



Broken Dolls

James Carol

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The first in James Carol's thrilling Jefferson Winter series, *Broken Dolls* offers rapid-fire suspense and a chilling look into the mind of a criminal - and into the mind of the one man who might be able to catch him.

Ex-FBI star profiler Jefferson Winter is no ordinary investigator. An eccentric genius and self-described geek with a passion for Mozart, he is haunted by the legacy of his notorious serial killer father...and not likely to admit this may be why he has such a phenomenal insight into the psychology that drives the criminals he hunts.

The former G-man is now a sought after freelance consultant, jetting around the globe helping local law enforcement agencies with their toughest cases. When Detective Investigator Mark Hatcher calls from Scotland Yard about a particularly disturbing case, Winter leaves his native California for the chilly streets of London to help track down a sadistic serial kidnapper.

Four victims, all young women, all tortured and then lobotomised. None of them able to tell the police the name of their attacker. None of them able to live normal lives again. Just broken dolls, played with then discarded.

When another young woman goes missing, Winter has to race against the clock to identify the attacker and find the latest victim before it's too late.

James Carol's breakout debut novel takes readers on an action-packed rollercoaster ride that fans of *Criminal Minds*, *Silence of the Lambs*, *Sleepy Head*, and the *Jack Reacher* and *Alex Cross* series won't want to miss.

More Jefferson Winter Thrillers:

Jefferson Winter returns in *Presumed Guilty* (July 2014), the first in a series of ebook novellas chronicling Winter's FBI days, and *Watch Me* (August 2014), the second full-length novel in the Winter series.

Also in the works: Television rights for *Broken Dolls* have been optioned by Sprout Pictures, the production company behind the Emmy award winning SKY comedy *Moone Boy*. The company is planning to adapt the novel into a major TV series, provisionally titled *WINTER*.

Broken Dolls Details

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From Reader Review Broken Dolls for online ebook

Moni says

Brutal!!! Imposible soltarlo porque desde la primera página he adorado a Winter!!! Es capaz de entender mejor que nadie como piensan los asesinos en serie y éste que persiguen especialmente cruel. Quiero MÁS POR FAVOR, TRADUZCANLOS YA!!!!

Nina says

4, 5 Sterne

Ein wirklich spannender Thriller mit einer guten Auflösung. Zunächst hatte ich Angst, dass es auf etwas anderes hinauslaufen könnte, was ich an Thrillern überhaupt nicht mag, aber dem war Gott sein dank nicht so.

Winter war mir zum Teil sehr sympathisch, ich mochte seine unkonventionelle Art, auch wenn mich seit meinem Jurastudium das Vorgehen der meisten Polizisten in Thrillern teilweise wirklich stört :) Allerdings war der Thriller an manchen Stellen extrem unrealistisch. Winter saugt sich tolle Ideen nur so aus den Fingern und löst auch einfach mal währenddessen nur aufgrund ein paar Unterlagen einen komplett anderen Mordfall. Ja, es gab ein paar kleine Hinweise, aber an manchen Stellen musste ich einfach nur mit dem Kopf schütteln...

Brenda says

Jefferson Winter is the son of an executed serial killer, ex-FBI profiler, and international freelance consultant hunting serial killers. I found him to be a bit cocky because he's usually right, too perfect because the author gave him no flaws, and a lonely man because he moves on as soon as the killer is caught. He is described as a genius and has a sense of humor at times.

Early in the book, there were a few scenes that were condescending to women, which didn't sit well with me. Fortunately, that didn't last long and no sexual relationship developed between Winter and Sophie Templeton, the local female cop working the case.

I enjoyed the plot and the deductions that Winter made as he figured out the whodunnit. Winter does go rogue to solve cases and that is why he's ex-FBI, but it's fun to read.

Since this is a debut novel, I'm cutting James Carol some slack and giving this 4 stars. It did hold my interest. I have the second and third books and will move on to them next. I hope to learn more about Winter. Fingers crossed that I'm not disappointed.

