



## I Hear They Burn for Murder

*J.L. Arne*

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*“We’re playing Murder in the Dark, Agent.”*

Special Agent Ezekiel Herod knows the game well, but he’s never played it quite like this before.

Rainer Bryssengur is only a professor of English and Ezekiel doesn’t expect to gain any insight from him into his case, only to cross him off the list as a person of interest. Then he meets him and gets a glimpse behind the carefully crafted mask Rainer wears every day to the monster he is at heart.

*“Which one of us is the liar?”*

Sometimes even a psychopathic serial killer gets tired of killing people and that’s where Rainer is when Ezekiel walks into his office and stirs things up. The serial killer the media has dubbed The Lamplighter has been dormant because Rainer’s heart just isn’t in it anymore. But Ezekiel presents him with a new opportunity, a challenge... a game. Rainer sees in him the perfect adversary.

They’re more alike than either of them suspect and soon Ezekiel gets pulled in deeper than he thought possible, past the point of no return.

*“Which one of us isn’t? That’s the real question.”*

## I Hear They Burn for Murder Details

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## From Reader Review I Hear They Burn for Murder for online ebook

Paul says

### 5 STARS

OK, so that was hard core, but an excellent ride. I've had an amazing run with books but I discovered J.L. Arne a few months ago but only read one book. It was book one of the Dale Bruyer series. So I read books #2 & #3 this week and I found them excellent too, they're very distinctive in nature.

Then realised I'd been recommended *I Hear They Burn for Murder* a few weeks back as I was already reading some of J.L. Arne's other work. I really, really like the writing style. The imaginative plot's are also quite quirky in places which I found refreshing. They constantly turn rapidly in nature keeping things fresh, then rather dark while keeping a great pace. I love finding new authors that write urban fantasy like this which is very light on in book #1. It's not just the personal writing style though, this book was exceptionally well written too.

It held it's mystique back for book #2 but the intriguing characters have yet to be revealed in their full nature. Then the storyline is like an added bonus, that retains the air of mystery and basically, just what the hell is going on. It's like a writhing snake one moment, then becomes fun which then turns quite creepy. I found it so engaging at times that I'd gone off into my subconscious trying to figure things out. That's my sign or tell for a good book if I'm easily distracted with my over active imagination. This made for a great page turner and you can't put it down, sometimes I was having to turn pages back in the opposite direction because I couldn't figure out where it was heading. Don't let that put you off, it makes you think but you really don't find that much out. I do believe this will become a highly sort out series.

The MC's and other male characters are all very dominant Alpha Male types. Actually most men in the four books I've read by J.L. Arne so far, all have very brash and hardened exteriors. To the point where they can be quite malicious and it comes out under extreme duress which I loved. I also like that some of his male characters cry too. There's no sob fest's either, it's not like they're walking around snivelling throughout the entire book. This was not so common with *I Hear They Burn For Murder* compared to the Dale Bruyer series.

Now that crazy and insane cliffhanger was really up there, like I'm talking top ten of WTF, when the next sentence has slipped into. . . if you liked this book. . . I hate them but I think it's OK for them to drop a hook in book #1 of a new series, but geez that was harsh and so sudden. I let that pass but seriously people what is the deal with literally finishing a novel mid sentence at an HETP (Highly Emotional Turning Point) It really annoys me. Yet your audience is clearly aimed at older readers to me, and not so much for younger people. That has nothing to do with the content either. There's no inane romance in what I've read of your work so far, THANK YOU! It's balls out and gritty realistic love, warts and all.

You leave the perfect amount of resolution between books in the Dale Bruyer series. It was just enough to keep you really content for the next one and not fret. This book is so good though but it was like having a big hardcover slammed shut in my face mid sentence, LOL. It nearly took my nose off. I do not envy the relentless amount of e-mail's asking you for the next books release date! Because it was that good and I'm also eagerly awaiting book #4 of Dale Bruyer too.

However I did visit your blog and you're working full time, people have to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, then you have life to deal with. I hope it doesn't throw you too many curve balls and

allows you enough time to write without hassles. I can honestly say that you're one of three author's I've come across over the last year that I hope will not be working full time for much longer.

