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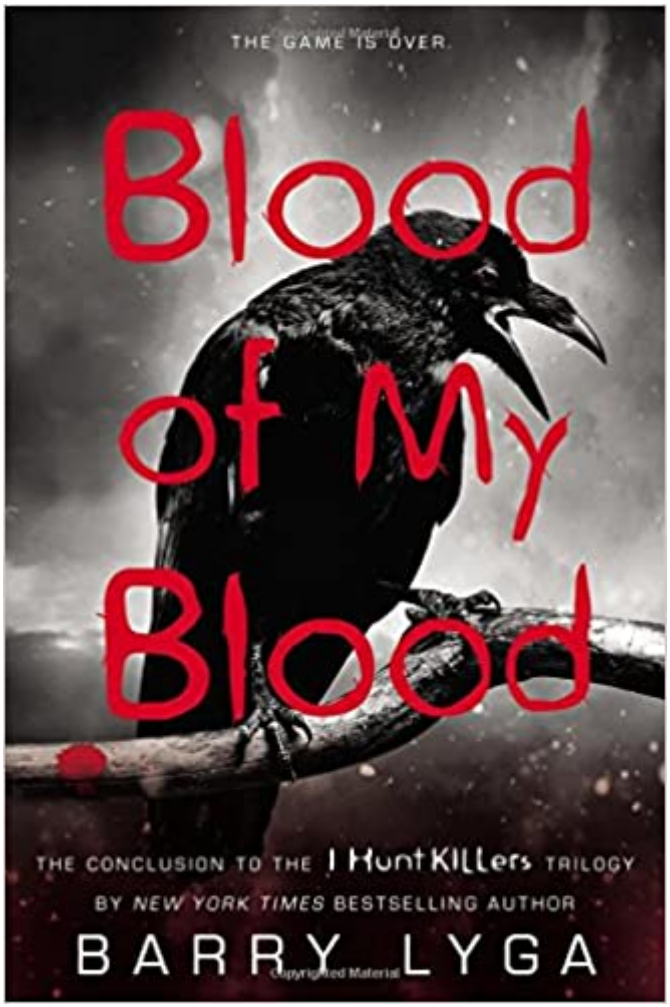

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Jasper "Jazz" Dent is locked in a storage locker with two dead bodies, trying to nurse his own bullet wound in the dim light of a fading cellphone. Picking up (without pause) from the cliff-hanger ending in Game (2013), Lyga's series about the 17-year-old who was first introduced in I Hunt Killers (2012) as the son of escaped killer Billy Dent continues as he tries to aid the police in his father's recapture. Unaware that his girlfriend Connie has been lured by Billy to a Brooklyn tenement house and imprisoned with Jazz's mother, and that his hemophiliac friend, Howie, has been attacked, Jazz faces his demons aloneÃ¢â ¬â •including repressed memories with sexual undertones, and the creepy voice of Billy educating his son on the acumen required to be a good serial killer (appearing in italics). The worrisome genetic factor plagues Jazz yet propels him in the right direction to foil some copycat killers and elude authorities long enough to solve his own life's mysteries. Obstructing the law, the teen follows clues that take him back home to Lobo's Nod for the chilling climax and surprise ending, despite red herrings thrown in the readers' path at every turn. Connie and Howie continue to play major roles in this episode, often providing their own points of view, as do officers Hughes and Tanner as bumbling but likable authorities. As a trilogy wrap-up, this gory winner with raw appeal requires having read the first two titles.Ã¢â ¬â •Vicki Reutter, State University of New York at Cortland --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"Lyga's burial of the I Hunt Killers trilogy cements it as one of the most ambitious thriller series in YA history, and the absolute best cliff from which teen readers can dive into the grueling world of adult crime procedurals."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Booklist (starred review)"[A] gory winner with raw appeal..."Ã¢â ¬â ¢School Library Journal (starred review)

HOLY CANNOLI! I freaking LOVED this! I had to force myself to read this book VERY SLOWLY because I was loathe to say goodbye to some of the most incredible characters I've come across in fiction, both good and evil. I have to send huge thank yous and hugs to my book soul sisters The Twinjas who got me reading this series. Again, I'm really not into serial killer-type stories, but this series just hit all my happy buttons.Before I get to the crux of my review, I feel the need to wax a bit poetic as to why Connie, as a black heroine in YA (and in an interracial relationship with the hero) matters. Actually, she's why DIVERSITY MATTERS. She matters because it only takes a casual stroll through the YA section of any bookstore to see a serious absence of diversity. The covers alone tell the ugly tale--that despite changing demographics, the mainstream publishing industry still finds itself catering to a diminishing market. They know the country is becoming increasingly multiracial/multiethnic, but are hamstrung on how to reach that market (without alienating the dinosaurs, lol). They also see themselves bleeding money to smaller publishing companies and e-book publishers who ARE speaking to the changing readership, and yet they continue to see the world through a myopic racial lens.Connie is a well-crafted, non-stereotyped, fully-actualized heroine of color, written by a White male who obviously has a diverse circle of friends (or was willing to educate himself. Some of us think he may have a Black significant other, lol). Contrary to some complaints, I never saw her as being "othered". That might hold some weight if she was the only character of color, but she wasn't. Lyga's New York actually reads like the realistic and diverse New York too many authors (and television shows) seldom get right.As a reader perhaps unfamiliar with Black hair styles and care, one discovered Connie slept in a hair bonnet to keep her braids from frizzing up. Little details like this helped, in my opinion, to create a realistic character who CANNOT ever be mistaken for a default white girl (which sadly happens quite a bit when authors are oblique in their descriptions--look at the brouhaha over Rue of The Hunger Games). Yes, we as readers know that Connie and Jazz are an interracial couple. For some it matters. For them it doesn't, but the outside world makes it matter. We also see Connie as young woman in peril who has to use her wits to escape (and I could craft an entire essay on that). In a media where the images of Black women are reduced to sexless mammy figures, baby mamas or sexually irresponsible video vixens, it's a breath of fresh air to revel in the positive complexity of Black womanhood. Connie, along with

