



Murder Theory

Andrew Mayne

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The desire to kill is becoming contagious in this riveting novel of conceivable mad science by the Wall Street Journal bestselling author of *The Naturalist*.

Computational biologist and serial-killer hunter Dr. Theo Cray receives an off-the-record request from the FBI to investigate an inexplicable double homicide. It happened at the excavation site where a murderer had buried his victims' remains. In custody is a forensic technician in shock, with no history of aggression. He doesn't remember a thing. His colleagues don't even recognize the man they thought they knew. But an MRI reveals something peculiar. And abnormal.

What on earth made him commit murder?

After discovering that a mysterious man has been stalking crime scenes and stealing forensic data, Cray has a radical and terrifying theory. Now he must race against time to find a darker version of himself: a scientist with an obsession in pathological behavior who uses his genius not to catch serial killers—but to create them.

Murder Theory Details

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Author : Andrew Mayne

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From Reader Review Murder Theory for online ebook

Roger John Jones says

Excellent

I read over 200 books a year. Almost all get a 2 or a 3. In 2018 I rated 3 books with a 5. Starting 2019 I have now rated one book a 5. Unique and very well done.

Linda says

I love this series and this latest entry makes me even love it more.

Dr. Theo Cray has a unique way of looking at serial killers and he puts his skills to the test as he searches for an ingenious monster whose modus operandi will send chills down your spine. Dr. Cray is a good guy but he doesn't suffer fools gladly and is not above bending or even breaking a few rules if he thinks the situation warrants it. Especially when the powers that be scoff at his findings. Do not let the scientific jargon put you off and give you pause in finishing the book. Believe me the ending alone is so worth the read.

I can't wait for the next one. Highly recommended!

Mandy says

3.5-4 stars

Now what?!?! That ending! Ha! I'm honestly surprised by how much I've enjoyed this series. Theo Cray, for lack of a better word, is crazy. His no holds barred mentality gets him into trouble and while everything about these books feels incredibly far fetched, I am so entertained by them! I like the author's writing style and fast paced chapters, I love the quirky, nerdy characters, and the mystery behind all of it.

Paul says

I read the first book in the series and rated it highly. I didn't like the second as much. This one was back on track for me. Mayne is a talented writer, and he creates interesting characters and plots. I'll try his other series next. Recommended.

I appreciate the free advanced copy for review!

Mackey says

In **Murder Theory**, Computational biologist and serial-killer hunter Dr. Theo Cray is back after slaying dragons and killing monsters in the previous two novels. Well, okay, no dragons and the monsters were serial killers. Now there is something strange lurking in the dig around the last murder site, something that is making seemingly normal people kill and kill violently. While the local cops and even the FBI are quick to write this off as a one time psychotic break, Cray begins to see a pattern of behavior that could be viral based and, if it is, could spell potential problems if it falls into the wrong hands aka WMD used by any government or military. As Cray searches for the causes, the how and why of the virus and how it could be spread, he begins to trip ever so lightly over the line of good and evil and, at times, appears a little closer to the monster he once was chasing. Has the virus affected him or is this just part of his mad genius working overtime?

Mayne is an excellent story-teller. His writing style and quick chapters propel the story along at a rapid fire pace making this a thrilling ride to the finish. There are times when the story could get bogged down in the scientific jargon, and there is a lot of that, but Mayne makes the science so interesting that it lends to the excitement of the tale rather than detracts from it. It creates substance rather than has the reader skimming over the dry parts because, quite simply, there are no dry parts. I have no idea if any of the science is real but it certainly sounds authentic to me and I love it! And let me tell you – I’m a sucker for last lines that make me go “WHAT!?!?” and the last line of the book had me doing exactly that!!! I would read this book all over again just to get to that last line! You know me well enough by now that when I write that, it’s a killer ending! And in this case it may very well be just that!

Murder Theory could be read as a stand alone. There is enough back story that a new reader could pick up and carry on without reading the first two installments. I do, however, highly recommend the first books as well as his *Jessica Blackstone* series. They are well worth reading and highly enjoyable!

