



## Final Crossing

*Carter Wilson*

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Rudiger doesn't kill because he wants to. He kills because he needs to. When the sadistic Preacherman stole the last bit of Rudiger's already troubled childhood soul, Rudiger lost himself forever. He has committed atrocities even he cannot explain in his quest for the End of Days, a release from his pain by finding and crucifying The One.

Jonas Osborne, an Army Ranger and Senatorial Chief of Staff, recognizes Rudiger's disturbing capacity based on a terrifying firefight in Somalia almost two decades earlier. Now Jonas—and the beautiful psychic criminologist he's enlisted to predict Rudiger's next brutal attack—become targets. Only on the biggest international stage—a summit for Middle East peace talks—will Jonas and Rudiger meet again for one final confrontation.

## Final Crossing Details

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Author : Carter Wilson

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# From Reader Review Final Crossing for online ebook

## Katy says

**Book Info:** Genre: Suspense Reading Level: Adult

**Disclosure:** I received a free ebook eGalley from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

**Synopsis:** He wasn't always called Rudiger; once he was a normal, quiet boy. But when the sadistic Preacherman stole the last bit of Rudiger's childhood soul, Rudiger lost himself forever. As an adult, Rudiger has committed atrocities even he cannot explain and he yearns for the End of Days. God has told him he must crucify The One to bring about the Final Judgment, but Rudiger is left to his own to figure out who The One is. Thus sets off Rudiger's horrifying journey across continents in hopes bringing an end to the world, one crucifixion after another.

One man remembers what Rudiger is capable of. Jonas Osborne, a Senatorial Chief of Staff, saw first-hand what Rudiger is capable of during a terrifying battle in Somalia fifteen years earlier. Now Jonas himself could be a target on Rudiger's quest, and he enlists the help of beautiful psychic criminologist to understand where Rudiger will erect his next cross, and stop him before another innocent person is nailed to it. And only on the biggest national stage—a conference on Middle Eastern peace talk—will Jonas and Rudiger meet again for one last confrontation.

**My Thoughts:** Wow, this is quite a story. Very powerful, it goes back and forth between Jonas and Rudiger – whose story is told in present tense. Characters are given depth and clarity, and the plot moves smoothly and swiftly, action and exposition carefully balanced to provide a terrific reading experience. It is very intense – not an easy read, in any way, but if you enjoy suspense/thrillers and the like, you should enjoy this book. There are graphic scenes, but mostly we see the build-up and aftermath – it's all handled very carefully.

I can definitely recommend this book. Check it out.

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## Michael says

Rudiger is on a twisted mission to bring forth the end of days; he believes murder is the answer. Senatorial Chief of Staff, Jonas Osborne is on a mission to stop him; can Osborne solve the puzzles and prevent these murders? With the help of psychic criminologist, Anne Deneuve this psychological thriller is chilling, disturbing and an edge-of-your-seat read. Final Crossing is a typical cat and mouse game with religious elements featuring heavily in this suspense novel.

This is an interesting and thrilling read but, for me personally, I have some issues with it that really did stop me from enjoying the book as much as I could. For starters the characters; I wanted to like Anne, she had a real attitude towards her but the fact she was a psychic criminologist stopped me. As for the lead protagonist Jonas Osborne, I felt he was a bit too flat and had no real dimension to him, so I never really liked or cared what was happening to him

As for the religious aspects, I really struggled with them. I wasn't sure what the author, Carter Wilson, was

doing with them. In the end, I decided he was just mixing Catholicism with some Judaism and the Westboro church. Nothing seemed to fit right and as this is a debut book from an unknown author, I really didn't know where to find any background information about him and his knowledge on religion. Then there were the product placements; at one point of the book I thought this whole story was sponsored by RIM with the amount of mentions of BlackBerry. Why not mix it up a little and call it a phone, a cell or something else; unless you were under a sponsorship.

I have to say after my little rant about what I didn't like about this book, that for a debut author it really wasn't a bad read. I think Carter Wilson has a future in suspense thrillers and I know it is hard to get published so I won't hold my issues with the book against him. I'm hoping when he does release another novel he will research it a little more and that I'll get a chance to read it. While at times I felt this novel was predictable, there were also times that I didn't see a twist coming and these twists seemed to offset the formulaic style that started to come through in the plot. *Final Crossing* is a disturbing psychological thriller that will keep you turning the page and at times send chills down your spine.

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### **Lavoie Lianne (The Towering Pile) says**

This book is a thriller, which is not my usual reading material, but for whatever reason it caught my eye on NetGalley, and I decided to give it a shot. I'm glad I did! *Final Crossing* tells the story of a killer named Rudiger, who believes that he's being instructed on who to kill by God. It's also the story of an ex-army guy named Jonas who now works for a senator, and gets caught up in the case when he discovers that he has a connection to Rudiger (oh, and he's told about this by a psychic criminologist).

It's really disturbing. People get crucified. Also, I find murderers who believe their killing is the will of God to be particularly terrifying. Rudiger is totally convinced that what he's doing is right. He has a gift for finding anagrams of words, so he reads signs, newspaper headlines, etc., and sees the letters mixed up to spell messages from God about who he should kill. Creepy.

I really enjoyed this story. I definitely felt the suspense! (Actually, I felt it a bit too much: My NetGalley file expired in the middle of the climax so my Kobo locked me out! Luckily, the book was still up on NetGalley, so I was able to download it again to finish it. Thank goodness!) I never felt like I knew what was going to happen, and it was hard to put down through most of the book!

5 stars, for leaving me pleasantly surprised, and also for freaking me out.

Full disclosure: Free e-book copy received from the publisher through NetGalley.

This review is copied from my blog, The Towering Pile. It was originally published here.

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### **Amy says**

Hold on to your bra straps and belt buckles, kids, because *Final Crossing* might just cause you to lose your brassieres and britches.

Jonas Osbourne is a retired Army Ranger, currently working for a revered Senator. The subject of political

speculation himself, Jonas has no small measure of power in Washington, and other than being recently dumped by a girlfriend, his life is running along without much drama. But then he nearly gets run over by a Chevy Impala, and he learns that a man he served with in Somalia and thought was dead - and who tried to kill him, after beheading a baby and chopping the ear off of a little girl - not only is alive, but crucifying people. And that's when Jonas's life gets a little more rambunctious.

Rudiger Sonman (there is a reason for that last name, and you will understand it when you read the book) remembers Jonas from Somalia, and he remembers the crimes he committed. But he believes he is God's agent, sent to find The One. He crucifies and waits three days, believing each time that he found The One. Jonas, however, presents a problem, and Rudiger likes to eliminate problems.

Fortunately for Jonas, Anne Deneuve, an intuitive medium who works for the FBI, is around to help him. And by "help," I mean professional AND personally assist. Jonas is not an easy man to love; in fact, Anne herself calls him an ass on more than one occasion. Yet we can see that he is lovable, and we can see why Anne is drawn to him.

As Rudiger continues his hunt for The One, Jonas and Anne must try to outwit him. And that's where the action portion of the festivities comes into play. There is a LOT of action in this book, some of it gruesome but all of it nerve wracking and thrilling. Carter Wilson knows how to create tension in a scene, and he also knows when his readers need a little break. He peppers the book with witty throw-away lines - "He swerved behind a Fiat (*who the hell drives a Fiat?*) ..." - and draws a fantastic character in Jonas Osbourne, a man whose political life may not give him all that he needs.

*Yet there was something connecting both events. Jonas realized in both of his near-death moments, they were the only times Jonas felt truly and utterly alive. It was something beyond the adrenaline rush. Beyond the fear. His mere survival buttressed his ego, telling him he survived for a reason. That, despite all his success in life, he was meant for something more.*

Anne sees it, too. She asks him if he has changed since his accident, if perhaps he has a hero complex. Jonas isn't so sure. He doesn't really want to save people, yet he does feel as if he must. He believes - he knows - he must find Sonman.

