



Those That Remain

Rob Ashman

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>The heat of the Florida summer is relentless. Lucas is coasting to retirement in a mundane Florida police precinct. His world falls apart when a brutal serial killer codenamed Mechanic lands on his patch.

Three years ago they thought Mechanic was dead. But Mechanic is very much alive and the savage ritualistic murders continue. No family is safe from the threat of slaughter at this sadistic killer's hands.

Mechanic is always one step ahead and Lucas is forced to operate outside the law.

Who can he trust?

The shocking truth is more terrifying than Lucas could ever imagine ... and he has to put his life on the line to get it.

Those That Remain Details

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From Reader Review Those That Remain for online ebook

Kim Ebner says

Follow my blog for bookworms: www.kime23.wixsite.com/thebuzzingbook...

Detective Lucas has recently returned to work after a traumatic experience, although we don't know what that experience is. The story then jumps back eight months. Cue the deranged serial killer - The Mechanic - so named for the macabre way in which the victims bodies are displayed. The victims, members of traditional family units, are positioned inside their own cars, in their own garages, the father in the front seat with the two children in the back. All have been shot in the head. But why, in each case, has the mother been spared? This is what Detective Lucas needs to figure out. Lucas is at a stage in his life where he's cruising towards retirement and he doesn't want or need a crazed serial killer on his hands, especially not one that had been confirmed dead three years earlier. But The Mechanic has returned from the dead and Lucas has no option but to stop him.

I seem to remember that many years ago, serial killer novels were all the rage. I don't think they're as common these days, or maybe it's just that my reading tastes have changed. Either way, I haven't read a good serial killer book in a long time and so when I was offered the opportunity to review this book, I jumped at it. And boy, am I glad I did. This book ticked all the boxes for me - a sadistic, deranged serial killer, innocent victims that (mostly) pull at the heart strings, a likable detective to support and a plot that moves along at pace. What's not to like? Not much actually. This was a pretty fine read. It took me a few chapters to get into the story, and I felt a tiny bit lost during the first chapter introducing The Mechanic, but I had a feeling that everything would come together, and it did. And it didn't take long for that to happen either. This is a ride that had my heart beating faster than normal, especially during the chapters about The Mechanic and the attacks launched on the innocent victims. This isn't a specifically violent novel, but some of the actions of The Mechanic did make me squirm, and so they should. This is, after all, a book about a serial killer. It was a great read. Loved it.

For those of you that decide to give this one a try, note that it's the first book in a trilogy. Yay! I'm looking forward to the others in the series.

Many thanks to author Rob Ashman and TBC on Facebook for my copy. It was my pleasure to write a honest review.

Sarah says

Those That Remain is the first book in a trilogy featuring a serial killer known as Mechanic.

The story flicks between Mechanic and Lucas who is on the case to catch the killer. It was actually quite

scary reading the parts to do with Mechanic. They obviously have some serious issues. It's obvious that these issues are to do with events from their past to do with their dad. Obviously no matter what someone goes through it doesn't make it right to take someones else's life.

The deaths of the victims are pretty brutal ones to say the least and certainly don't make for pleasant reading but, if you are a die hard crime fan, it will certainly have you hooked!

Lucas is a really likeable guy. I felt quite sorry for him as he is getting to a time in his life where he should be taking things a bit easier but thanks to Mechanic he is having to work harder than ever.

Those That Remain is the perfect read for fans of truly twisted serial killers. There is plenty within the pages to grip and thrill the reader. Maybe even some surprises, but then you will need to read it for yourself to find out. Great start and can't wait to see what happens in the next instalment.

Kat says

This was just brilliant and I can't fault it ..no more words as I am rushing on to start the next in the series..5 big fat stars and can only say Read it !!!

Laura Turner says

All my reviews can be found on my blog: <https://pageturnersnook.wordpress.com>

Well well well, what have I just read? I shall tell you! I've just read the first novel in what is going to be a blinder of a serial killer series! Rob Ashman, what a novel!!

I do love a good serial killer novel, especially one where the serial killer is supposed to be dead, and if you're joining me on this admittance, I suggest you read Those That Remain. I guarantee there will not be an ounce of disappointment!

Alternating between Mechanic (the killer) and Lucas (the police on the case to catch him), Those That Remain is a fast paced novel that will have you gripped. I read it in just a little over 6hrs on a Saturday. I got to the point about a quarter of the way through where I thought 'I seriously cannot be thinking about putting this book down', so armed with enough snacks, I tucked in.

