



Joe Ledger: The Missing Files

Jonathan Maberry

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In this collection of five short stories, Jonathan Maberry fills in the blanks in his action-thriller 'Joe Ledger' novels. In "Countdown," the prequel to "Patient Zero," meet Joe Ledger, Baltimore PD, attached to a Homeland Security task force who's about to get a serious promotion. "Zero Tolerance" picks up a few weeks after the close of "Patient Zero." Fans of the series will finally get closure on a few loose ends. In "Deep, Dark," the prequel to "The Dragon Factory," Joe Ledger must battle another foe experimenting with human test subjects. "Material Witness" takes Joe Ledger into the mysterious, troubled town of Pine Deep, Pennsylvania, the setting for Maberry's chilling Pine Deep Trilogy. In "Dog Days"--the sequel to "The Dragon Factory"--Joe Ledger and his new canine partner hunt the world's deadliest assassin.

Joe Ledger: The Missing Files Details

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Author : Jonathan Maberry

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From Reader Review Joe Ledger: The Missing Files for online ebook

Jonathan Pettit says

Great fill in for the Joe Ledger series. This series of short stories surrounds the first and second book in the series. A couple of the short stories were pretty far out and "heebie jeebie" but they were on par with the series. I tried to listen in the correct chronological order and mostly succeeded. Very good add to the series, though I prefer long epic tales vs. short stories. Excellent narration by Ray Porter on the audible edition.

Kim says

Enjoyed Dog Days, find out where Ghost had come from. Good story to bridge between books 2 & 3

Samuel says

Enjoyable collection of short stories that shore up some of the details that occur between the novels.

Renee says

I really enjoyed each story but I wished I had waited to listen to them.

Each story is connected to one of the Joe Ledger books. Since I had only read (listened to) Patient Zero before listening to this series, there were spoilers and some things weren't in context.

Now that I'm many more books into the series, this deserves another listen for greater enjoyment.

Note: Ray Porter is fantastic narrating the voice of Joe Ledger. No one could do it better. He IS Joe Ledger.

AudioBookReviewer says

My full Joe Ledger: The Missing Files audiobook review can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

I don't normally review anthologies of short stories. My rules are mine to break. Really the only reason that that I am is to satisfy my own curiosity, and to learn more about what drives Joe Ledger and makes him what he is today.

There really isn't a whole lot to review here. Joe ledger story short stories, full of everything you would expect from Jonathan Maberry. If you are a true and I mean true Joe Ledger fan you have already picked this title up or if you're like me you been humming and hawing and waiting for the right time. Well the time has come.

One story is a simple introduction to Joe Ledger, much of this we know already as we listened to *Patient Zero*, still good to hear. One story intertwines with *Patient Zero* and is yet separate. One story gives an introduction to my favorite literary canine, Ghost. Another twists together, what I thought were parallel universes, the Pine Deep series with the DMS. And the last really gets you inside Ledger's head.

Audiobook purchased by reviewer.

Michael Hicks says

Joe Ledger: The Missing Files presents five short stories that exist in and around the events of Jonathan Maberry's first three Joe Ledger novels. As I've come to expect of Maberry, each story is competently written, filled with plenty of action and smart-ass wit, and the audiobook's narration by Ray Porter is, also as expected, a top-notch delivery.

The main sticking point here, though, is that the first few stories feel pretty disposable. Kicking off this collection is "Countdown," a wholly unnecessary prequel to the first book, *Patient Zero*. I'm not sure who this story is ultimately aimed at, frankly... If you read the first Joe Ledger book than you already know this story, which involves the raid on a Baltimore warehouse that ultimately earns Joe the attention of Mr. Church. If you haven't read *Patient Zero*, I'm not sure there's enough meat on this short story's bones to compel you to latch onto and stick around for the main course. Mostly, this story feels like stuff that was edited out of an earlier draft of *Patient Zero* and was re-purposed as a very short short story.

Zero Tolerance follows on the heels of *Patient Zero*, with Joe and his DMS squadron tracking down one of that book's surviving terrorists. It's a sharp little story, but, like "Countdown," it's not exactly indispensable. Ditto "Deep Dark," which has Ledger and his crew squaring off against terrorists in an underground vault. It's a neat story involving transgenic modification of human test subjects, written as a precursor to help tease *The Dragon Factory*. While I can't say it's redundant, and Maberry does enough things differently in this short story, "Deep Dark" also feels almost exactly like a particular encounter that occurs in *The Dragon Factory*.