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## Becky says

Well, I feel like I have had my world turned upside down after reading this book. Unlike anything I have read before, this is a twisted, dark, intensely intriguing tale that is refreshing in its unpredictability and shocking in its approach. Rainer and Ezekiel are complex men, supported by characters that are absolutely essential to the story, and their relationship development is a glorious mix of slow burn, UST and explosive resolution! It opens with a bang and keeps this level going throughout what is essentially a pretty long book (>500 pages) but one which also never seems long enough.

An absolute must read, but beware that this is incredibly gruesome in places and has a mix of storylines that will keep you on the edge of your seat for every page. It has a conclusion, but the story clearly continues in book 2 - which I am eagerly awaiting.

I will definitely seek out more of this author's work.

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## JT says

Right. HOLY SHIT!

I don't think I'd ever be the same person again after reading this. This is some seriously disturbing stuff over here. It's sickening and intriguing and mindfuckingly amazing on so many levels I can't even begin to unpack it. It keeps me hanging by a thread until the very last page. It also makes me seriously question about my own morale compass because I found it really, really good.

It started out simple, really. I got bored, stumbled upon this book, skimmed the blurb, downloaded it, and started reading it without bothering to read the reviews. Easily with no expectations, like any other underrated books that just happened to fall on my radar.

And then on page 2:

*"Gregory Alan Beck had passed out twenty minutes ago after watching Rainer feed his left bicep to a coyote Rainer called Pied".*

Wait, WHAT? That surely got my attention.

The book tells a story about the unexpected parallel between Rainer the (figuratively) inhuman serial killer who sleeps with his brother and Zeke the (literally) inhuman FBI agent who sleeps with his twin. Take that, Game of Thrones.

It's so twisted that one moment you'd think you've understood the plot, and the next moment you'd be busy scooping your jaw off the floor.

*"Does knowing yourself to be more human than you think I am do anything to soothe the overwhelming feeling of existential confusion and profound ennui that comes with it?"*

Layer upon layer upon layer and if you could get orgasmic by reading a book, I think I just did. Multiple times.

Author, you're seriously disturbed and I'm a fan.

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### **Natasha says**

This sounds amazing. Why haven't any of my GR friends read it? D: Dem reviews!

edit: OH, IT'S BCUZ THE KINDLE VERSION IS \$7.81 CDN.

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### **Em says**

Super dark, terribly twisted, but so frickin good.

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### **Asami says**

Wow. just wow, that book was a freaking surprise I still can't believe it.

The first chapter of this was definitely a hard slap in the face, I felt all the hair in my arms raise, my breathing slowed and I just stared dumbfounded. I wasn't prepared for this. Damn, I never read anything like this and I was just about to drop it, thank heavens I didn't because this book is magnificent, brilliant! I loved it so damn much. I had a book coma afterwards and I swear it took awhile for me to start reading any other book, because I found it hard to get out of its word and I'm not sure I am out yet also, I had to say the writing, details, characters are just as magnificent as the plot. No matter how dark, disturbing, violent unrepentant this book is, I honestly enjoyed the hell out of it.

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### **Jade says**

A serial killer as a love interest??! I cannot wait to start this one!

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### **Karyta says**

J.L. Aarne is officially now my favorite author. Wow, another perfect, well written masterpiece!

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## Kistal Gordon says

### Holy Moly

I knew this book was for me from the first chapter when the main character carved a piece of his victim's heart and then eat it, all while having a lighthearted conversation to the poor tied up person. It was so messed up and intriguing, but I knew I finally found MY book!

This has gone down as my favorite book of the year!

A psychopathic serial killer, who's charming and well loved by his friends.

An FBI agent with hidden dark tendencies.

Which one of them are monsters?

I loved this book! This cat and mouse chase for the ages.

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## J.D. says

*I Hear They Burn for Murder* is disturbing, violent, gory, sexy, vicious—all of those things. It's not the least bit cowardly in terms of the writing and presentation of the material at hand. It doesn't pull punches—and it doesn't flinch.

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## terka says

A great book with some amazing characters and great prose.

The only thing keeping this away from a five star rating was the inclusion of shifters (which surprised me, it was not hinted in the description) which felt sort of out of place. *Why* were there shifters? It contributed nothing to the story. In fact, the story wouldn't change with an all-human cast. Even the characters would work perfectly as humans - sure, some past background bits would change, but it's still manageable with humans.

Maybe the shifter aspect will play a bigger role in the next book (view spoiler), but as for now it just felt so redundant and unnecessary and the story would work perfectly as a (non-paranormal) detective thriller about serial killers and the FBI.

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## ?? ? Michaelle ? says

4.3 Stars

I'd have rated this a bit higher were it not for that cliffhanger. I could see it coming when I got to about 80%

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and there was no clear resolution on the horizon and I started to get a bit frustrated. That definitely impacted my enjoyment because up until that point (were Ezekiel goes off the reservation and not only cheats but lies, gas-lighting an already mentally fragile Jacob) I was in absolute hog heaven. Even with the murder and the mindfuckery going on between the killer and the cop.

Considering the procedural/LEO genre, I expected this to be wrapped up and the BAU moving on to another case for Book 2 (of which, there is none). That is definitely, NOT the case, so if cliffhangers are a deal-breaker for you, I'd advise waiting until the next one is out (if there's gonna be one). Also, this is the first book where I can see why a history of that would push people off the deep-end and keep them from reading certain series or authors' books. It's my first by JL Arne, so I can't say it's a pattern...

That said - HOLY SHITBALLS. If it had been SciFi instead of Paranormal I think this book would have hit every.single.one of my favorite things in MM fiction. DOUBLE brothercest! (I planned to read it for that reason alone, so yay for unexpected surprises.) Procedural! Dark & Gritty! Flawed characters and an engaging plot! YES YES YES YES YES! It's really really killing me that I can't immediately move on to the next one.

I do have to say, though, I'm not sure the paranormal aspect adds much (yet) except as it might be used metaphorically? The fully human character acting as a monster vs the monster trying to solve the crime? I kinda like that but unless something special happens in the next one (arrrrgh!) I think it could have been done without the shifter angle. Still, that next book? Better come out soon or I'm gonna get *pissssssssssssed*.

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## **Kazza says**

In depth, different review on the blog. Heed tags.  
<http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...>

Holy crap. This book was something else and everything I wanted and needed. It saved me from my current reading ennui - I totally relate to your thoughts, Rainer. I hate being bored. A big thank you to J.L. Arne. I had never heard of this author before this book but now I'll be going on a crazed reading spree of their other books, waiting impatiently for book #2 in this series.

### **The following points will either make you love or hate the sound of the book, they work for both :**

Good writing and fantastic story telling

A well developed world, but it's still a work in progress

Beyond fascinating twisted, amoral, warped MCs. Quirky, fringe-y, enabling secondary characters - most of whom I totally loved and adored

There are fabulous interpersonal relationships between everyone. The byplay between other characters and plots - coyotes, that there are other twisted people in the world, fellow FBI agents, police getting involved, Ezekiel jealously keeping facts about Rainer from his colleagues but still giving some snippets, victims, Caleb who lives next to Rainer, a monster in the dark, unexplored shifters- all add layers. Things like Rainer's brother has a restaurant and doesn't care his brother kills, don't ask don't tell, but god forbid his employees do something slightly out of line, and he's also a misanthropic germophobe. But while Rainer is

quite the open book with Thomas, it appears there is something Rainer doesn't know about his dear brother. Jacob, Ezekiel's twin, has deep psychological problems after two major traumas, and he breaks with reality here and there. Jacob is also a Dr of psychology, super smart but not able to work. There's also things he does not know categorically but suspects about Ezekiel. These arcs all make me want to explore and explore some more. They make this 551 Kindle page book seem so much shorter and I didn't want it to end

Sociopathy and psychopathy are done right within the context of the story and genre. It is eerie and at times subtle, and sometimes it's in your face. I think the words *psychopath* and *impulse control* can be cut back because you've done your job so right, dear author. We can see very clearly what's happening on page because of your vivid writing