Rob Ashman seriously gets into the head of the killer, and I have to warn you, before you tuck in, that some of the murder scenes are quite graphic but I'm sure this won't bother you if like me, you're a die hard crime novel fan. All the better I think. It's keeps the reader enthralled and desperate to read on. The killer is purely psychotic, be warned!!

Overall, Those That Remain is a blood curdling, terrifying rollercoaster ride that is just too damn good, I don't think any review I write would give it enough justice!!!

Caroline Vincent - Bits about Books says

A serial killer believed to be dead by the FBI and Florida State Police. Families are violently attacked in their homes. Mechanic is alive and back to kill.

| Introduction |

Mechanic #1

What a blood-curdling and fascinating read! I loved ‘Those that Remain’ and I so look forward to the next instalment in the Mechanic series! What will happen next?! I need to know! **THOSE THAT REMAIN** is captivating and horrific, it had me drawn in completely. I read Rob Ashman’s engrossing crime thriller in one session as my eyes were simply glued to the screen. What an unputdownable, fast-paced thriller and a heck of a crime debut!

| Storyline |

Meet tormented Mechanic, someone with severe problems self-inflicting pain in order to drown out daddy’s voice. “Must burn it out. Kill the bastard through pain” is a chilling insight into the brain of a deeply psychotic serial killer whose only way of dealing with the mental pressure to kill is self-tormenting the wrecked body. Sadly for Mechanic and for the family soon to become victims, daddy insists “You’re ready when I say you’re ready. Now let’s go and please Daddy.” Police Lieutenant Edmund Lucas of the Florida State Police has no idea what he is letting himself in for when he responds to a burglary in the middle of the night. Normally a Police Lieutenant would not be woken up for a burglary but this one happens to have taken place in a house belonging to the daughter of Congresswoman “the law and order dragon” according to Lucas. His second in command senior detective Bassano (a magnet to women) accompanies him.

From the start, Lucas is aware of how sensitive this case is: he has to fully process the crime scene and have forensics all over the house or face a premature end to his career. As it turns out, it is a wise decision because once Lucas investigates the crime scene he has a gut feeling that there is a discrepancy, this was no ordinary burglary as obvious valuables were left behind. There is more: a deliberate fingerprint on the television screen that turns out to belong to a serial killer called Mechanic, who was supposedly killed in a burned-out car with three of the latest victims. Lucas’ predecessor Harper, now an alcoholic, had established this before he was forced to leave his job as a result of his openly questioning the FBI profiler – said profiler was later found dead in the vicinity of the burned-out car. But if Mechanic is back, Lucas has no choice but to call in the FBI. However, if Mechanic was responsible why was the house of a childless couple targeted?

In other words, why did the attack not follow Mechanic’s murdering rage pattern of first to kill the father in bed, then to badly beat the mother. The kids are killed in their sleep before Mechanic drags them and their father downstairs to the garage where they are put in the family car with their seatbelts on. Imagine the horror the mother faces once she recovers from her injuries, the bloody mess in the house and the markings where her husband and children were dragged over the floor. FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit’s Jo Sells relates all these details to Lucas when she arrives in Florida as the killed FBI profiler was her mentor and he had involved her in the previous Mechanic case. Whilst Jo and Lucas deliberate, the sickening reality hits in when it turns out that the neighbouring family (husband, wife, two children) are found exactly according to Mechanic’s modus operandi. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this confirms Mechanic is alive and back.

| My Thoughts |

‘Those that Remain’ is the first in ‘The Mechanic Trilogy’ and an exciting read: I loved this chilling crime novel and found it impossible to put down before having finished the story. The characters are well described, the plot is complicated and sometimes violent, but also insightful: I loathed what Mechanic did (and although I so look forward to the next books in the series I am slightly anxious awaiting the horrors Mechanic will, no doubt, bestow upon us!) but I also felt for what Mechanic has been through and Mechanic’s drive behind these dreadful and horrific crimes. With great skill (after finishing the thriller you just know how great!), Rob Ashman excellently paints a vivid picture of a tormented serial killer whose only relief from the misery is to kill or to self-inflict pain so breath-taking, that it leaves Mechanic unconscious. It simply is a great read and I am dying to read the next book in the series. Needless to say, I highly recommend this brilliant thriller!

Read the review on my website: <https://www.bitsaboutbooks.net/those-...>

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (1/22/2018)! ?

Blurb:

A dark & compelling crime thriller

Lucas is coasting towards retirement in a mundane Florida police precinct when a brutal serial killer, codenamed Mechanic, lands on his patch.

Three years ago, they thought Mechanic was dead. But Mechanic is very much alive and no family is safe from the savage, ritualistic murders that the sadistic killer is compelled to commit.