Murder Theory is available today at your local book seller or library. Many thanks to #Netgalley, #AndrewMayne and #Thomas&Mercer for my copy of this great thriller!

Kathryn says

Another fantastic entry in the Theo Cray series. I am impressed by the author's ability to make a truly different villain every book, and this book really takes a different path from the first two. Instead of there being dozens of deaths to get justice for, we are instead preventing death in the first place (a better outcome, yeah?). Theo matures more with every novel, and I love his character. He is brilliant and arrogant (as most brilliant people are) but at least he's aware of his own foibles and always tries to do the right thing. Plus, he has his girlfriend to always keep him decently grounded. Theo is a bit ruthless in his pursuit of justice, and that is particularly evident in this novel when he takes some dark paths in an attempt to get a solution (view spoiler)

If I had any complaint, it's that I felt the ending was a bit rushed and didn't tie things up as neatly as past novels had. Still, I read through this book rather quickly so perhaps a second, slower read through will help it appear more cohesive. Overall though, I loved this novel as I have all in this series. This series is easily in my top 10 mystery/thriller novels. Andrew Mayne does an incredible job offering a unique way of solving crime, so different from run-of-the-mill detectives. I love the science, I feel like half the reason I read these novels is to have Dr. Theo Cray lecture me about various fascinating subjects (hah!). I am so glad to hear that there is a book four on the way!

Amir lampkins says

This story improves with each book

I love everything about Theo Cray: his strengths, flaws, weaknesses, humor. The plot was amazing as usual. I learn amazing amounts of information from these books I'm humbled that Nr. Maybe can research and transform virology, bacteriology, law enforcement tactics and computer programming in such a relatable way. Theo is not like most heroes; he's not drop-dead gorgeous, deadly in combat, suave or irresistible which makes him more genuine, realistic and likable. I tried to savor this book knowing I would have to wait for the continuing adventures but finished it in one day. Thank you Andrew Mayne for another inspired book! AGL

Dennis says

This is another fantastic book in the Naturalist series. A great blending of a traditional serial killer thriller, government intrigue and cutting edge science. The ending will leave you breathless.

A must read for any fans of the previous two books in the series. If you haven't read any of the previous books in the series this can be read as a stand alone book, but I highly recommend starting with book 1 in the series.

Lynn Williams says

4.5 of 5 stars

<https://lynns-books.com/2019/01/31/mu...>

Murder Theory is the third instalment in Andrew Maine's Naturalist series and is yet again a compelling and completely engrossing read. I think this could be read as a stand-alone although personally I would advise readers to check out the first two books in the series as they're both great reads and on top of that it will give a better understanding of the main character, Theo Cray.

This books picks up just a short time after the conclusion of No.2. We have a short opening sequence where Theo is assisting the Government with questioning a potential Russian spy. From there the story then balloons fairly quickly with Theo himself coming under suspicion from the FBI. It seems that a crime scene has itself become the scene of yet a further murder with two dead bodies on site and a third person missing. In typical Mayne fashion it feels a bit crazy and totally random and yet once again you are pulled very quickly into the story.

Theo once again comes up with a unique train of thought that sees the investigation take an unusual turn and I have to say that the actual theory he comes up with is pretty darned chilly to read about. I don't want to give away any spoilers for this because this is the type of book where readers will make discoveries thick and fast all on their own but for me this particular story definitely had the scare factor in terms of making you consider possibilities and 'what ifs'. On top of that the author has come up with a very intelligent antagonist indeed. A person who can not only put Theo to the test in very clever ways and think one step ahead but also seems to be a fan of Theo's own particular maverick style of investigation .

On top of this we have another couple of elements to the story in terms of keeping up with Theo's personal life and also being updated on his laboratory work, where he's supposed to be working on a top secret initiative involving genes and terrorists. This adds another layer of chaos to Theo's already frantic life and demonstrates the tenuous grasp he has on the 'normal' life he leads and that many others take for granted.

