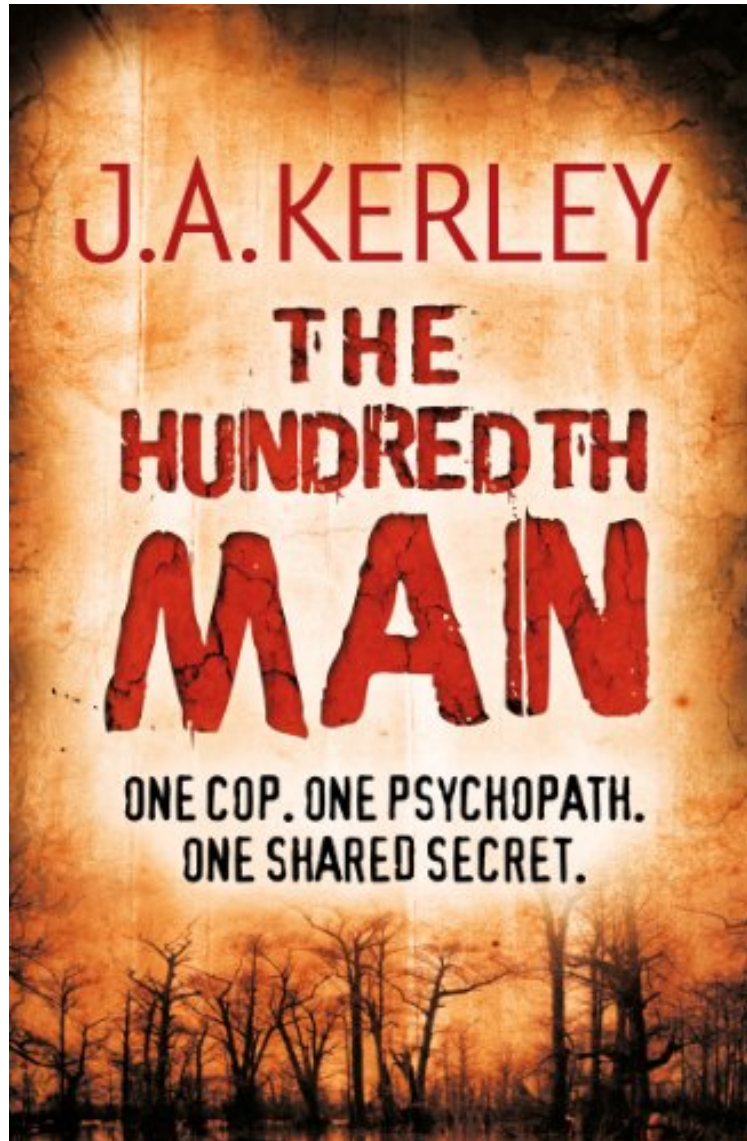


(Mobile library) The Hundredth Man (Carson Ryder, Book 1)

## The Hundredth Man (Carson Ryder, Book 1)

Von J. A. Kerley

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**Von J. A. Kerley : The Hundredth Man (Carson Ryder, Book 1)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hundredth Man (Carson Ryder, Book 1):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Murder and Detection with a Twist of the HeadVon Donald MitchellThe Hundredth Man is one of the most original and interesting police procedurals I have read. Mr. Kerley has a powerful imagination and the writing ability to make the story live for a reader. The only thing that's missing is creating a chilling sense of dread of the sort that having truly