I revelled in the humour in this book. The banter between Rainer and Ezekiel is delicious, as my son would say. The back and forth between Rainer and his friend Elijah and his wife, Erzsé, is delightfully gruesome but seems so everyday and perfectly normal

*"Erzsé put a hand out and touched his arm. "Do sit down and eat first," she said. "You'll need your strength and there's all this food and it's quite lovely. Try the chicken. It's perfect. You can kill the people after, they're not going anywhere."*

The book starts with a brutal bang and keeps on going - this is quite the (**very**) gruesome read. (view spoiler) The book is not gratuitous, it's true to the plot and storyline. It is what it is - a perversely dark, transgressive contemporary read about a serial killer, with a building paranormal world, not meant for the faint of heart

There is a glowing slow burn in this book, which flows off Rainer and Ezekiel onto the page - both sexually and psychologically. The serial killer and the obsessed FBI agent are perfection. Smouldering. But there is sex and psychology going on elsewhere as both Rainer and Ezekiel fuck their respective brothers, Thomas and Jacob - the sex is not on every page and it's paced well within a book of murder, mayhem, familial issues, love, cat and mouse games, and gore. And it's all kinds of wrong and super hot at the same time. The author went for it. You want pedal to the metal? J L Aarne serves it

Because I know it bothers some readers I'm adding this reader warning - **there's cheating in this book** and it's intense because of the added deflection of guilt. **If cheating normally bothers you then this book will likely piss you off, so maybe avoid it.** Honestly, given the nature of the book and everything else going on, this is the bottom of the food chain, in my opinion, although I suspect it will become incendiary and highly topical in the next book

Last and by no means least are Rainer and Ezekiel. Two men on different sides of the law but not so different. Both men are in love with their brothers - but there is this game going on, and, well... Anyway, both have dark natures. Both have a warped and funny sense of humour and I laughed out loud on a few occasions. They really shouldn't be likeable, not if you're being rational, but incredibly likeable they are for those of us who love dark and flawed. Ezekiel, the FBI profiler, is alpha and intense and has an angry inner beast, he is far removed from a good-guy FBI agent. Rainer. What can I say? A liked and respected English professor by day - with a very small group of crazy, twisted friends who are either like him, or enable him, or don't care - and a multiple case serial killer by night.

I loved this book. Loved it. Didn't want to put it down. I went to bed with it and kept thinking about it after I turned the light out. When I woke up in the morning I was so excited to know I was joining Rainer and Ezekiel and Thomas and Jacob and their intriguing friends and world. I am fascinated by their implausible

and perverse cat and mouse game, and I have no idea how it can end well - although a game changer seems to have been thrown into the loop. Give me a draw. Please. This is what I want when I read - addictive characters, passion, emotion, and depth. To be slightly off balance by, to feel an obsessive connection to the characters

For those in the group, this is DMC material

The book ends on a cliff hanger. I really hope J L Arne is writing furiously right now because I'm feeling stabby - when I'm invested I am not a patient reader.

Full review is coming to the blog in a few days because I want to add more, and I want to GIF and meme and quote the shit out of this irreverent and amazing book. Nothing less than 5 stars all the way.

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## Shile says

**WARNING! RANT! UNPOPULAR OPINION! MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS but the GOOD KIND.. umm MAYBE?**

**Oi! it went all wrong! It's NOT ME! it's the book.**

I really wanted it to be good! expectations! expectations!

I mean, read the blurb, isn't it just beautiful! you can't help but picture a dark, FBI-serial killer crime/mystery story, then look at this beautiful quote at the beginning of the book!

*Rainer cut off a thick, red strip of meat and tossed it to Aeolus. The coyote darted forward to snatch it up and retreated again from the fire. The man Rainer was feeding to them was bound and gagged, staked to the ground with his arms over his head and his legs together. He had told Rainer that his name was Jack at the club where they met.*

GAAAHH! I knew this was my kind of book.. then a couple of pages we meet Rainer's brother.