It's not until the last two stories that we get to the really good stuff, and they present some original concepts as Maberry finds his feet with Ledger and company existing in short-form narratives. "Material Witness" sees our band of DMS operators taking a trip to Pine Deep, the setting of another Maberry series. I haven't read the Pine Deep trilogy yet, but there's enough teases of information in "Material Witness" and Church's presentation of the official cover story to pique my interest and move those books further up my To Be Read pile. This story is just flat-out cool, involving an author whose cutting edge thrillers have made him a wanted man by various terrorist factions. Maberry shades "Material Witness" with plenty of *The X-Files* inspired intrigue, enough so that I could practically hear Mark Snow's theme playing as the story's final denouement plays out. That's no bad thing at all, mind you.

"Dog Days" was my main reason for checking out *The Missing Files*, and it delivered exactly what I had hoped for. Ledger's second novel-length outing, *The Dragon Factory*, ended on a bit of a cliffhanger. I was immediately disappointed to discover all those loose ends wrapped up before book three, *The Plague Factory*, even started, and with Ledger suddenly having a canine partner to wage war alongside of. Well, all that connective material is told in this short story, which introduces Joe's new partner, Ghost, and puts him on the hunt for *The Dragon Factory*'s escaped assassin. Maberry does a fantastic job condensing all of the fun interpersonal dramatics between Ledger and his comrades into this short, before launching into all the action. Given the way the second book ended, Joe is in a bit of a dark place; it has some necessarily sad overtones, but thankfully revenge is sweet and Maberry writes one hell of an action-packed finale.

Joe Ledger: The Missing Files is not an indispensable read, at times coming across more like deleted scenes from the core body of work, but it does tie up a few loose ends here and there, even if it sometimes feels repetitive of particular plot points covered in the full-length novels. "Material Witness" and "Dog Days" are the clear stand-outs here, providing enough story to satisfy. The rest are largely ancillary, recommended only for Ledger completionists.

Ruben says

If you've read the first 3 Joe Ledger novels, you'll notice there are some missing gaps here and there between stories, as they all start off in the middle of something. This book helps fill in some of the gaps.

Dave says

4.5 *

Drew says

A collection of short stories, some of which tie up loose ends to the major Joe Ledger books and some of which are stand along. The blend of action and intrigue with the usual cast is a must for any Joe Ledger fan.

Also See my short individual reviews here

Countdown: This prequel didn't add much if anything but as part of the overall missing files book it was with the read.

Zero Tolerance: Awesome short story running on the back of patient zero with plenty of action. The story continues for joe ledger and Echo team

Material Witness: A great book that is going to get me to read the pine bluff trilogy. Joe ledger takes on more terrorists and something else in this short story!

Deep, Dark: A short story of things to come for joe ledger and his team. A good mix of action and joe ledger's human side

Dog Days: A wonderful short story that finishes up the Dragon Factory nicely. It has a little bit of action and a bit of a twist. A great complement to the story.

Vicky says

Omnibus containing

Joe Ledger 0.5: "Countdown" - Read 1/10/14

Joe Ledger 1.1: "Zero Tolerance" - Read 1/10/14

Joe Ledger 1.3: "Deep Dark" - Read 1/10/14

Joe Ledger 1.2: "Material Witness" - Read 1/10/14

Joe Ledger 2.1: "Dog Days" - Read 1/13/14

Steph says

Countdown #0.5 ★★☆☆?

In this prequel to Patient Zero, meet Joe Ledger, Baltimore PD, attached to a Homeland Security task force . . . who's about to get a serious promotion.

Provides a quick look, from Joe's POV, of the mission that led to Church recruiting him for the DMS.

Zero Tolerance #1.1 ★★☆☆ ½

Zero Tolerance picks up a few weeks after the close of Patient Zero. Dropping back into the world of former Baltimore cop Joe Ledger, the Department of Military Sciences, and flesh-eating zombies, fans of the series will finally get closure on a few loose ends.

For those who are current with the series, this short provides a deeper look at Joe & the DMS's discovery of a character believed to have died in a previous battle. The way in which the character was found was briefly mentioned in Predator One - this short fills in the blanks.

Deep, Dark #1.2 ★★☆☆ ½

Before former Baltimore cop Joe Ledger goes up against competing geneticists looking to continue the master-race program in The Dragon Factory, he must battle another foe using human test subjects for his sinister plans.