Mechanic is always one step ahead and Lucas is forced to operate outside of the law.

But who can he trust and who is Mechanic?

Soon Lucas will learn that the truth is more terrifying than he could ever imagine and in order to find the answers he needs, he might have to put his life on the line...

Sharon says

Now before I start my review, I will let you into a wee secret (one I didn’t even tell Rob) American crime/detective/psychological thrillers don’t always do it for me, I usually prefer my crime to be UK-based but there was something about the blurb that compelled me to accept!

Well let’s just say that I am so glad that I gave “Those That Remain” a chance, it had me gripped right from the very start and it didn’t let me go all the way through! What a compelling and thrilling roller coaster of a read it was!

This is the debut novel from Rob Ashman and I’m delighted to see that it is the first in three books! We start off the book with the first chapter set in the present day when Detective Lucas has just returned to work and it is clear that he has been through something very traumatic; FBI Agents are with him ensuring that he has

been fully debriefed and ready to be back at work but we soon realise that he just wants to be rid of them and to get on with it. Once they leave his office he opens an envelope addressed to him; it states “the mechanic is back!” Immediately the reader is drawn into the palpable fear and intrigue experienced by Lucas – how can The Mechanic be back when he died three years ago! And so the story begins!

The Mechanic struck me with the fear I can tell you; my imagination was going into overdrive throughout this book; it had my heart pounding and the pace was fast and so so twisted! In fact, the twists and turns in this book had me like a corkscrew by the time I was finished! One minute you think you have worked it out then boom! Then when you do work it out the twists just keep on jumping out at you – there is no escape!

Despite the fast pace I felt that I still got time to know the characters; Lucas is a determined cop, he’s not ready just to sit this one out and is hell-bent on bringing The Mechanic down; he has some great one-liners in the book and his sense of humour is dry and often directed at others who put obstacles in his way. I had this picture of him in my head – a slightly overweight cop with a bag of doughnuts in one hand and his wife’s salad in the other!

His partner Bassano, is the ladies man of the duo and it’s a wonder he gets any policing done as his mind seems to be ruled by his lower half ? But don’t let that fool you folks – Bassano has a key part to play in this book. I am looking forward to seeing Lucas develop over the next two books – there are some hidden depths to that man who I’m keen to see uncovered! Harper, who was the original detective on The Mechanic case is also a well-written character, first, we think he is simply the stereotyped “burnt out” alcoholic cop but he has a lot to offer the new investigation and is a key player for Lucas.

Those That Remain, while clearly a crime/psychological thriller is very much based around the themes of triggers to psychotic episodes and the impact that early experiences can have on individuals if they are not given the opportunity to address and deal with them and of course the devastating consequence on those who cross their path!

I think I can safely say that Rob has won me over with the first in this new series. Those That Remain ticked my boxes well-rounded and developed characters who engaged and intrigued me; a read that was so twisted that I felt I’d been wrapped around a corkscrew at the end; it keeps you guessing throughout and it is a brilliant set up for the next in the series! If you like your thrillers dark and twisted with a pinch of gallows humour then I’d suggest that you get yourself over to Amazon and start clicking now!

Books n All Jill Burkinshaw says

My Rating 4.8 out of 5 stars

This is book 1 in the Mechanic Trilogy and I highly recommend that they are read in order. The book begins on Wednesday 23rd March 1983 (present day) with Lucas returning to work after a lengthy absence. We are then taken back 8 months to tell the story. This is a very gripping psychological thriller that has the reader turning page after page. It has a lot going on with all the elements that make a good thriller included and interwoven into one incredibly brilliant story.

Lucas is a unique character we meet him first on his return to work and immediately get the impression that

this is a grumpy bad tempered man. As we move through the story the character develops into a likable Lieutenant who is determined to bring the bad guys to justice. He has a strange marriage that brings a little humour to the book.

Among the other characters we have Bassano who is a womaniser used to getting his catch but gets thwarted when he sets his sights on Jo and Harper, who was lead on the initial Mechanic case but is now retired and often drunk.

Harper is a strange one he has buried his woes in a bottle for so long but a past memory causes him to rethink his life. He plays a significant part in the story although he has a minor role.

The story moves along at a fast pace as Lucas and his team travel down dead end after dead end trying to stop a sadistic sociopath before any more families are destroyed. There are twists, turns and several curve balls as we join Lucas in his 8 month journey to the present day.

I can't wait to read books 2 and 3 in this trilogy. I had my reasons for deducting 2 stars but I am unable to say what they are without spoilers.