Tracy Fenton says

There is a new hero in my life and his name is Jefferson Winter! When I started this book a couple of days ago I was concerned as some fellow bookworms in my book club said it was so gory and they had to take a breather during the book..... Not me..... It was perfect for me (but now I am concerned how warped or depraved I am!). Each chapter galloped by at a fast pace, the dialogue and characters were faultless and I thoroughly enjoyed it from start to finish. So much so that I am about to start book 2 right now!

Ubiquitousbastard says

I kind of liked the premise and it has been a while since I've read the genre, so I thought I would give this a try. For the first fifty pages, I was undecided. There was some okay tension building, but also it felt kind of tropey. That second part is what carried on throughout the book. The plot was utterly predictable, with all of the stock characters that I've endured countless times in the past. Then there's Oh my God so Beautiful most Beautiful but tough but so model-gorgeous Templeton who's also super tough but kind of really isn't at all. I could have played a drinking game with how often she's referred to in some way as attractive... and I would have gotten blackout drunk halfway through. Naturally, she finds a random way to damsel through the last part of the book because, duh, that's what happens when you're a pretty female. Ugh.

Minor gripe, the thing about leeches being equated to lobotomies... leeches are accepted in modern medicine as useful in certain procedures. Sometimes being better than more modern techniques. Just saying.

While there was a bit of a good premise, and some interesting (if somewhat predictable) profiling going on, the trite story line and characters make it highly unlikely I would venture further into this series.

Lisa says

Broken Dolls by James Carol was a very disturbing read it chilled me to the core , but thoroughly enjoyed it. The Characters were well scripted & very likeable especially Jefferson Winter & Sophie Templeton. This was a really good novel a page turner.

Di Mark Hatcher from Scotland yard calls Jefferson Winter to help him solve a case being the son of a serial killer & is a former FBI agent now profiler he agrees to help Hatcher solve a case involving a psychopath who tortures women keeps them for months then lobotomises them, which was hard to digest was left gasping as the kidnapping rises.

Four women were kept in the basement tied up so the Jack Cutter as Hatcher & Winter calls him can do whatever he wants with them some of the dialogue made me quite queasy but I soldiered on.

The plot heats up when Donald Cole's daughter Rachel Morris disappears Winter thinks she is Jack Cutters next victim, we find her held captive tortured & frightened for the life, Winter thinks that there are two uncs Jack Cutter & a woman which Hatcher dismisses on the spot, but as they dig deeper into the perp they find a disturbing development.

When DS Sophie Templeton gets taken there is nothing Winter & Hatcher won't do to catch this psychopath they put & plan in place BUT WILL RACHEL & SOPHIE SURVIVE!! only time will tell

Like I said this was very disturbing for me as a woman wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy it was a bit demeaning to women early on, don't read this if you don't like a lot of gore.

Linda Strong says

Jefferson Winter is an ex-FBI Agent/Profiler. Jefferson Winter is now a free-lance consultant/hunter of serial killers. Jefferson Winter is the son of a serial killer. His father's last words to him before he was executed for his crimes were ... We're the Same.

Someone in London is kidnapping young women, holding them for months undergoing unspeakable torture before performing a lobotomy and leaving them more dead than alive. After the third woman is found, DS Hatcher asks for Jefferson's help.

I had a hard time putting this one down for any length of time. The characters kept calling my name and I was drawn back into the mind of Jefferson Winter's genius in getting into the mind of his prey. If that wasn't enough action, the author threw in a couple of red herrings ... just to make it more interesting.

I am so glad this is just the beginning of what I know will be a terrific series. I look forward to following this oh-so-interesting man along on his forays into more criminal minds.

Rates a solid 4 stars for me.

Paul Nelson says

It's been a while since I last delved into the catch a serial killer genre and to be honest the repetitive nature of all the various different attempts eventually put me off. It turned into a chore searching for one that would bring something different to the table, characters that I could root for and a bad guy worthy of the accolade. My favourites of course being the darker stuff, point of view characters from the hunter and the hunted.

So Broken Dolls is my latest and a return to the crime thriller stuff that I liked to read before turning to fantasy and my latest thing, dark fiction and horror.

So could Broken Dolls manage to reinvigorate my feelings regarding that well-worn track searching for a killer who invariably tortures and kills, and eventually makes a mistake or is caught through sheer luck or ingenuity?