A quick look at just how twisted scientists can be when they believe what they're doing is what's best for humanity.

Material Witness #1.3 ★★☆☆?

This short thriller takes Joe Ledger into the mysterious, troubled town of Pine Deep, Pennsylvania, the setting for Maberry's chilling 'Pine Deep Trilogy'. In Pine Deep, nothing is what it seems.

A visit to a small town results in a supernatural battle to rescue an author and friend of the DMS.

Dog Days #2.1 ★★☆☆?

Joe Ledger returns in this tale that follows the tragic conclusion of The Dragon Factory. In the wake of a devastating personal loss, Joe Ledger and his new canine partner, Ghost, go hunting for the world's deadliest assassin.

Ever wonder how Joe ended up with Ghost, his battle canine partner or how he tracked the man responsible for the biggest loss in his life? This short provides those answers. (I ♥ Ghost!)

Anthology Rating: ★★☆☆ ½

Tony says

This was my first ever audio book. I don't have a long commute so I can't listen in the truck, and it just feels

weird to sit there listening to someone else read to you. If they were all available in ebook I would have read them months ago. Buuuuuutttt.....since I love Jonathan's books, and Assassin's Code comes out TOMORROW I figured what the hell. I found a great way for me to listen to them, while I'm ironing all my clothes for the week. Yes, ladies I iron regularly. These books made is go by so fast I didn't even realise it until every single thing was done. I listened to and really enjoyed all of them except the one in Pine Deep. Since I haven't read to Pine Deep trilogy yet I chose to wait before I listened to that one.

Julie Davis says

This isn't something I'd have picked up myself and, frankly, wouldn't bother if it weren't sent as a review book. I am usually disinterested in add-on short stories that sew up "loose ends" of novels or serve to tell us what a character's been doing between one book and the next. In my experience, those are toss-offs and these days, what with 99-cent stories on Amazon, they just serve as money grabbers.

So you can see that I don't have the best attitude going into this. But I'm a sucker for Joe Ledger and I absolutely love the narrator's way with these stories so if I waste a few hours on mental cotton candy so be it.

I am, however, mildly interested in what seem to be two stories that aren't connected to any novels, "Deep, Dark" and "Material Witness."

Thus far the first story told me nothing I didn't learn in the beginning of Patient Zero and seemed as if it were a story prospectus given to a publisher to gain interest.

The second story added a little to Patient Zero's ending since it could have been called "What Happened to Amirah." (Pardon my spelling as I've only heard the audio for the novel.)

With the third story, "Deep, Dark," we finally get to something interesting and, as is the case in Joe Ledger novels, it teeters on the knife's edge between probability and supernatural/horror fiction. I'm pretty sure, as it goes in one of my favorite lines from Aliens, this is just a "bug hunt" but we shall see.

Material Witness, the fourth story, was more interesting than anything preceding it (or following, as it turned out ... yes, foreshadowing!). However, that was mostly because Maberry was filling us in on the creepiness that is Pine Deep, Pennsylvania (imagine the house from The Shining, but ... it's a whole town!). Seeing him meld the two worlds he has invented was rather intriguing but not enough to make me want to get whatever book it was he wrote about Pine Deep. For one thing, spoilers abound. I wonder if I already knew all about that "world" if the story would have kept my attention as it did.

Dog Days ... the final story and the one which was the test of whether Maberry had improved at short story writing or whether the previous two just created interest because of the unfamiliar material. Yep. Choose door number two. It wasn't a terrible story, just extremely easy to figure out. Extremely easy. The most interesting thing about it to me was the introduction of Ghost, the wonder dog. One feels (at least this one does) that this should have been a prequel or flashback in The King of Plagues. I especially feel this since I spent much of the beginning of that book wondering what the heck happened to Ledger's cat and why only one or two sentences gave us the dog's history. I like the dog ok, but he is definitely "made" to be Ledger's dog, as he is a Wonder Dog with super-canine reflexes and understanding.

Summing up - skip this collection. It's only four hours long but that is four hours you could use on something uniformly good.

Sheldon says

Mayberry's techno hero is too gruesome for me. I just do not like the genre and have to stop reading the series. Maybe you will find it more interesting than me.

Bibliofiendlm says

Great mix of Ledger short stories. Now I must pine until "Code Zero" comes out.