I am pleased to have discovered Rob Ashman who is obviously a very talented author and I am very grateful to Bloodhound Books who provided me with an advance copy of this book.

Sandy says

4.5 ?

Well, what a great surprise. I've been working hard at emptying my kindle of all the books that have been on there for yonks & posting mini-reviews. Lo & behold....a hidden gem.

This was a great read. The blurb gives you the gist so I'll just comment on what struck me as its strengths. First, the MC. Ed Lucas is the lieutenant in a small Florida precinct & we get most of the story through his eyes. Instead of a youngish, buff, divorced detective with a substance problem, he's a middle-aged, overweight, happily married guy who's happy with his lot. And he gets along just fine with his co-workers. I can't tell you how refreshing this was as it allowed the focus to stay on the crimes & investigation. But while his appearance may be benign enough, Lucas is also a smart cookie. He's a thinker & I really enjoyed listening in as he pondered, then made connections as he & his team hunt a sadistic serial killer.

The other thing that struck me was the author's writing style. Fluid, well paced with just the right mix of dialogue & action. This guy can write. And while you may figure out who the killer is fairly early on, it doesn't diminish the tension or lessen your investment one bit....a sure sign of someone who knows how to tell a story.

There's a good mix of supporting characters & interesting back story with prologue & epilogue that perfectly bookend the current situation. It's the first time I've read this author, something I'll be remedying pretty quick as this is book #1 of a trilogy. It's a keeper that I recommend for fans of well written & gripping police procedurals.

The Book Review Café says

<http://thebookreviewcafe.com>

I think I have just found myself a new crime thriller author and series that will be going straight on my “must read authors list”. What a gripping book Those That Remain turned out to be. I do love American based crime thrillers they always seem so much darker and twisted. To say I loved this novel is an understatement it’s probably one of the best debut crime thrillers I’ve read this year in fact. Rob Ashman’s superb writing drew me in from the first chapter and I’m sure I spent much of my time reading this book in stunned silence (not a mean feat, I can tell you!).

I’m a sucker for a well depicted serial killer and the Mechanic certainly fits the bill. Oh my goodness what a character the author has created one of the most intriguing serial killers I’ve read about in a long time, they are one twisted individual and to their motives for the killings, I couldn’t help having a smidgen of sympathy for them. The Chapters from the killer give you insight to this very troubled and damaged character, from these chapters I felt like I was in the Killers head looking into the darkest and most troubled corners of the human mind which made for a blood chilling read and a couple of restless nights sleep. The crimes committed are gruesome but in the authors defence these scenes never felt gratuitous within the context of the story

Those that Remain has so many great characters I especially liked Lucas’s he’s not you typical stereotype detective for a start he’s counting down the days to retirement, so I found his character a refreshing change from the “kick ass” Detectives that are the norm in many a crime thriller. I’m not going to go into plot details as I would hate to give away spoilers, but what I will say is this novel certainly made for a gripping and unpredictable read that will chill you to the bones. In my opinion it’s one of those books you just don’t want to put down as each chapter leaves you desperately wanting more, it moves along at a fast pace with so many twist and turns my head was spinning.

There were so many elements that made this book an exciting read, unique characters, an intricate plot, and a dash of dark humour. I was extremely intrigued by the profiling side of things, who knew there were so many different types of serial killers? I have one question for the author “why, oh why did it take you so darn long to get published?” I just love it when a book leaves you wanting more, and I couldn’t contain my excitement when I found out I’m not going to have too wait long for the second book in this series as it’s published on the 13th July 2017. If you are looking for a new crime thriller to read then look no further than Those That Remain I promise you won’t be disappointed.

Louise Beech says

Rob Ashman's debut is a seriously gripping, rollercoaster ride of a novel. I read it in two sittings. Aside from the pacey writing and the great messed up serial killer, it had something so rarely achieved these days - a twist I didn't see coming, but one that was perfect once it all sank in. Actually, there were two really. This is a great crime novel, strongly recommended by me.

Pat says

4.5 stars

I've never done this before but - this book should suit anyone who enjoyed The 4th Monkey by J.D. Barker. It had the same sort of vibe.

A twisted serial killer, dubbed The Mechanic, targets families. The husband and children are killed and the wife tied up, beaten but left alive. Lieutenant Lucas at the Florida State Police has the unenviable task of catching this killer whom everybody thought must be dead because a previous killing spree ended abruptly some years ago. But no. Sent in to assist is Jo (female) Sells from the FBI. But Lucas starts to wonder if they are indeed on the right track and seeks advice from a former detective, Harper, who failed to catch the mechanic in the past.

Harper and Lucas start to zero in on the killer but they are missing a vital piece of information. They are betrayed and Lucas is captured by this psychotic monster. Some good twists to round out the finale make for a chilling and gripping story. The Mechanic is crazy bad, pure evil but very, very clever. The book ends on a bit of a cliffhanger and then I realise its the first book in a trilogy. I'm now onto book 2 and can tell you that it started much darker. I know, I know not everyone likes to commit to three books up front but - if you like dark chilling serial killer stories this could be up your alley.

Joanna Park says

This review can also be found on my blog:
<https://overtherainbowbookblog.wordpress.com/2018/07/10/review-the-mechanic-by-j-d-barker/>

I really enjoyed this terrifying, clever thriller that is probably one of the best crime/ police thrillers that I have read. The book starts off with a flash forward which immediately got my attention as it hints at a traumatic event and features a vastly different Lucas than the one featured through most of the book. The pace is gradually increased as the investigation goes on and more information is uncovered about the mysterious Mechanic. The reveals are quite paced out and they seem quite real and never forced which makes the events seem even more scary.

The book is told from the point of view of both Lucas and Mechanic and it was fascinating to be able to read both sides of the story. This helped to add to the tension throughout the book as sometimes something happened or was discovered in one person's side of the story so you would be waiting to see when the other person would find out.

I really liked Lucas as I felt he was a cop with a heart. He seemed a very human character who is deeply affected by what he witnesses throughout the case. His willingness to make mistakes or try new things to get results was nice to see as it's unusual to read about a cop who puts themselves, and their career, on the line like he does. Mechanic is a very interesting though chilling character. From the readers first meeting with him you think something isn't quite right about him but then are confused when he appears to act normally a few chapters later. It was very interesting to be able to get inside his head a little and discover more about him and his motivations for the murders.

I found the psychological information on a serial killer very intriguing as I definitely didn't know how many different types of serial killer there were and about psychological profiling that the police use in such cases. The inclusion of such information helped me feel more involved in solving the case and increased my understanding of how and why the police were making the decisions they were.

This book definitely kept me guessing which is unusual for me as I normally work out what's happening early on in books. It was nice to have a surprise at the end and it shows great skill by the author that he was able to keep the reader guessing.

This is Rob Ashman's debut novel and I will definitely be reading more of his books. Those That Remain is the start of a trilogy and I will be impatiently waiting for the next installment!

Huge thanks to Bloodhound Publishers and Sarah Hardy for my copy of this book and for letting me be a part of the blog tour.

Jessica says

I've always been a big fan of serial killer books. Whether it's true crime or fiction - it's always fascinated me when we go inside the mind of the killer. THOSE THAT REMAIN by Rob Ashman is book one in the Mechanic Trilogy and I absolutely loved it! It sent a chill down my spine reading about what this killer did. We get to see through the eyes of the cop chasing them down and through the eyes of killer themselves.

Lucas is a police officer that is getting close to retirement in a small and mostly unexciting Florida town. Then one day an incredibly brutal serial killer, code-named The Mechanic, turns his life upside down. The crazy thing about the Mechanic killings continuing is that they thought the killer died three years ago. There is no mistaking the savage, sadistic, and ritualistic killings are the work of Mechanic. How is Mechanic always one step ahead of him? Who can he trust and is he willing to go outside the law in order to catch them?

This one wasn't too heavy on the police procedural, which I really enjoyed. When they're over saturated in the procedurals then it starts to drag - this one had a great balance. We switch perspectives from Lucas to the mysterious killer, Mechanic, throughout the book. It was so interesting reading from their different viewpoints. I love a book that goes into the mind of the serial killer. It makes it chilling and feel real.

I really liked Lucas, Ashman did a great job developing him and letting the readers really connect. On the flip side, Mechanic is also well-developed. A truly damaged and disturbed character. Being able to see through their eyes to try and understand why they are committing these brutal murders was intriguing and unsettling. I won't give away much more to the plot as there's a huge twist at the end that I wasn't expecting! So excited to continue with IN YOUR NAME (book two) for the blog tour tomorrow!

I give this book 5/5 stars!

A big thanks to Bloodhound Books and Sarah Hardy for sending me an advanced ebook copy in exchange for my honest review!

Adrian Lawrence says

For once you can believe all the rave reviews! This is a well thought out energetic thriller from start to finish. Loaded with twists that fool not only the likeable investigating detectives but the reader too. The serial killer nature of the plot means it's gory but not overly so. Just enough so you can understand the mind of the killer. Don't be surprised if you find yourself a bit sympathetic towards the killer.