creepy and threatening villains can bring. I missed that element. I was hoping that there was a Hannibal Lecter character hiding away in the story somewhere. Close, but not quite. The story comes across as though it is the second in a series, so perhaps we will be treated to a prequel someday to fill in the interesting background of how Carson Ryder became a police detective with a specialty in dealing with the psychology behind crimes. Carson Ryder and his partner, Harry Nautilus, form a two-man unit, PSIT (humor apparently intended) that is frequently on the receiving end of that invocation from politically ambitious members of the force. They are called in to handle a case involving a headless corpse found in a park. The primary clue involves an unusual message placed in an unusual location. What does it mean? If you can figure it out, you're a genius. I don't recall such an original concept for a clue. More crimes follow and the partners find themselves having as much trouble with their superiors as with the uncaught criminal. The story has marvelous misdirection that keeps the plot humming along. Unlike many first novels with fine plots, the story has intriguing and original characters whose stories will fascinate you. I was disappointed that these characters were not developed even more. They move past their difficulties a little too easily for my taste. The book is filled with complex and unusual psychology, and you will probably find yourself intrigued by seeing the world from the dark side in new ways. In the process, you will learn a lot about the complexities of how people cope with dysfunctional family experiences. If you find the ugly details of how people harm others to be very upsetting, you may want to skip this book. It may affect your dreams. I took away the lesson that we all need to be kinder and more helpful to one another. This book certainly makes that point very well. 0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Entspricht nicht ganz den Erwartungen... Von Caracalla Junger Streifenpolizist im tiefsten Süden der USA (Mobile, Alabama) bringt einen Serienmörder zur Strecke und wird zum Detective bei einer Sondereinheit befördert... Doch das erfährt man nur beiläufig während sich die eigentliche Handlung entwickelt. Der Anfang ist etwas holperig, durchsetzt mit fast gezwungen wirkenden Einlagen schwarzen Humors und flapsiger Redewendungen. Fast war ich versucht, das Buch (elektronisch) wieder aus der Hand zu legen, da wurde es dann doch interessant. Leider weniger durch die Verfolgung des (man ahnt es: völlig irren) Serienmörders, sondern mehr durch die Intrigen, die sich innerhalb der Polizeihierarchie von Mobile abspielen und denen unser Held fast zum Opfer fällt. Nebenbei gibt es noch eine dramatische Liebesgeschichte, die sich ganz am Ende doch noch in den eigentlichen Handlungsfaden eingliedert und für einen finalen Spannungshöhepunkt sorgt. Fast mehr als die eigentliche Geschichte haben mich in diesem Roman die nebenbei verlaufenden Handlungsstränge bei der Stange gehalten. Eher nebenbei gewinnt die Persönlichkeit (Entwicklung) des Protagonisten durch Rückblenden in die Vergangenheit Gestalt, ebenso nebenbei erfahren wir, dass sein Bruder ein ebenfalls geisteskranker Serienmörder ist, der seine Tage in der forensischen Psychiatrie verbringt. Etwas zu dick aufgetragen ist für meinen Geschmack das Finale der Geschichte, die in einem Crescendo aus haarsträubend unwirklichen und unrealistischen Geschehnissen endet. Klar, der Bösewicht entgeht seiner Strafe nicht. Aber musste die Story wirklich so brutal enden und das kleine Bisschen Realität, das sich über die Seiten gerettet hat auch noch zerstören? Alles in allem wirkt das Ganze seltsam verkrampft und bemüht, dazu ein gehöriger Schuss Brutalität um den Leser im Handlungsgerüst nicht zu verlieren. Das ist nur selten spannend, viel öfter nervig. Mein erster Kerley wird es auch bleiben.....

**Kurzbeschreibung** A darkly compelling serial-killer novel introducing the next big name in psychological thrillers and, in Carson Ryder, a fascinating and complex protagonist set for many books to come. A body is found in the sweating heat of an Alabama night; headless, words inked on the skin. Detective Carson Ryder is good at this sort of thing crazies and freaks. To his eyes it is no crime of passion, and when another mutilated victim turns up his suspicions are confirmed. This is not the work of a normal murderer, but that of a serial killer, a psychopath. Famous for solving a series of crimes the year before, Carson Ryder has experience with psychopaths. But he had help with that case strange help, from a past Ryder is trying to forget. Now he needs it again. When the truth finally begins to dawn, it shines on an evil so twisted, so dangerous, it could destroy everything that he cares about. From Publishers Weekly First-time author Kerley debuts with a classically constructed, psychotic-killer-with-a-horrendous-childhood thriller featuring young detective Carson Ryder, himself troubled by a problematic past. Carson and partner Harry Nautilus are the newly formed two-man Psychopathological and Sociopathological Investigative Team, referred to as Piss-it by the other members of the Mobile, Ala., police force. While Piss-it's official mandate is the investigation of murders committed by particularly horrendous killers, the formation of the team is actually a public relations scheme. Nevertheless, when a headless body turns up in a local park, Piss-it has its first real case. At the autopsy, Carson meets new hire Dr. Ava Davenelle, who is handling corpse-cutting duties. "She was dour, abrupt, and projected the femininity of a hammer yet her motions verged on symphonic." Of course he's immediately smitten, though his polite advances are rejected. Turns out she has her own life as well as a job-threatening problem, which Carson must solve while simultaneously identifying the killer who has meanwhile added several more headless victims to his growing list. Carson's secret weapon of detection is his brother, an insane mass-murderer who feeds him clues on the nature of madmen from an asylum, la Hannibal Lecter. Kerley has certainly mastered the form, and the nail-biter takedown scene is as exciting as

any in the business. This is a solid addition to the genre, and a series to look forward to. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Carson Ryder is a Mobile, Alabama, police detective whose key role in solving a serial-killer case landed him a place on a special unit devoted to psycho crimes. Like almost all the characters in this narrative locomotive of a first novel, Carson has a secret: his ability to crack the serial-killer case had a lot to do with advice he got from his brother, who has reason to know how psychos think. Now another serial killer is at work, beheading his (or her) male victims and leaving cryptic messages carved on their bodies. As Carson and his partner (perhaps the most appealing character in the book), veteran cop Harry Nautilus, investigate the murders, they quickly become ensnared both in department politics and in a quagmire of secrets involving the medical staff at the morgue. Kerley jacks up the tension effectively with nicely placed jumps between Carson's narration and the tortured thoughts of the killer, building to an all-stops-out climax involving a raging river and a supremely horrific home movie. There are moments where the book nearly zooms out of control--especially during the over-the-top climax--but, finally, the powerful forward motion of the narrative and the compelling forensic and psychological detail more than compensate for the heroine-tied-to-the-tracks melodrama. The finale aside, Kerley's plot is a treasure chest of interlocked pieces, each holding a secret, a link in the chain connecting the novel's characters to the demons in their various closets. Kerley isn't the new Ridley Pearson quite yet, but don't bet against him. Bill Ott Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved