



Kill Switch

Jonathan Maberry

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What do you do when the power goes off?

Terrorists have acquired a terrible new weapon that can crash the power grid and plunge America into a new dark age. A coordinated attack is planned to shut out all lights and emergency services to ten major cities. Planes will fall, hospitals will go dark, no help will come.

And in that terrible darkness, a dreadful plague will be released. If the lights go off, nothing can stop the bioweapon from killing millions.

At the same time, the intelligence services are being torn apart from within by a plague of betrayal, murder, and suicide. Even the Department of Military Sciences is stumbling in its response to the growing threat.

Time is running out, and Joe is being hunted by a terrifying new kind of assassin. A team of remote viewers have the ability to take over any person and turn ordinary citizens into killers. Where can you turn when there's nobody left to trust?

Joe Ledger faces his deadliest challenge as friends and allies become enemies and all of the lights begin to go out...

Kill Switch Details

Date : Published April 26th 2016 by St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN :

Author : Jonathan Maberry

Format : Kindle Edition 543 pages

Genre : Thriller, Horror, Science Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Kill Switch for online ebook

Chris Berko says

When I was younger I read a lot of stuff by authors like John Sandford and James Patterson, as I got older I sort of moved away from them and the formulaic structure of their writing. Not to take anything away, those books were hugely entertaining, I just branched out. These Ledger books are not something I gravitate towards nowadays but I love Maberry's writing and trust him to deliver a solid story (the Pine Deep trilogy is spectacular). Fast forward eight books and this might be the best one yet. NO ONE does mounting tension, sense of dread, nonstop, downhill, runaway train, action-packed writing like Maberry, no one. This one is a little darker than the others and our heroes are a little damaged but that just makes everything a little more real, adds some authenticity. These books are straight up fun: cool characters, neat tech, mind blowing storylines, and enough action/humor/horror to satisfy this reading junkie book after book. Whole series is highly recommended as every book is spectacular.

Aaron Advani says

These books are getting bigger and more complex with each novel Jonathan writes.

The action is intense, the characters are big, the plot is huge.

It feels like things maybe drawing to a close with the introduction of threads leading to future events (constant readers will understand) but hopefully there is more in the locker for Joe Ledger and Echo Team. Jonathan Maberry writes Horror Thrillers better than anyone out there.

Sharon says

St. Martin's Press and NetGalley provided me with an electronic copy of Kill Switch, in exchange for an honest review.

Kill Switch is the 8th book in the Joe Ledger series and neither the author nor the main character show any signs of slowing down. When terrorists acquire a weapon that can plunge America into darkness, they hatch a sinister plan to leave America in chaos, in the dark, and fighting a plague without access to the very people who could help them. When the coordinated attack includes crippling the intelligence services and turning ordinary people into killers, will Joe be able to help save himself and others before it is too late?

Author Jonathan Maberry gives Joe Ledger a strong voice and it comes through clearly in Kill Switch. With a unique concept and a fast paced thriller format, this book definitely reads like it could be a blockbuster movie. Strangely enough, I did not feel lost while reading Kill Switch, even though I am new to the Joe Ledger series. This book has definitely piqued my interest and I am intrigued enough to want to go back and read the previous novels. For a relatively long book, Kill Switch certainly moves along at a breakneck pace. As this is a fusion between the thriller, science fiction, and horror genres, it will appeal to a wide audience. As I feel that some of the major parts of Joe Ledger's character have already been written, I would recommend reading this book after reading the others in the series.

Andreas Strom says

Brilliant as always. The Joe Ledger books are among my favourite of all time, and this one was as great as I expected. The story was interesting and pretty damned scary as well. I hope Maberry hurries up and writes another one, as I'm already hungry for more.

Chris says

Someone has taken control of deadly tech that can be used to kill power to all things powered by electricity, and in a series of terrifying events, the death toll rises. And if that's not horrible enough, a terrorist prophet claims responsibility and promises even worse attacks...to bring America to a new Dark Age.

Enter Joe Ledger and his DMS team, recently tasked to probe an installation suddenly gone dark in Antarctica. But what they encounter is beyond anything they could imagine, and very nearly destroys their bodies, minds, and souls. Suddenly, the President is no longer a supporter, wants them shut down, and an aging but legendary US superspy appears to have a hidden agenda. If that wasn't bad enough, another threat emerges, turning friends into bloodthirsty and relentless enemies, and the clock is ticking...

What may be my favorite book in the series, Maberry deftly blends Lovecraftian horror with weird science and nonstop, white-knuckle suspense and thrills. But it's the characters, both good and bad, heroes and villains, that make these books so addictive.