This is an engrossing, entertaining thriller of a book, with a little smidge of romance thrown in. Carter Wilson writes snappy dialogue (although I hate that phrase - "snappy dialogue" - because it sounds like something you would say about *His Girl Friday* or *The Gilmore Girls*) and crafts a compelling mystery.

The bad news is that Jonas's story ends after 300 pages or so. The good news is that my Spidey Sense says there is a sequel to come.

Published on cupcake's book cupboard. @VivaAmaRisata  
Thanks to NetGalley for the preview.

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### **Christy Gibbon says**

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for my review. This was a definite "don't put me down"

read. It was well-written and keeps your attention throughout. It gives you a look into the mind of a serial killer and why he is the way he is. The hero is a likeable guy who gets drawn into the search for the killer because of their past connection and ultimately becomes the target. Hold onto your seat as you get drawn into this fascinating read.

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### **Brenda says**

This book grabs you from the opening pages, and doesn't let you go until the final page is turned!

When Jonas Osbourne, Chief of Staff, was asked by his boss Senator Robert Sidam to go to the funeral of his good friend, Michael Calloway, who had just been murdered in a horrifying and grisly way, Jonas was recovering from an accident where he was hit by a car on the freeway, while trying to help a stranded motorist. The FBI were at the service, quietly observing, and while doing the eulogy, Jonas could feel the eyes of a very attractive woman on him. Anne Deneuve introduced herself to Jonas after the funeral, explaining that she was working for the FBI as their psychic criminologist, and she had a feeling Jonas was connected to Michael Calloway, even though he'd only met him once. Perhaps even connected to Michael's killer.

Since the accident, Jonas had been experiencing flashbacks to an episode in Somalia, when he was a Ranger in the Army. A terrible time, a time when he almost died, and a soldier in his platoon went rogue, killing an entire family. This occurred in Mogadishu, the Mog, and Jonas hadn't thought of it in at least a decade. But after being hypnotised by Anne, everything came back to him, the horror, the grief, the disgust...it was all there again. Jonas went to see an old friend, Major General Charles (Chuck) Ogilvy, the Vice Director of Joint Staff, whom he hadn't seen in at least a year, and asked him about Rudy Sonman, the rogue soldier who had never been found...did they have anything on file about him? And they did.....

This story moves between Jonas and his connection to Rudiger, the killer, whom we know from the very beginning. We hear about the horror of a 12year old's abuse, and the subsequent effects it had on him. The fact that he thinks he is doing God's work, and won't stop until it's done. He is a twisted and psychologically twisted serial killer, but thinks everyone else is crazy, not him!

But as the horrors escalate, and more bodies appear, Jonas is getting desperate...is he going to be able to stop him before it's too late? He has avoided death before, but can he stop the killer before he murders his friends, and himself?

I highly recommend this book, a psychological thriller with an ability to suck you in until the end...well done Carter Wilson!

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### **Anne says**

There are few things more horrendous than deadly crimes committed by those who insanely believe they are doing God's bidding. The crimes of Rudiger Mortisin are certainly horrifying. Jonas Osborne, Chief of Staff to Senator Robert Sidams, is a veteran who encountered some extremely difficult situations in Somalia during the war but one situation in particular has suddenly begun to populate his dreams. It involves the

killing of a Somalian family that Jonas witnessed in what became a near death situation. Jonas survived but wonders why the scene he has worked so hard to forget is now coming back into his life. Soon it is revealed that a series of bizarre crimes may be linked to Jonas's memories and the person who will help bring it into focus is psychic criminologist, Anne Deneuve. What ensues is a cat and mouse race to see whether FBI officials can put it all together before the next death occurs. While I found the book to be mostly predictable, there were some great twists that I could have slapped myself for missing and I found myself unwilling to stop reading once I reached the halfway point. A good thriller.

