



Down Time

Barry Lyga

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Billy Dent is the world's most notorious serial killer, but even killers need to go on vacation sometimes. When a mysterious death occurs in the hotel where Billy is staying, his "job" seems to call. Will his vacation truly be down time for him after all? In this prequel novella to the *I Hunt Killers* trilogy, bestselling author Barry Lyga crafts a creepy, intricately plotted mystery.

Down Time Details

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Author : Barry Lyga

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From Reader Review Down Time for online ebook

Claudia says

BARRY LYGA!! OMG. What a last line!

I got the audible of this short novel and was creeped out. The narrator gives Billy a slightly southern/western drawl with just a bit of menace. And he does a great job portraying 'Inside Billy' and 'Outside Billy.'

This prequel to I HUNT KILLERS has Billy Dent, the serial killer with no conscience, as the main character. He's taking some time off, building his outside Billy persona, in preparation for his next....murder.

But...he gets involved in a murder that he didn't commit. What to do? His choices show the depravity and deviousness of his mind.

Short references to some of the other family, and a chilling story of Billy's and Janice's plans for Jasper after birth.

Billy is fascinating, like a poisonous snake is fascinating...we know we're nothing but prey, but we can't look away.

NOW I need this series to continue, with the adventures of Jasper after the end of the series. We need more Jazz.

Sara (A Gingerly Review) says

I missed this world and writer so much.

Kaycee says

4.5 stars

Steven R. McEvoy says

When I Hunt Killers came out in 2012 it blew me away. It is one of my favorite books and series and I average well over 100 books a year. The IHK trilogy is comprised of: I Hunt Killers, Game and Blood of My Blood, and now this story is the fifth IHK short story or Novella's. The others are: Lucky Day, Career Day, Neutral Mask and Blood Boy. This is a new story and set well before any of the others in the series. I was under the impression that the IHK series had run its course. It looks like we not only receive a new novella but might even be getting a new series. And this book was worth the wait. This novella packs a lot of punch for the size.

Billy Dent, Billy Dent, Billy Dent! This story gives us a little more insight into the man, the murderer, and the monster! Billy is going away on vacation to help maintain his cover as a normal run of the mill guy. But we find out he hates flying and has some other neurosis that we had previously been unaware of. We also find out that calm, cool, and collected Billy is that way whether he has planned a murder, or just happens into unforeseen circumstances.

We do not actually hear from Jasper in this story, but we do hear Billy's thoughts about Jasper. Some of the back story and also the role Jasper was being groomed for. If you have not read the IHK's series you could read this as an introduction, and if you have read them you will definitely want to read this story. The story is very well written, but we would expect no less from Lyga.

What does a serial killer do on vacation? How does he put out a presence of a normal person, but really is just maintaining a cover? What does a killer do while sitting on the beach? Read Down Time to find out what Billy Dent does while on vacation.

Another excellent short story from the masterful pen of Barry Lyga.

Read the review on my blog Book Reviews and More and reviews of other books by Barry Lyga. As well as an author profile and interview with Barry.

Lillian says

As far as literary characters go, Jasper "Jazz" Dent had the distinction of becoming one of my all time favorite fictional teens, followed closely by Artemis Fowl – *though Artemis started as a tween, my favorite tween resides in Moon Base Alpha*. This prequel to Barry Lyga's *I Hunt Killers* is a gem, a diamond in the rough. Not so surprisingly as exquisite as the other four prequel stories.

This story features the last man to ever be considered "father of the year," Billy Dent. Mass, murdering, serial killer Billy Dent is on vacation and what pray tell is he doing? Well, solving a murder of course. *Of course?* Yeah, my thoughts exactly. Gotta love it.

The third person character narrative POV – my all time favorite narrative voice – takes us into the inner working mind of Billy Dent. Perversely twisted mind that it surely is, let the wizard take a backseat, it is still a delight to peek behind this curtain.

A backpedalling (wink, wink) foreshadowing of *Lucky Day*, is our Easter Egg treat. This book is truly a worthy part of this series.

<https://lillian168.blogspot.com/p/goog.html>

Daniel says

In this prequel novella to the *I Hunt Killers* trilogy, bestselling author Barry Lyga crafts a creepy, intricately plotted mystery.

This novella and review probably won't mean much to you if you haven't read the I Hunt Killers Trilogy. And you definitely shouldn't read if you haven't read the books either, because the novella contains some spoilers for the entire premise of the trilogy.

Also, this review may, subsequently, contain spoilers for the trilogy as well. You have been warned.

