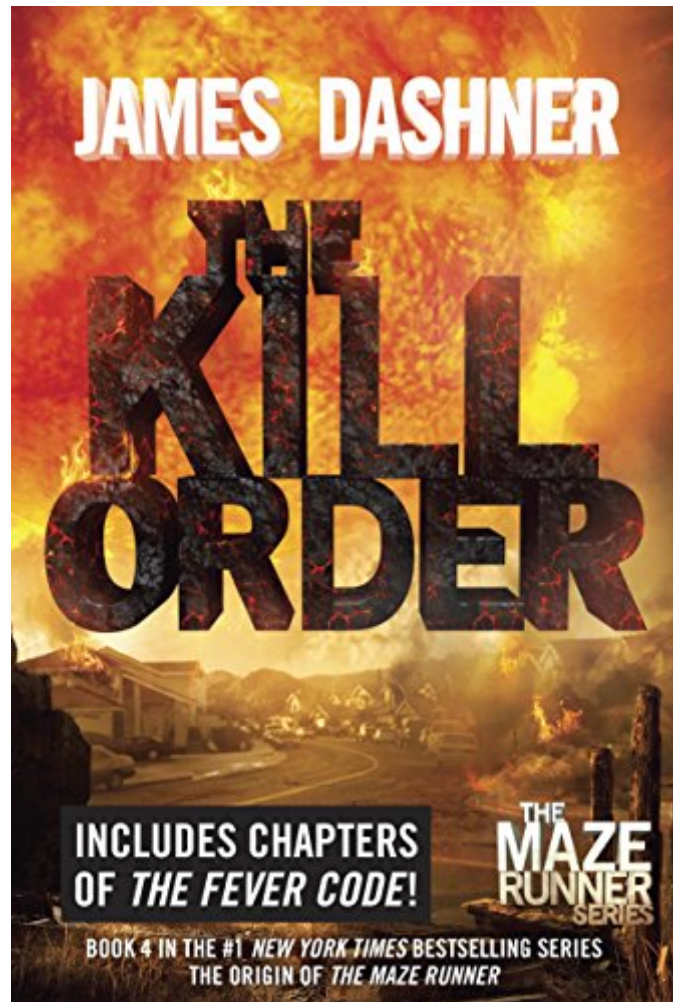


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The Kill Order (Prequel)



Synopsis

The fourth book in the blockbuster phenomenon MAZE RUNNER SERIES now features chapters from The Fever Code, the highly-anticipated conclusion to the series—the novel that finally reveals how the maze was built!—Before WICKED was formed, before the Glade was built, before Thomas entered the Maze, sun flares hit the earth, killing most of the population. Mark and Trina were there when it happened. They survived. But now a virus is spreading. A virus that fills humans with murderous rage. They're convinced that there's a way to save those who are left—if they can stay alive. Because in this new, devastated world, every life has a price. And to some you're worth more dead than alive. The Maze Runner and Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials are now major motion pictures featuring the star of MTV's Teen Wolf, Dylan O'Brien; Kaya Scodelario; Aml Ameen; Will Poulter; and Thomas Brodie-Sangster. The third movie, Maze Runner: The Death Cure, will hit screens in 2018. Also look for James Dashner's edge-of-your-seat MORTALITY DOCTRINE series!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First Impressions: I loved The Maze Runner series so much that I wanted to really love this book. I have a fascination with wanting to know what happens before I find myself in a story, and I love that Dashner has created a world that existed before the first pages of The Maze Runner were penned. I wanted to know more about the sickness infecting the world, the darkness that had enveloped a crazed planet. Well written as always, the opening pages of this book seemed like they were going to answer a lot of my questions. But, it didn't. I will go into that more later.

First 50 Pages: Besides the brief prologue, there is not too much that is familiar about The Kill Order. You are introduced to a new group of characters fighting a completely different battle. What this book does well, and instantly, is set up the post solar flare world. Everything changes on earth when a solar flare hits and nearly destroys everything. What is left are small settlements and resilient people. That is, until the ships come from the sky and reign a new kind of terror on the flare survivors. Instead of being their salvation, the giant ships sends Mark, Alec, Trina and Lana on a new, horrifying journey.

Characters & Plot: At first, I was a little disappointed that more of the story was not going to be dedicated to the characters I had met in the Maze Runner series. I wanted to know more of their story, for sure. But, Dashner created a whole group of characters that are tough, hardened and yet somehow still vulnerable. Mark, the main character, goes through every emotion possible in the pages of this story. He is hopeful, playful, angry, lost, scared and brave all at once.

(I read this book for free from the library.)

Full disclosure: I'm not really a fan of prequels. It's very tricky to create suspense and peril in a story the reader already knows. Some prequels have been very good but most are not. This book falls into the "not good" category. I read the other three books in this series with increasing distaste. The first one was just good, not great, but I felt like the series went downhill with each step. It became more and more violent and gory while never providing any explanations about what was going on. It's hard to enjoy long stories about kids being killed with no justifications. This book took that feeling to an extreme.

I read this book because I hoped it would (FINALLY) provide an explanation of the events in the other three books. The mystery in those books revolved around Thomas' memories being erased. This book is set before that happened, surely it will explain everything, right? In the other three books, there are many hints that Thomas and Theresa helped design the maze and the trials, that they were willing participants and that they were even in charge at one point. Since this is a prequel, surely we'll get to see all that, right? No.

This book starts in a small settlement in the mountains. Thomas and Theresa are nowhere to be seen. Solar flares have fried most of the planet's surface and the survivors are huddled into camps, scratching out a meager existence. Suddenly a flying ship comes by and shoots everyone with

darts, injecting them with a deadly virus. The two main characters manage to fight back and take down the ship. Neither of them were hit with darts, but the virus is highly contagious. The chances of them being uninfected are basically zero (and they know it).

WARNING: Some spoilers here from the trilogy and a few details from this book too: Just read *The Kill Order* and I totally agree that the violence/fighting was a bit over the top. I've read other reviews that call it "real" and "honest" but, I struggle to understand the "real and honest" physiology that enables an under-nourished kid and old man on the brink of exhaustion to keep fighting and functioning the way Mark and Alec do after they get their behinds kicked all over the place time and time again. I think I'd probably be dead after fight number one. That said, I've never been in a fight so, I guess I don't know. Maybe I would keep going like a zombified Energizer bunny after having my vital organs crushed by repeated punches and kicks, my limbs smashed in doors and pulled out of socket after hanging on to an aircraft in mid flight, and my head consistently bashed in by pieces of metal and other blunt objects. I have a student who missed three days of school because he got a concussion heading a soccer ball. He still can't look at a computer screen nevermind get into an all out death match fight with a gaggle of cranked out zombies. He would never survive in dystopia. My having never been in a physical altercation of any kind had another downside as I read *The Kill Order*. I had a super hard time visualizing what was happening in the fight scenes. I couldn't always figure out whose fist was hitting what and which body parts were swinging around to where. There was one scene where someone hit Mark who I was sure had already been killed. It was all pretty much a gory, violent blur that I skimmed through until I got to the part where someone died, passed out, or ran away.

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