*Rainer's brother Thomas lived in a house in Hancock Park. He was the owner of and executive chef at the posh Centzon Totochtin restaurant.*

Then BOOM! BAM! This! And I am dead! Deceased! Goner!

*Come here," Thomas said. Rainer set his glass down and walked around the counter to him. Thomas met him, backed him up against the doorway and kissed him. Rainer kissed him back, moving away from the doorway partition to back him into the living room, his hands pulling at Thomas's shirt until he got it untucked, then moving to yank open his belt*

We meet Ezekiel the tough determined FBI agent and his twin brother Jacob, they also have a relationship

going on, and they are werewolves.

So far we got, BROCEST! TWINCEST! WEREWOLVES, SERIAL KILLER! I was like, who did I bribe? The book gods are on my side.

That was the first 30%, the writing was good, I was in book heaven! then... then... poof! The story took a nosedive.

When Ezekiel the FBI met Rainer the serial killer, and then Rainer decided it was fun to start taunting him, it all went south. We dived into Dexter quoting monologues, Law & Order, Criminal Mind watching sessions, I have watched and read Dexter, I HAVE watched Law & Order and Criminal minds, I don't want to read about a serial killer and an FBI agent sitting on the couch watching those shows and the said FBI agent reading Dexter, and telling me about Dexter, I know Dexter like I know my Kindle! Where is my cat and mouse, edge of the seat, adrenaline inducing FBI/Serial killer chase story?

The middle part became boring and repetitive, at one point we got Ezekiel's POV and forgot about Rainer. Ezekiel POV was boring, he came off as mean and he was really bad at his job, yet he is a Doctor of forensic psychology. Can you imagine Agent Hotchner, sitting outside a serial killer's house, knowing very well the guy is a serial killer, (the said serial killer knows an FBI agent is watching him) and listening to the serial killer have sex with his brother and then going back home and jerking off to that memory? Yeah! Yeah! I know it is fiction, but please give me a tiny bit of believable story.

This book could have benefited from serious editing, there was too much, too much stuff going on. We had (view spoiler) Why not just pick one and stick to it.

The story ends with a cliffy and even that part was a disappointment. Shocker! ??(view spoiler)

It's like when I watched the Vampire Diaries, and I was really into it then at some point everyone became a vampire. That is why I stick to Supernatural! Sam and Dean never disappoint! Give me two characters, develop a story around them and we are good to go up to season 20. I have now gone off topic!

Anyhoo, back to this! Eeeeh! don't mind me, look at all the sparkling 5 stars, I am the odd ball out.

Wait! Just remembered, another thing that bothered me a lot was constantly being educated about psychopaths and being told that Rainer is one. (More than 30 times) I know this already from the 1st chapter, Aye! no need to convince me!

***\*It was possible, even likely, that he was a psychopath.***

*\*Ezekiel stood in front of Rainer's door. When studying the psychopath in the wild, it is best to do so from a safe distance and not to interact or interfere with the creature.*

*\*It is well known that psychopaths have poor impulse control.*

*\*He wouldn't necessarily be nervous because psychopaths weren't nervous people*

*\*In high functioning, intelligent psychopaths, violent outbursts are less common, but they still occur, often without warning and with very little provocation. Such outbursts are more likely to occur in territory that the psychopath has claimed and marked as his own.*

*\*Anything can trigger such an extreme reaction in the psychopath*

*\*"Like what, love?" Ezekiel asked, amused to be having such a conversation with a psychopath.*

*\*"Off the record, I think Rainer Bryssengur's a psychopath," Ezekiel said honestly. "Whether he's a murderer or not, I couldn't say. It's not illegal to be a psychopath though, Detective. You want to keep that in mind."*

GAAAH! this one had real potential to become one of the best dark books out there! I feel cheated.

Ok! I will stop now! For real!

*Thank you so much Impatient Elf, for gifting me this book.*

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? percy says

imagine hannibal, but gay.

might have been 5 stars but i felt like it was a tad too long and could be benefited from some cutting out of unnecessary scenes, and the paranormal aspect felt somewhat underdeveloped and out-of-place. a+ characters though.

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