

JAMES HANKINS

JACK OF SPADES



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Just two years ago, the media turned Detective John Spader into a hero. He'd caught a twisted serial killer terrorizing Massachusetts, and the "Jack of Spades," as the media dubbed Spader, was born. But when the murderer walked free on a technicality—free to kill again—the public turned on Spader.

Now a new serial killer is on the loose. He wears the silly, gap-toothed, grinning mask of Galaxo, Starboy Avenger!—a cartoon alien of unparalleled popularity with children. With the aid of voice-changing technology in the mask, he speaks in the alien's cheerful, high-pitched, robotic vibrato, the same voice that delights millions of cartoon-watching kids every day. And he does all this while he maims, tortures, and murders his victims. With the body count rising, and the public's fear growing, it's up to the Jack of Spades to find the man beneath the mask and stop the killing.

Jack of Spades Details

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Author : James Hankins

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Psychological Thriller

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From Reader Review Jack of Spades for online ebook

Nancy says

When I first saw this, I thought it was going to be your ordinary police- capture-serial-killer story. I was wrong. Unless you have plenty of time, you don't even start this book.

Following Brothers and Bones and Drawn, Hankins does it again and brings a new story, unlike the rest. With this author. it has always been a different topic and a fresh perspective.

Detective John Spader was everyone's pick for supercop until a jury let a murderer go free on a technicality. When he was popular and successful, he was called the Jack of Spades and he's not about to ruin his reputation a second time. In this, the serial killer is Galaxo, Starboy Avenger! and the hero of every child. It's as if Spiderman suddenly became a killer who chopped his victims into pieces.

The story is well-plotted and spun out. The reason for this serial killer to do his worst makes sense and the pace, as in Brothers and Bones and Drawn, is at, shall we say, a dead run.

Hankins has a new book out and a lot to live up to.

Judy Collins says

JACK OF SPADES, by talented *James Hankins* is a cop police procedural and suspense crime psycho-thriller, with a twisted serial killer, a freaky cartoon voice, a mask . . . *slashing body parts and torturing his victims*.

Detective John Spader caught a serial killer which terrorized Massachusetts; however, on a technicality –the murderer was left to roam and kill again. Spader has never forgotten this, nor has the media. Now, two years later, another serial killer is back, or could it be one in the same?

A killer, disguised as an alien with a robotic high pitched voice of a cartoon character, wearing a mask of Galaxo, Starboy Avenger – gives his victims a choice of body parts to eliminated, torturing them. He is wicked, evil, sick and twisted and John is driven to put this wacko behind bars.

Comic book villains and crime thrillers alike will enjoy this psycho thriller, especially if listening to the audiobook, narrated by *Arthur Morey* with his chilling and eerie voice (creepy), mimicking the cartoon character, with his sicko squeaky voice, alternating smoothly to the other voices.

Hankins brings in some human dynamics and humor with the personal life of Spader, from son, ex-wife, and girlfriend. Without giving away too much, look for relation to the meaning behind the card, Jack of Spades.

Charming, resourceful, personable and easy-going best define the Jack of Spades. Blessed with a creative mind, the one-eyed Jack of the deck manifests easily the object of their desire. A challenge for them is to operate with integrity and honesty.

As always, enjoy Hankins' inspiration behind the book and love his mix of genres with DRAWN,

BROTHERS AND BONES, and his new upcoming SHADY CROSS, coming Feb 24, 2015. *Was fortunate enough to have received an advanced reading copy.* If you have not read his other books, you are missing out. If you enjoy intense, well-written page-turner thrillers, he is your “go to” author.

Currently, I am loving these gifted male crime thriller writers and ones to watch: *Paul Cleave* (New Zealand), *Thomas Enger* (Norway), and (US) authors, *Adam Mitzner* and *James Hankins* (and by the way they all are smokin’ hot and easy on the eye)– take a look! Of course, *Grisham* and *Iles* are in the mix; however, need some new blood to keep it interesting.

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Elaine Jackson says

Enjoyable, but not as well as Shady Crossing. The villain was so horrid that I had to skip some of the kill or maim scenes. Characters were well developed and unique just as in Shady Crossing but hero not as likeable. Hankins has a wonderful way of exposing human struggle without over doing it. He doesn't string you out with sappiness, or dwelling on characters personal difficulties. He presents them and allows you to project them back onto the character in your own way. Good read.

Nicole Paul says

Loved it! Absolutely loved it. Just kept wondering who it was. I also loved the incorporation of the mother/father/son relationship that was incredibly realistic and showed how Jack had other drama going on in his own life.

Just fabulous!!

Well Done, James!

buchhaven says

Sehr spannendes Buch mit einem fesselnden Schreibstil. Leider war mir relativ am Anfang klar wer der Mörder ist, deswegen nur 4 anstelle von 5 Punkten. Dennoch sehr empfehlenswert.

Chrissy (xdemon_hunterx) says

Konnte mich von Anfang an begeistern!

