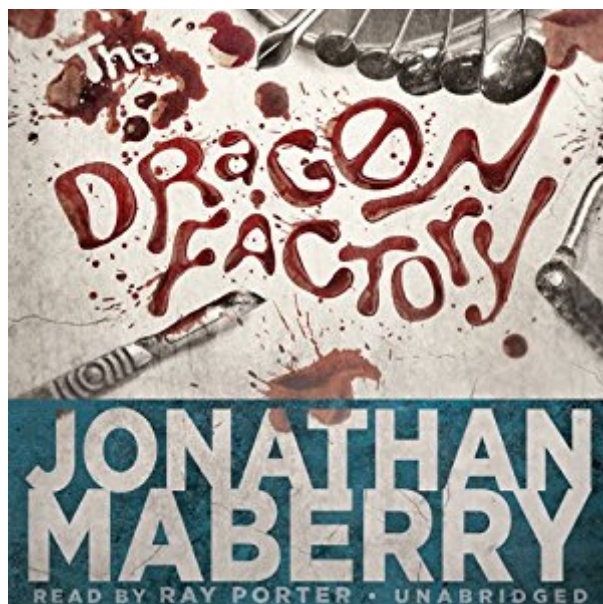


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The Dragon Factory: The Joe Ledger Novels, Book 2



Synopsis

Ex-Baltimore cop turned special-ops shooter Joe Ledger is back in action. In *The Dragon Factory*, Ledger and his team from the Department of Military Sciences square off against two separate groups of corrupt scientists. The beautiful but twisted Jakoby Twins are creating transgenic monsters and genetically enhanced mercenaries for sale to the highest bidder. Their father, who takes evil to an entirely new level, is using cutting-edge science to complete the Nazi master-race program. Joe must elude the NSA who are gunning for him, fight his way past rogue Spetsnaz teams, and stop these madmen before the Extinction Clock runs out. And when the bloodbath claims one of his own, Joe Ledger declares total war on those people who would burn down the world in order to reshape it in their own dark image.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

You can read my review here: [...]The second novel in Maberry's Joe Ledger series starts very soon after *Patient Zero* left off, with Joe visiting the gravesite of one of his oldest and dearest friends. The problem is, he's a wanted man, and the man that wants him is none other than the Vice President of the United States. He's sent his goon squad to pick up Joe, but Joe has other plans...Taking off like lightning and never letting up, *The Dragon Factory* is a cross-genre, gritty, fun, roller coaster of a ride! I loved *Patient Zero*, and *The Dragon Factory* doesn't disappoint, in fact, I think I loved it more! Told in first person POV of Joe Ledger, my favorite tough, snarky ex-cop, (with frequent forays into third person with one of the book's star psychos, Cyrus Jacoby) it grabs you by the throat, and

doesn't let you go until the last page! What's not to love? Joe and Echo Team have to deal with everything from psychotic Nazi clones, to an organization called the Cabal, which is out to achieve ethnic cleansing on a worldwide scale. Add to that DNA manipulated beasts, a race of slaves called the New Men, bio-terror on an epic scale, a pair of the creepiest, ickiest (yes, icky), twisted (had to throw that in there), albino (yes, albino) twins, and a boy hero that will break your heart and reaffirm your belief in the power of the human spirit. Maberry throws all of this at you with his usual perfect pacing and style, and the depth of detail and research put into this book is, as always, impeccable. One thing that Maberry does in his novels is something that you don't see a lot of in books that are this action oriented.

Coming off of Patient Zero, this was a huge disappointment. Very little happens for the majority of the book. Everyone who isn't one of the main characters is basically a soon-to-be-killed red shirt that only exists to make the main characters look better. And the numerous sex scenes that serve absolutely no purpose other than to plant death flags! You could literally skip past them and there would be no impact on the rest of the book. The villains here are terribly written. Oh look, villain X killed random person Y! (this has been your alternating chapter reminder that these are bad, baaaaad people, remember, killing is baaaaaad!). The main characters are also forcefully written to act stupidly. Oh, the villains are capable of manipulating genetics to literally create unicorns and dragons? And I'm being attacked by people who are too strong and too big to be naturally human? Obviously they must be using an exoskeleton and aren't genetically modified supersoldiers (which it turns out they are)! It's just more and more forced stupidity in a poor attempt to maintain shock value that already snuffed out long ago, like a bad comedian trying to extend a joke and delay the punchline to the point that it's no longer funny. The main characters are supposed to be smarter than this, but let's just conveniently drop their IQ several levels out of character! Furthermore, Maberry has some obsessive compulsion with describing every single bad guy as big, mean, and tough, and casually namedrops various special forces such as Spetsnaz, SAS, and SEALs. And yet when Joe has to go up against ex-Spetsnaz, they instantly and conveniently become incompetent at fighting and die upon a glance at Joe's plot armor.

Another kick ass Joe Ledger read. This one starts with Otto Wirths and Cyrus Jacoby. These men are mass murderers though no one knows it. Jakobcy has two children, Paris and Hecate. These two are in the same league as Paris Hilton and all the other rich kids who make headlines. Jacoby has used his vast knowledge and genetics to create the New Men. New Men who have had all the

aggression bred out of them. They can be used any way a buyer wants to use them. He and Wirths have a master plan. A plan that will remove all non whites from existence. Paris and Hecate have also used genetics to breed animals. Animals who are either extinct or a myth. Animals that hunters will pay a fortune to hunt. Paris and Hecate don't know what Dad is up to. They think they have Dad contained. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are also boys at the Worths and Jakoby compound, boys who look exactly alike. One of them, number eighty two, knows what's going on and is desperate to stop it. He manages to send a video to DMS. Joe Ledger is at the cemetery to pay his respects to an old girlfriend. Helen is her name and she killed herself years ago. She and Ledger were attacked by four older boys. They almost beat Ledger to death and all four of them raped Helen. Years later she killed herself. Something Ledger has never been able to deal with. The attack on Helen and her death has hit Joe hard. In fact three personalities share his mind. Civilized Man, Cop and Killer. He knows all three quite well. When his Killer persona comes out to play Joe Ledger is damned near unstoppable. While at the cemetery four men from the NSA approach Ledger. They want him to come with them. Not likely.

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