If you haven't read this series, you should. It's a fun, action packed and scary as hell roller coaster ride of a great read from start to finish. The Joe Ledger series never disappoints!

Highest of recommendations!

Alondra says

5 Stars

Joe, DMS, Church, Cthulhu, mind-control (??) and the dark; what is not to love?? There is so much hinky-shit happening, and it is all related. The DMS just needs to figure out who the bad guys are; which is not as easy as it sounds. It is friend versus friend versus foe. To me, we don't have another case of Joe whooping ass and taking names; it seems that the DMS have met their match..... and it all starts with genius.

I think we get a little foreshadowing of things to come. So ready! Where is Det. Fox?? ;)

Brian Fitzpatrick says

Joe Ledger does not deserve all the grief that gets thrown at him. He and his friends at Echo Team get thrown into the deep end of the pool over and over again... there are bound to be consequences, right? Well, Kill Switch brings some of those consequences to bear. Self-doubt. Hero worship dashed on the rocks. And

innocents - so many innocents - stuck in the line of fire.

Does he come through? Of course he does. Jonathan Maberry isn't retiring Ledger's number any time soon. But he does get some new scars - mental, emotional, and physical - by the end of this one.

Madness always takes its toll. Please have exact change.

Now we wait for the next one.

If you haven't read the Joe Ledger series, what are you waiting for? Get on it!

Rizwan says

....And then the mindf*cking, mindblowing, mindnumbing, literally one of a kind **Joe Ledger** series-with its truly one of a kind larger than life badass 'Joe Ledger' character-by Jonathan Maberry became the greatest, bestest, epicest, awesomest etc etc Thriller series I've EVER EVER EVER read in my life. Bar none. The all-time Numero Uno. Hands down. Period. Right now I literally have nothing to describe this HOLY FREKKING SHIT!!! of a beautifully INSANE piece of book. Maybe sometime later, when I've finally scrambled together a semblance of coherent output from all the thousands emotions and reactions and feelings running around inside my head while reading it. Maybe. Not holding my breath for that.

Lizz says

Another excellent addition to the series but OH MY GOD LEAVE ECHO TEAM ALONE. JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE. THEY DO NOT DESERVE THIS. Hi. Sorry. This is a great book about truly terrible things and I both love it and hate it in equal measure.

Eve Nolon says

While I enjoyed PREDATOR ONE more, KILL SWITCH is a solid installment in the Joe Ledger series. I am anxious to see how the aftershocks play out in the next book because there are a lot of changes happening here. However, I feel that for such a long book not a whole lot did happen, or maybe it's that the storylines I was most interested in were just abandoned. I feel like Maberry couldn't make up his mind about what sort of adventure he actually wanted to present here so he went with them all and hoped something would stick. Not so much.

(view spoiler)

Maberry needs a better editor, as I say in every review, because there are little things that could have been caught that just jerk me out of the story. Joe's in an Expedition and then it's an Explorer in the next sentence. Prospero has blue eyes, then green, then blue then green. There were a few others but I've since forgotten them. Overall, a good book but not the best from Maberry.

Ray Porter narrates; as always he's superb and the voice of Joe Ledger.

Giedre says

Fun fact: I almost rode my bike into a ditch this morning, because I stayed up way too late to finish this book. Biking while sleep deprived? Don't recommend it. I do recommend this book series, though.

Frank Errington says

Review copy

Is it too early to add this to the list of my ten favorite reads of 2016? *Kill Switch*, by Jonathan Maberry, is that good. It's hard to imagine many books to be published the rest of this year being better than this new adventure in the Joe Ledger series.

If you've never read a Joe Ledger novel, it's not too late. *Kill Switch* is as good a place to start as any. You don't need to read the other books unless you really want to. Maberry covers all of the bases to bring the reader up to speed on Echo Team and the Department of Military Science. The DMS deals with the problems that Homeland Security can't handle—and these are big problems: terrorist zombies, weaponized plagues, and so much more.

This book starts with Captain Ledger leading a team investigating the reasons behind the sudden silence from a research facility in the Antarctic. (As an aside, my current bedtime read is H.P. Lovecraft's *The Mountain's of Madness* from *The Complete Fiction and Poetry of H.P. Lovecraft* and I saw the connection right away.) Thus begins a wild mashup of Lovecraft and Ledger.