This is a novella, so I don't really have to much to say about it other than that the I Hunt Killer trilogy is one of my all-time favorite trilogies. When Lyga came out with this, I decided to purchase it in support of the announcement of a new book involving Jasper Dent, the main character in the trilogy. This novella, however, follows his serial killer father, Billy, a few years before the trilogy takes place.

Overall, I feel like my money was well spent. This novella brought me back the joy of the trilogy and reminded me just how much I enjoyed it. You find out some interesting things, and while this story doesn't really add a lot to the trilogy, it does offer some context on to who Billy actually is as a person. And, needless to say, I really liked it a lot and look forward to the new novel!

If you are a fan of the trilogy, I would definitely recommend you check this one out!

Darcy says

For the rest of the series Billy had been the bogeyman, so it was interesting to see Billy like this. On vacation, living his life. Trying to hide what he was at his core. I liked seeing Billy panic, trying to find ways to hid what he was part of and of course Billy came out fine. What did surprise me was the note left for Billy.

Mimi Schweid says

It was lovely to step back into this world even if it was with the nutjob that is Billy Dent. This just makes me want more of this series and an itch to reread the trilogy.

B220 says

Any IHK story is brilliant in my opinion. We need more!!!!!!!

Matt says

When a friend told me about the Jasper Dent series, I was intrigued. Now, with a little time on my hands, I thought that I would binge the collection to see what I think for myself. It all starts with a slew of short stories, which will seemingly lay the groundwork for the full-novel trilogy. Being the chronological fiend that I am, I thought beginning with the earliest piece (time period, not published) made the most sense. In this short story, Lyga provides the reader with a tale whose focus is solely on that of Billy Dent, father to Jasper. Needing a little time away, Billy leaves his son in the capable hands of a relative and makes his way on an airplane to a hotel getaway. Minding his own business, a young woman almost literally falls into

Billy's lap. What follows is the story of hotel getaways and carnal desire, which leads Billy to find solace in one of the things he has missed. While his murderous sentiments have been rising to the surface, he does not go through with it, but chooses instead to slink out of the room. However, when he makes it back to his own private room, he learns that he left the keycard behind. Able to make his way back, his recent conquest remains on the bed, but upon further inspection, she's dead. Panicked that he will be fingered for a murder he (actually) did not commit, Billy rushes to find the real killer and tie this up in a bow, without arousing any suspicion. All this while on vacation! Someone surely has a sick sense of humour with him as the punchline. Lyga has me intrigued and I think I will continue to see where this series goes! Great for those who like a quick read to get their feet wet for a series sure to have many twists. I cannot offer a full recommendation, as I do not have enough context to do so yet.

After struggling with a few books of late, this was a refreshing short piece that held my attention as I drank my morning coffee. I am intrigued to see where things will go and how Billy fits into the larger series, as well as Jasper's role. I know there will be serial killings and I know the Crows plays some role, like a gang or organization, but I am still on the outside with regards to much of it. For now, I can say that Lyga offered a great insight into Billy for the series newbie, keeping me interesting as he thought about Jasper, his own life, and the decisions he had to make when parenthood was thrust at him. In short order, Lyga develops Billy and makes him interesting enough for the reader to want to know more and see how things will progress. I am eager to get my hands on the rest of the series and have a better handle on the entire collection of characters. The story was decent and it kept my attention throughout. The narrative flowed well and the pages almost melted away as things progressed. Easy to comprehend with some decent editorializing, I will gladly continue with this series and allow fans to see where my head is at with these pieces. Bring them on and let's see what Barry Lyga has to come!

Kudos, Mr. Lyga, on a great start to a reading binge. Keep up the great work!

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

Absolutely loved this! So fun (and eerie) to get inside Billy's head.

Although this occurs before the first book in the series starts, this is definitely one that you can't read first as it gives away too many spoilers for book three. Definitely worth your time to read though and fans of the series are going to love it.

Elsa Munoz says

Billy Dent strikes again!!!

Wow!! This short story definitely delivered a punch! Billy might have gone on vacation but murder sure didn't. The short story definitely left me guessing til the end! Loved it!

Louisa says

Oh, this was a fantastic short story, loved being in Billy's awful head! Set when Jasper's 10, so before his dad was captured, this adventure happens when Billy takes a vacation. Great story!

Tom Britton says

A quick read from everyone fav psychopath Bill Dent . If you enjoy I hunt for killers . You will enjoy this

bjneary says

Oh did I love this I Hunt Killers prequel!!! Billy Dent, the serial killer is mesmerizing as he discusses his life, his son, Jasper and in this prequel - how he shows the world outside Bill - normal and taking a vacation. Reading this reminds me how much I loved this series and want to revisit Jasper - definitely not Billy. A great teaser, Lyga is the best when it comes to describing serial killer crazy and demented!