Theo is the sort of individual who finds it difficult to interact with others and this is something that inevitably leads him into bother with others. He doesn't seem to have the skill set necessary to get people onboard and in fact usually ends up antagonising others with his wild theories. This book is very similar in that respect and in fact I did wonder if the series might be becoming too formulaic in that regard. Thankfully Mayne avoids this pitfall by taking Theo to an even darker level in this instalment where he really pushes the line between good and bad/right and wrong and takes the story into a different realm where reflection and doubt play a greater role. I can't lie, Theo does push the limits in this story and whilst he's trying to catch a baddie some of his actions do make you wonder whether he's going too far. Thankfully I do like Theo, he's a very interesting character to read and his theories and train of thought are fascinating and he seems to be making not only a name for himself but also, thankfully, garnering a couple of people who are sympathetic to his way of thinking – although I have my doubts about one of these.

In terms of criticisms. Well, as I already mentioned above this felt like it could go down a familiar route. I think the author manages to keep this fresh by taking our main guy into even darker territory in terms of right and wrong. I would also mention that the ending, well, let's just say that it ends on one of those notes that makes you desperate to read the next book.

Overall. I'm loving this series. It's a little bit crazy, it's totally compelling and I know that when I pick the next instalment up I'll yet again be completely transfixed by Dr Cray and his world. I can't get enough of this series at the moment.

I received a copy courtesy of the publisher through Netgalley, for which my thanks. The above is my own opinion.

MissyAnn says

The mad scientist is at it again...who is he?

Can't wait until the next book!

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I've read all the books published in the Jessica Blackwood series by Andrew Mayne. But, Murder Theory is the first I've read in The Naturalist series. And, I have to admit that at first didn't Dr. Theo Cray, a computational biologist and serial-killer hunter, rock my boat the same way that Jessica Blackwood does. Not a bad story at all, just not on the same interested level and it got a bit "scientific" now and then. Then, BAM one of the best scenes ever happened that pretty much changed how I felt for the book. And, I can't write about it since you know spoilers. However, I will just say this, this is by far the most interesting way to capture a serial killer. Seriously, totally mental and I loved it. After that, I just felt that yup this is a series for me. Any guy that can do something like this is my kind of guy to read about!

So, kudos to Andrew Mayne for the worlds greatest how-to-catch-a-serial-killer-scene!

I want to thank the publisher for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!

Darren says

I got this as a e book from Net Galley. I enjoyed reading this book. It had a good story to it. It is my first book read by this author.I hope to read more books by this author.

Elisa says

Another great installment in The Naturalist series. Now that we've gotten the exposition out of the way, we can really get to the meat of Dr. Theo Cray's newest case. And, when I say "meat" I shudder. Theo has always been dangerously close to the dark side. He uses his powers for good but he crosses barriers that take him to very dark places. This time, there may be an "evil" Theo at work and, being as smart as he is... this is very scary. This book could be read as a stand-alone novel, even if it's better to read the previous volumes first to get the background. A lot of people think that Theo is a pretentious jerk, but I find him likable. Maybe it's that we're seeing the world through his eyes but I don't begrudge him being the smartest guy in the room. I also enjoy the science, which is actually fascinating. I can't wait for the next book and, this time, I really, really mean it!

I chose to read this book and all opinions in this review are my own and completely unbiased. Thank you, NetGalley/Thomas & Mercer!

michael kelly says

Still pretty dang good

I will admit that I enjoyed the first two books in this series better, this was still is a dang good book. This book is the main reason I joined kindle unlimited.this month.

Paul says

This book builds so well on Cray's previous two cases. They are frequently called upon as references in his search to find this new killer. I loved Mayne's descriptions of the scientific methods used to expose clues and find new leads. Each reveal was permitted by a realistic deduction by Theo's genius. I honestly would have no clue if the science works or not, but the way the criminal profiling and computer analysis is written is flawless.

Building on the previous two novels, Murder Theory is the best of the genius profiler and computational biologist, Theo Cray.

4.5 out of 5 stars

For my full review: <https://paulspicks.blog/2019/01/22/mu...>

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