One of a number of well crafted subplots involves the childhood of the most intelligent person on the planet who also believes Lovecraft, Derleth, Howard, and other authors were writing much more than stupid horror stories. "Prospero was convinced he was not human. Not entirely. And he was equally convinced that he was not from this world."

Prospero wants to build what he calls the "God Machine" to open a door to the world he came from so he can go home.

His attempts over the years have lead to a number of side effects, projects co-opted by his demanding father. projects with names like "Dreamwalking", "Dreamsheild", "Freefall", "Unleanable Truths", and "Kill Switch," which when activated creates a localized, temporary, EMP. The technologies fall into the hands of a terrorist group and events escalate to a level of unthinkable proportions.

Things that make a Joe Ledger novel so much fun to read include his sparkly dialogue, "'Hell, Farm Boy, don't go thinking you hold the patent on being sphincter-clenching scared. I would give your left nut to be ten thousand miles away from here.'"

Maberry is also the king of the simile, "I rolled on my side as far as tubes and wires would allow. There was no muscle tone left as far as I could tell and even that simple action was like bench-pressing a Volvo."

There is a great deal of ground covered in this 544 page volume, but Maberry keeps it interesting with a number of brilliant twists. Just when you think you know where he's going, there's another twist and it all makes as much sense as it did before, or at least until the next twist.

Once you get to the last hundred pages, I dare you to put this book down. It's just loaded with non-stop action.

When I was done, I was ready for the Joe Ledger Special from Jake Witkowski's food truck. "A homemade bacon cheddar brat, sliced open and topped with a steak patty with grilled pepper and onions, piled high with homemade cheese sauce, homemade whiskey BBQ sauce, and crushed Fritos."

Published by St. Martin's Griffin, Kill Switch is available in paperback, e-book, and popular audio formats.

This one gets my highest recommendation.

Jonathan Maberry is a New York Times bestselling and multiple Bram Stoker Award-winning author. Probably best known for his Joe Ledger novels and for his award-winning YA Rot & Ruin series. He currently resides in Del Mar, California and you can find him online at jonathanmaberry.com.

John Shaw says

This is the latest in the
JOE LEDGER series
Maberry continues to
write thriller's that
are the combination of

James Bond
&
Kolchak The Night Stalker

In this outing
it seems that Capt. Ledger
is'nt just facing the normal
villains of a tech cabal
but then it becomes
fighting Eldritch Horrors
straight from HP Lovecraft

Maberry continued to amaze with
brilliant story telling
and amazing action
this is the SF
action hero we have been waiting for

Dan Deluca says

Wow..

Wow, This was a great addition to the series.. Loved the H.P Lovecraft stuff.. Cant wait for the next book.

Zade says

You have no idea how it kills me to give an "it's okay" to a Joe Ledger novel. I love Joe! I've loved this series since Maberry started it. I've read every single book several times, even though I'm not much of a fan of "fringe" topics. Maberry's fantastic storytelling and wickedly dark sense of humor have always gotten me past the aliens and vampires and such, as has his tendency, at least in this series, to present scientific explanations for traditionally "supernatural" phenomena.

But darn it! This book throws all that out the window. Yes, there's a loosely constructed theory of a multi-dimensional universe in which proton accelerator-type machines can open portals between worlds. But it's thin. Really thin. Yes, the plot pays homage to Lovecraft, and it's always fun to see what an author will do with Cthulhu. But that homage drags the book more firmly into the horror genre whereas the other Joe Ledger novels walk a fine edge between horror and military action/adventure. There's still some action, but it takes a back seat to multiple scenes of fantasy and rumination, episodes in which Ledger becomes stuck in a kind of dream due to psychic infection by the evil emerging from an alternate reality. There's very little of the smart-alecky bravado that makes Ledger so lovable and, although it's certainly more realistic to portray a career warrior as dealing with a heavy load of trauma (especially given the horrors Ledger faces in earlier novels), the truth is that any remotely normal human would have broken long ago, so it doesn't add verisimilitude to weaken him here. Also, prior books have always carried a strong sense of hope behind the horrors they present. Without the dark humor and crypto-optimism, even the action scenes in Kill Switch are bleak and depressing. Joe and his buddies find themselves in situations that must ultimately devastate them if the author stays true to the characters he's created. It makes you wonder if this is the end of the series.

The result of all these changes is that Kill Switch reads more like a Stephen King novel than an entry in the Ledger series. This reader got fed up long ago with King's obsession with other-dimensional evils leaking into the world, and finding it reiterated in one of my favorite series was not a pleasant surprise. I'm not even sure I'll read the next Ledger novel, should there be one; I'm that disappointed.
