be read as stand-alone.

Recommend to EVERYBODY!!!

Lou says

A finale to the Jack Daniels series created by Konrath and a finale to the Luther Kite and Andrew Z Thomas by Blake Crouch. I have yet to read any previous books from the series, with a newly found guilt. Whiskey sour, the beginning of The Jack Daniel's Detective series, has been gathering some undue dust on the shelf and after reading the end line of her career in this novel I only wished to have had a sample of her detective work in upholding the law. The mind of Luther kite is some what one that one could visit again after reading this story, via previous novels. Knowledge of past novels in the series is not a must to enjoy this thrill ride but would further enjoy the experience.

Since The pairing of the villain Hannibal Lecter and FBI agent Clarice Starling, the healthy duo of heroine and villain has been often repeated but never really matched, but in this novel the two authors have created a good competition . The villain is one screwed up one to say the least he thrives on watching his prey wither in pain bit by bit and suffer a slow death. He does not want Jack to die immediately but watch her suffer slowly and has set some traps in this story that really surpasses many serial killer/crime novels.

The authors have used all the new modern age media, one being the kindle and location points instead of page numbers in clues to crimes. The villain is obsessed with Dante's Inferno and constructs his methods of torture around its levels of hell.

This story was thoroughly enjoyable to read and really all the cliché terms can be used like page turning, thrill ride and a high octane read.

Review also here

Scott says

Wow. Konrath and Crouch pull out all the stops on this fusion of their serial killer novels with Konrath's Jack Daniels series. It's totally over the top at times, but yet, like a car wreck on the shoulder of the highway, I couldn't look away. I had to keep reading.

I haven't read a lot of Jack Daniels mysteries, maybe three, and I've enjoyed them. There's a certain competency, a workman-like quality to the stories and the writing, that I really admire. I like her as a character, too. She's sort of a guy in a woman's body. Too cool, in a way. Unconcerned with a lot of things that one might expect a woman to be concerned with. Like one fantasy of a guy about how his ideal woman should be. Far from perfect, yes, but in some ways more a guy than a girl. Not very realistic, perhaps, but totally fun in this context.

This book takes Jack and her friends, and pits them against serial killer extraordinaire Luther Kite. He's a bad dude, part Lector and part Michael Myers, in this book. Undefeatable, almost, and so darned smart! Again, totally "fun" in this context.

It was another book I just had to read until I got to the end. How was Jack going to best this guy? And what about all these other bad guys (and girls) creeping out of the woodwork?

I compare it to reading Richard Laymon. I've read a lot of his stuff, and there also, there's a certain competence in the writing, but the stories are mostly car wrecks. Don't exactly find them to be great, but I can't look away! This was better than most of those. Perhaps 4 stars is too high. But 3 is a little low for me. This was, for me, better than average. 3.5 might be about right. I used to rate Laymon's books on an internet site called the Book and Candle pub, and gave most of them 7's. I like this one more than those. 7.5 on a scale of 1 to 10.

I'll probably be working my way through Konrath's, Crouch's and their other names' (like Kilborn) novels on my Kindle. Sometimes you just want some mindless entertainment. This worked for me

Monnie says

All the books featuring Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels are extremely well written and hold your attention with a grip that just won't let go, but I must admit my fed-up-with-violence quotient finally got pushed over the edge about halfway through this one and I almost didn't finish it. Although the authors left the door open for more, *Stirred* supposedly is the last of the series, and I can't say I'm all that sorry. Lest you think I'm opposed to blood-and-guts gore, far from it; it's just that I'm totally unable to believe any human being - no matter what kind of good shape they're in - would be able to withstand such extreme physical and mental atrocities and keep on going without, as I said in a review of an earlier book, spending months in rehab. On top of that, many of the methods of torture described are hard to believe as well.

That said, authors Konrath and Crouch promise future books featuring familiar characters from the Daniels series (I won't reveal which ones lest I spoil things for those who haven't yet read *Stirred*), and yes, I'll certainly give them a try.

As an aside, one very neat feature of the Kindle version of this book is that although it can stand alone,

mentions of characters from previous books include handy links where you can read who they are. Ah, the wonders of technology!

Wandaful says

Brilliant..!!!

Hilariously funny one minute, disgustingly gory and scary as hell the next

Full of characters you love to hate, and characters you just hate to love

RIPPER story, totally engrossing,(with emphasis on the GROSS), and full of mega laugh out loud (aka LOL) moments...

Many brilliant plots along the way and hilarious dialogue to die for..!!!... Literally...

Plus a twist at the end that no one will see coming

One of the best books I have read this year

Another masterpiece from Konrath (and Blake Crouch)

6 of out 5 and then some

John says

Overall - 4.5 stars

Story - 4 stars

Narration - 5 stars

I started this series on book 8 because I got it as a daily deal or something, but I don't think it'll make a big difference.

This book was quite exciting and fast paced. If the other books in this series are as good, then I'd rate the J.A. Konrath books third after the John Sandford and Craig Johnson books on my favorite detective series list.