Paula says

Certain elements of this book (plot, characters, dialog, humor) rate 5 stars. The author also has a crisp, journalistic writing style that is highly readable, and the story he tells is gripping. Unfortunately, the author needs an editor, badly. He keeps repeating information we already have, sometimes repeating from a page or two back and sometimes from a previous chapter. A little recap or reminder is okay, especially in a mystery where we need to keep track of the clues, but we don't need to be told something at length over and over. No, really, we don't! He also tends to introduce back story awkwardly. In addition, he doesn't always start scenes where they start; that is, he starts in one place and then needs to scramble to fill in things that happened just before. Finally, he handles gaps in the timeline -- where a chapter picks up a few days after the previous chapter ends -- awkwardly. I enjoyed Hankins' "Brothers and Bones" (?) very much and don't remember encountering these problems, and I enjoyed this book enough to split the difference between 1 and 5 stars and give it 3 stars. I'm also now reading this author's "Drawn," so apparently I wasn't too turned off by the newbie writer problems of this book.

Virgil Franklin says

Very good myrtery

This story was well-written and was interesting and realistic enough to maintain my interest. The story also allowed the reader to think along with the detective. I enjoyed the book.

Von.Wörtern.gefesselt says

Endlich ein Thriller der mich gepackt hat!

Cheryl says

Spooky, keep-the-doors locked serial killer tale with Massachusetts State Trooper - Detective John Spader leading the investigation into grisly deaths and mutilation.

Vivid imagery, flawed but likeable protagonist. I read author's other two books, too - "Drawn" and "Brother and Bones." Varied storylines. I liked all of them very much.

Arathi says

Two years ago, the media turned Detective John Spader into a hero. He'd caught a twisted serial killer terrorizing Massachusetts, and the "Jack of Spades," as the media dubbed Spader, was born. But when the murderer walked free on a technicality—free to kill again—the public turned on Spader.

Now a new serial killer is on the loose. He wears the silly, gap-toothed, grinning mask of Galaxo—a cartoon alien of unparalleled popularity with children. With the aid of voice-changing technology in the mask, he speaks in the alien's cheerful, high-pitched, robotic voice that delights millions of cartoon-watching kids every day. And he does all this while he maims, tortures, and murders his victims. He gives them options to

choose to get tortured. It becomes body count rising, and the public's fear growing, it's up to John Spader to find the man beneath the mask and stop the killing.

This was a very good book except some very details which were repetitive and could have been avoided. The climax was good, very good!

Carmina says

Großartige Thrillerunterhaltung, die mich in vielerlei Hinsicht an Chris Carter erinnert hat. Leider handelt es sich hierbei wohl um einen Einzelband, hätte gerne mehr davon gelesen!

Lori says

jack of spades

I like crime novels. I like crime novels that involve smart detective work. Crime novels where the author spends way too much time on the main character's flaws, not so much. Do I care how much Bud he drinks? Do I need to know about every flower purchased for the ex-wife? And don't string me along with talk of previous cases and then not bring those to a conclusion.

Monnie says

After I read *Brothers and Bones* by James Hankins and loved it, when I got the chance to get this one for \$2.99 at Amazon.com, I didn't hesitate for a second. Although there weren't all that many reviews at that time (fewer than 200), all were very positive - and the book is the No. 8 best-selling police procedural at the Kindle store and in the Top 50 in the Thrillers-Suspense section.

Now that I've read it, I know I got a bargain. There was more than enough action and nail-biting suspense to keep me on the edge of my easy chair all the way through.

The "Jack of Spades" is a Massachusetts detective named John Spader, who caught a serial killer. But then thanks to a botched warrant request, the killer was convicted on only of a much lesser offense and was back on the streets in no time - only to openly commit two more murders and disappear. The public, if not the police department, went beserk, blaming Spader for the screw-up and earning him the title.

Fast-forward a couple of years to now, when a new serial killer appears - one who dons the mask of a popular kids' cartoon character, Galaxo, Starboy Avenger. Apparently targeting unrelated victims, he incapacitates them with duct tape and forces them to make horrific, almost unthinkable "choices," usually between losing one body part or another (quick: if you had one minute to decide whether you'd rather do without your eyes or your feet, which would you pick)?

Because of his success with finding the other killer, Spader is assigned to handle this case as well. But as the body count starts to climb, even Spader himself begins to wonder if he's the right man for the job. Could it be that the killer from two years ago is back? And can Spader and his team catch the culprit before he (or she)

strikes again and Spader gets thrown off the case?

My only issue - and the reason for giving this one 4 stars instead of 5 - is that many of the paragraphs seem almost endless; more than six sentences or so is more than enough, but here, a couple keep going for two Kindle pages. Besides that, there's a bit too much repetition of background information, such as why the original killer went free (I got it the first time around, thank you). Still, I highly recommend this book - I found it really hard to put down from the first page to the last.

Edith English says

Outstanding

At first this story seemed slow and I wasn't sure I was enjoying it, but I persevered. Thank goodness. The more I read the more exciting it got. Even though the reader was fairly sure who the killer would turn out to be, it didn't take the thrill out of the book. Excellent book and outstanding writer!