Well Jefferson Winter is the hunter, a former FBI profiler who contracts out as a consultant searching for serial killers and the like. He's got an incredibly high IQ of course, drinks, smokes and his father was caught and executed as a convicted serial killer. His latest case is in London, a brutal, cold blooded assailant who kidnaps and tortures his female victims, keeps them incapacitated for months, psychologically torments them and an all but final nail in the coffin. Using a particularly cringe worthy implement he takes their minds,

leaving them a drooling vegetable.

Now the hunted doesn't really get a point of view standing barring one chapter, his latest victim Rachel does however, so through her treatment we get a first-hand view of the miscreants mind games and violent inclinations.

Jefferson is partnered with a female detective named Templeton who, we're repeatedly told has the looks of a model and is absolutely stunning. When I say repeatedly, that's certainly how it felt, almost like a 'setup another ideal victim scenario'. So you can probably guess what's going to happen to her and it's a little bit painful to watch it develop.

So did Broken Dolls do it for me, well I'd have to say it did and it didn't. I'm still in two minds about Jefferson Winter the whole likening his intelligence to Da Vinci was cheap as was the model like detective. The thing that wasn't really exploited was the hunter's killer father and the likelihood that he could go the same way, there could be a darkness to this character that may come in future episodes of his story and that's the intriguing element. There was a couple of surprises that caught me but nothing really earth shattering, a familiar false trail exercise but on the whole the paths are familiar, so it's down to the characters and there's just enough there to revisit this series.

Also posted at <http://paulnelson.booklikes.com/post/...>

Tamara De Cubber says

Super verhaal. Van begin tot einde spannend en moeilijk weg te leggen. Een aanrader!

Dani Jade says

A good little crime-thriller; Pretty much 'Criminal Minds' in book form, actually. I totally pictured Sophie Templeton as J-J, and they even say 'unsub',

Likeable characters, interesting plot. Not a murder-mystery, or a who-dunnit, in that (as with all serial killer books) the killer is obviously not a character we know, it's more about *how* Winter figures out who the unsub is when all of London is the suspect pool. I'd read the next one.

Anne Goldschrift says

Okay, okay - umsonst gestresst :D Ich hatte Unrecht mit meiner Vermutung, und das ist gut! :)
Das Buch war mir ein bisschen zu unrealistisch, sonst aber echt gut :)

Lee says

Mr Carol, I am really enjoying your books now that I have discovered them and this was no exception. This

is an excellent thriller, fast paced, great characters and an excellent story that takes you in and does not let go until the end. Ex FBI profiler Jefferson Winters is the son of one of America's worst serial killers and he arrives in London to assist on a case where someone is kidnapping young women, keeping them for months and torturing them, a man that Winter intends to take off the streets. This really is great story telling and I loved every minute of it!

Ami says

I have this one for a while and since I'm in the mood for mystery thriller after finishing Robert Bryndza's Detective Erika Foster series, I figure it's time for me to try it.

The premise is very interesting -- Jefferson Winter, an ex-FBI genius profiler, is a son of a serial killer himself! This book opens with Winter watching his father's execution. When his father mouthed "*We're the same*" to Winter, it haunts him, so he decides to quit the FBI. Winter still works as freelance consultant, offering his psychological insights on unsubs.

In **Broken Dolls** Winter is hired by Scotland Yard to help with cases of four women being tortured and lobotomized. The fifth woman has been abducted and based on the timeline of the case of the previous four, Winter needs to figure out who the killer is before the killer adds another victim.

I'm happy to say that I think this is a GREAT start as introduction of a new-to-me author. The writing is good, it flows nicely to me. And of course the case is riveting.

The only 'letdown' is probably because the book is written with 1st person narrative, I can't really follow Winter's deduction. I mean, when he says "I know it" (or something like that) the process to get there is all in his head ... I learned how to enjoy it without trying to figure out the cases myself *lol*.

YAY! I have a new mystery thriller series to follow.

Chantal Plantaz says

In plaats van een schrijversduo gingen Jac en ik de uitdaging aan als lezersduo van De Poppenspeler (het debuut) van James Carol.

Onze conclusie is dat dit een geweldig spannende thriller is.