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### **Kristin Scearce says**

Disclaimer: I won a copy of this book through a FirstReads giveaway.

I really enjoyed the story found in this novel, and it definitely kept my interest throughout. Religion coupled with politics is certainly something that is at the forefront of our society right now, and the ways in which they were used and interacted together in the plot was very intriguing. I also liked how it bounced back and forth between the points of view of Jonas and Rudiger so the reader could gain perspective on the story from both sides.

However, there were quite a lot of proofreading errors in my copy, which was not labeled as a proof or anything other than an off-the-shelf edition. While I am not one to avidly search for such things, read with a red pen in hand, or anything of that nature, there were just too many to ignore. There were even a few in back-to-back sentences. That is the reason I dropped a star from my rating.

All-in-all, "Final Crossing" is a great suspense thriller where religion is used to bolster the thoughts of a serial killer into believing he's doing the work of God, eventually crossing paths with a Senator's Chief of Staff. However, if you're the type to rip your eyes out when you see a typographical or grammatical error, you might want to step away from this one, or at least take a couple deep breaths first.

4 stars

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### **Sherri says**

WOW!!! This thriller grabs your attention from the very first page! The intense, intriguingly creepy plot contains multiple storylines that merge together through terrifying twists and turns. The characters are given the perfect amount of depth so that the reader can easily identify why each character acts in the manner he/she does – this is especially crucial for the antagonist, Rudiger. The author explores the depths of human wickedness and successfully conveys why one human with a rare psychological disorder feels justified performing such horrifying acts on another human. I found myself in a page turning frenzy, but forced myself to slow down to better appreciate the author's impressive writing style as well as the storyline. This book is filled with imaginative analogies and quick witted dialogue – every sentence is well written and not to be missed! FINAL CROSSING is a page-turning thriller and you should definitely NOT pass this one up!!! Carter Wilson's debut novel does not disappoint and I am anxiously awaiting his next thriller!

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## **pinK says**

I received this book from a First Reads giveaway. The blurb caught my attention immediately, but I was a bit hesitant on reading it. I felt that I had too high of hopes for this book, and that by reading it, I would just disappoint myself. I was not disappointed.

This book was amazing. I had to use all of my willpower to space my reading out over the course of a few days to relish and enjoy this book. It was gripping from the first chapter!

The characters were very well developed and easy to relate to. I enjoyed the idea of there being a love interest in the book, which was unexpected to me. The love element added a little bit extra to the story, and made it that much easier to relate to Jonas.

The ONLY thing I didn't like was not knowing where Rudiger went. I can definitely see the point on why it was done that way, and it did very well at building up even more suspense as well as opened the book up for a sequel, but I really wanted to know, so it was a bit irritating that it wasn't addressed.

Overall, I would definitely recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a suspenseful story.

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## **Stephen says**

A great page-turning thriller that will keep you reading well into the night. Final Crossing is a solid suspense novel in the genre of Steve Berry and Dan Brown with a hint of Edgar Allan Poe that adds thoughtful, dark subtext. Very well-written as the author meshes perspectives from both the protagonist's and the antagonist's points of view. The two main characters are interwoven well with their respective backgrounds to give the reader ample understanding of their pasts from which each evolves throughout the story. The protagonist is realistically portrayed as his doubts, skepticism and emotions are easy to empathize with. Moreover, the author's unique take on a rare psychological condition provides an understandable motive that drives the serial killer whose intelligence appears to keep him one step ahead of everyone.