Howie (another character-type seldom seen in YA) is truly ride or die, but also able to exist without giving up on her dreams. She sees Jazz for who and what he is. I have to wonder if some of the discomfort with Connie has to do with her NOT falling into that media-fueled stereotype. That she's so much like many other intrepid Caucasian heroines. She's brave, intelligent, a bit rash (which was how she ended up in mortal danger). She's no one's sidekick, but on equal footing with both Jazz and Howie.Speaking of Howie. Another character we seldom see in fiction. A hemophiliac treated as a typically overhormonal teenaged boy. Howie doesn't let the disease define him; he's got Jazz's back no matter what it costs. Howie has few filters on his thoughts, but I liked that about him. He's in danger and yet the snark rolls right off him without missing a beat. And yet, little details such as his incessant bruising are realistic reminders of who he is without detracting from his overall character.Maybe someday, YA (and genre fiction in general) will actually start looking like the rest of the world. Until then, I'm going to celebrate ANY positive and thoughtful depiction of marginalized characters. Especially when they're done this well.Okay, now to the review.Some books I hate to see end, but know enough that they have to. I will miss Jazz, Connie and Howie. I won't be missing Billy Dent or the other crazy psycho killers in the series.There's hints of past sexual abuse, so be warned.By the way, I know it's terrible of me, but I just can't help smirking at the demise of that rat Doug Weathers. If there was one character who deserved to get his, it was this guy--the hack journalist who made Jazz's life hell.This was a book I had to read in small doses. The intensity and the horror (though implied, not graphic) were still hard to handle at times. There were times I cheered Jazz's escapes; other times he scared me with how closely he was mirroring his father. That, I think, was the point. Just how much of who we are comes from our parents? Can we alter that makeup? The title Blood Of My Blood is terrifyingly apt. Jazz is a likeable yet very tortured hero (not the faux-angsty type so beloved of most YA/NA). He has the capacity for goodness yet also knows it doesn't take much to ride that razor's edge of evil. He's aware in a way many young adults aren't forced to be. After all, his father's one of the most prolific serial killers to ever live.Thankfully, Lyga didn't write some happily-ever-after type ending after all the horror. Jazz will obviously spend his life struggling to not become the product of a very twisted upbringing. Howie may eventually get laid, lol. And Connie will eventually get her own television series...okay, one can hope.

If I was only allowed one adjective to describe this series as a whole, it would have to be intense.inÃƒâ Ã Â tenseinÃƒâ Ã Ë†tens/adjective1.of extreme force, degree, or strength."the job demands intense concentration"synonyms:extreme, great, acute, fierce, severe, high; More2.having or showing strong feelings or opinions; extremely earnest or serious."an intense young woman,

passionate about her art"Thankfully, I'm not limited to just one adjective because this book, this series, is so much more than that one word.Riveting, thrilling, captivating, addicting, emotional, terrifying, well written. Truly there are a lot of adjectives that would fit what Lyga created in the I Hunt Killers series and in the final book, Blood of my Blood and all of them would be accurate. I know I've said this in past reviews for book one and two but this series is utterly unique in it's execution and delivery. You feel as if you are in the mind of not only a killer, but a killer's protege as well. Into the mind of a young man who wants to be anything but his father but nonetheless can't help thinking the thoughts, the images, the lessons that were planted and ingrained in his memories, in his very subconscious since he was small child.And as horrifying as it is, it is also fascinating and yes, addicting to be inside both Jasper and Billy's head.So many twists. So many secrets and all more horrifying than the next, this was a heart stopping, pulse pounding conclusion to the series and I lapped up very single word of it.

Love, love, love this series. I love Jaz and Howie and Connie! I think this series was soooo wonderful. It makes me laugh. It made me think how Jaz was finally going to caught his father and would he be able to kill him in the end. This book is a serial killer book but much different than what you would except. I think we need more profilers like Jaz helping in the FBI. I loved every minute of the whole series! Thanks Barry Lyga for writing such a great trilogy! I will check out more books from this author.

I put off reading Blood of My Blood by Barry Lyga because I did not want this series to end! The third book of the Jasper Dent series takes off where Game ended. Jazz is still locked in a storage unit, Billy has Connie and Howie wakes up in the hospital. Billy saves Jazz, then kills the Hat killer. Connie discovers that she is locked up with Jazz' mother and they are trying to help each other. Jazz' aunt has disappeared and his grandmother is in the hospital. Nonstop action, intensity and surprises amp up the suspense in this final book.Jazz will do anything to save his mother and it looks like he will do things he never believed he could, to protect her. The danger increases and the mystery unfolds, while the story delves deeper into the perverse childhood of Jazz. Twisting and unpredictable, this story never failed to enthrall and entertain me. 5 stars!

Absolutely the best series I've ever read. I wasn't able to put this book down. The author truly knows how to keep you interested right up to the last page. As this is the final book in the series I won't spoil it for you. Please, just read the three books. I guarantee you won't regret it.

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