Proloog van het boek is sterk en maakt je direct nieuwsgierig. Jefferson Winter is ex fbi agent en nu werkzaam als zelfstandig opererende profiler die door de Metropolitan Police wordt ingehuurd om klaarheid te brengen in een serie verknijpte verminkingen die een abjecte psychopaat toebrengt aan vrouwen, die hij ontvoert, manipuleert, martelt en totaal verminkt door een lobotomie toe te passen (een ouderwetse, barbaarse en onmenselijke ingreep die vroeger rond het midden vd 20e eeuw in de Psychiatrie veel is gebruikt).

Het vijfde slachtoffer is Rachel Morris. Zij wordt door de verminker aangeduid als "nummer vijf". Het doel is uiteindelijk het breken van de geest van de gevangene. Winter gebruikt zijn kennis als profiler om de dader langzaam maar zeker te lokaliseren. Door een onvoorziene gebeurtenis die niet in de lijn der gebeurtenissen ligt, wordt de druk extreem opgevoerd om de dader te traceren en te neutraliseren.

Een zinderend debuut van James Carol. Vijf sterren.

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

Broken Dolls is a fantastically disturbing crime novel that shares with us the horror of a particularly brutal and sadistic serial killer. If you like your crime novels with a bit of graphic eye popping moments, edge of your seat tension and some spine chilling moments, then you will love Broken Dolls, as did I.

Jefferson Winter is no ordinary investigator.

The son of one of America's most renowned serial killers, Winter has spent his life trying to distance himself from his father's legacy. Once a rising star at the FBI, he is now a freelance consultant, jetting around the globe helping local law enforcement agencies with difficult cases. He's not got Da Vinci's IQ, but he's pretty close.

I LOVE a book with a Profiler in it, yes, I am a fan of the FBI's Academy at Quantico and those that rise through it's training and field experience to be able to get into the heads of the world's worse killers. I wanted to be a Profiler when I left school (true!).

We are introduced to Jefferson Winter, an incredibly intelligent and insightful man who is also down to earth and very easy to connect with. He's been brought to England to work on a horrific case where young women are turning up released from torture and captivity **LOBOTOMISED**, that basically means that the front part of their brains, the part that holds the personality, ability to process, think, make decisions is mangled, gone, kaput, mashed potato brain.

Lobotomies were used years ago in mental institutions as a so called cure for the seriously insane, eventually someone realised they were just making zombies out of these insane people so the practice died off (thank God!). But this killer likes the technique and has practiced it well.

The killer abducts then holds the women for months, they show signs of extreme torture and abuse and then are released, essentially as a vegetable for the rest of their lives. Death would have been a kinder end result. It's a race against time for Jefferson to find the latest woman taken before it's too late and another woman is damaged for life. This killer has taste, he chooses his victims carefully, he has a preferred type, he's very clever and it makes for fascinating reading.

The plot is fast paced from the start, the book moves between Jefferson and the police profiling and hunting this madman and the killer and what he is getting up to with his latest victim. We also hear from the victim herself, what she is thinking, feeling, going through - that was done really well if you ask me. It's quite disturbing, I really was imagining how terrifying it would be, it's the type of book you lose time in reading. I devoured it.

The killer uses sadistic techniques and is well prepared to avoid being found, he has no intention of slipping up and making a mistake. The pace begins to really get traction in the latter half of the book and I was hardly breathing reading the last few chapters, yelling at the book, telling the characters what to do, you know those type of books? Where the tension spreads to you? Blimey, I needed a stiff drink after this one.

Very entertaining, will thrill any crime fan, I think it's got a touch of difference about it, I liked Jefferson, I think the plot was excellent with a unique aspect to it, it keeps you on your toes and interested, like watching

a car crash, you don't want to look but you can't help yourself. The plight of these women is horrific. There are a few good twists in this book too, one that I DID NOT SEE COMING! That one slapped me upside the head and I was telling the author he did a very good job on that one.

A 4.5 star read this one for me, can't wait for the next book in this series, I am sure it's going to be a hit. Very chilling, thrilling and disturbing. What more do you want in your crime books featuring a serial killer? Oh yes! A savvy, smart Profiler who is on the case. Tick! We have a full house here.