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## **DL says**

This was a book that Netgalley invited me to review. I clicked "yes" then went into a panic because the blurb (which I had not read First) made the book sound like a blood fest, like a horror story. I don't read horror; I get horrified far too easily. I steeled myself for a painful read. Because even if the book was well written, I wasn't going to like it. Imagine my surprise when not only was the book well written, it was Good. Couldn't put it down good. Lost sleep good. Yes, there was blood and gore and in the last scene, I was having a very hard time with it. If the murders had been that graphic from the start I would never have been able to finish. But the book wasn't about the murders themselves, it was about Catching the murderer. My only quibble with the story was that Jonas acted in a very trusting and naive way at one critical point in the story which seemed very out of character for him. The ending left possibilities for a sequel. I hope there is. I wouldn't mind reading more about Jonas and Anne at all.

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### **Cats of Ulthar says**

I loved this book! “Final Crossing” has everything a reader of thrillers could ask: a skewed, psychologically bizarre serial killer who sees clues that no one else ever could; violent death; mysteries unbound; the horrors of war, still present even though far in the past; a Capitol Hill Chief of Staff who still has the skills of his special forces training; and the perverted childhood tortures that combined to make that serial killer the juggernaut he is today. A fascinating mystery/thriller/psychological study, “Final Crossing” is a compelling novel not to be missed except by the very faintest of hearts.

A serial killer with one purpose-molded by a perversion of religion tortured into him at the hands of an earlier madman, a creature he encountered only by accident one fated afternoon; a former Army Ranger who now lives for the political machinations of America’s capital; a psychic criminologist on contract to the Federal Bureau of Investigation: a fated trio, each with one foot in a world other than our own consensus reality.

Readers will literally find themselves perched on the edges of their chairs, astonished, driven, heart-wrenched, and horrified, turning the pages so fast they might almost ignite. The term “thriller” might have been conceived to describe “Final Crossing.” Please don’t miss out.

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### **Bandit says**

I read this book solely based on the impression the author made with his sophomore effort, *Boy in the Woods*. Which is a good thing because I probably wouldn’t have picked up *Boy In the Woods* based on this book, had I read them in chronological order of publishing. This isn’t to say *Final Crossing* isn’t good, it’s quite decent, it’s a solid action thriller about a serial killer. As with his other book, Carter makes no mysteries here, all the players are on the board, their motivations are obvious, the reader is just along for the ride. The thing with this book is that it very much reads like a debut novel, it’s clichéd, you know the one where the women are all gorgeous and the men are all handsome, tough and stoic and there is more action than character development and it’s all fairly predictable. The killer is Wilson’s most interesting creation, autistic kidnaping survivor with a deadly religious intent. He should have been more of a centerpiece here, not the tough as nails yet open to love ex ranger with a political career in the works and traumatic army past. Anyway, this was a very fast paced read and plenty entertaining and, if *Boy in the Woods* an example to go by, Carter Wilson has made dramatic improvements as an author, which is always good. Progress and all that. Fans of stereotypical by the numbers thrillers would like this one. Despite the book’s bulk, very quick read.

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### **Patrice Hoffman says**

Let me start by saying I thoroughly enjoyed *Final Crossing*. It culminated everything that makes a suspense thriller novel a good novel. It of course had suspense, intrigue, death, mystery, and an interesting antagonist. Rudigar is an insane, sadistic nut who is able to decipher clues from words he sees. These clues help him to choose who his next victim will be. This guy could really be a case study on what goes horribly bad when and already fragile mind endures irreparable damage.

The other great element to a good suspense novel is the hero. He's gotta be worth caring about and badass. Although he's not written as a Rambo type character, his heart is good and genuine. He's a well-written character. Actually, both Rudiger and Jonas Osborne are well written characters. The backgrounds of both men are given with great detail. I especially enjoyed learning Rudiger's background.

In conclusion, I really did enjoy this book although most of the killing was done off stage until the end. I was actually shocked by the ending although there were other aspects I wasn't so shocked about. There would be no surprise if this is the beginning of a series for this author since I felt there were a couple of things left wide open for it to be. I think fans of dark suspense or Ted Dekker would really enjoy this book. I'm happy I was able to be taken on this journey by the author. I look forward to what's next

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