

I Hunt Killers Discussion Questions

Barry Lyga

Author Bio:

Barry Lyga, nicknamed Barry "Radical" Lyga, is an American young adult novelist and short story writer. He lives in the desert southwest. Lyga majored in English at Yale receiving his BA in 1993. He then spent ten years working at Diamond Comic Distributors after having spent his teenage years immersed in comic books. (FantasticFiction)

He now knows way too much about how to dispose of a human body. His website is barrylyga.com. (Hachette Book Group)

Dent Series:

- 0.5 Lucky Day (e-only)
1. I Hunt Killers
2. The Game
3. Blood of My Blood

Character List:

- **Jazz (Jasper Dent)** – 17-year old son of Billy Dent, a serial killer.
- **Billy Dent** – Jazz's father. One of the most prolific serial killers in America. Caught 4 years ago by Sheriff G. William Tanner.
- **G. William Tanner** – Sheriff of Lobo's Nod. A widower. Claim to fame is that he caught Billy Dent, America's most infamous serial killer.
- **Ginny Davis** – Jazz's drama teacher. Directing "The Crucible" this year. Impressionist's 4th victim.
- **Gramma Dent** – Jazz's grandmother. Billy's mother. Has guardianship of Jazz. Has severe dementia/Alzheimer's.
- **Janice Dent** – Jazz's mom. Disappeared when Jazz was young. Presumed to have been murdered by Billy.
- **Deputy Erickson** – Lobo's Nod's newest police officer. First on scene of the first two murders.
- **Jeff Fulton** – Father of Harriet Klein, one of Billy's victims.
- **Howie Gersten** – Jazz's best friend. Has a severe case of hemophilia.
- **Helen** – Waitress at the local coffee spot. The Impressionist's 3rd victim.
- **Connie Hall** – Jazz's girlfriend. A black 17-year old girl interested in acting.
- **Melissa Hoover** – Jazz's social worker. Concerned over Gramma's mental deterioration, she wants to remove Jazz from his grandmother's and put him in a foster home.
- **Impressionist** – The serial killer haunting Lobo's Nod. Idolizes Billy Dent.
- **Lana** – Sheriff's secretary. Only a few years older than Jazz.
- **Doug Weathers** – Local reporter. Billy Dent's capture catapulted him into the national spotlight.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book?
2. What do you think of the title of the book?
3. Is Jasper a sociopath like his father? Why or why not?
4. Why did Billy Dent train Jazz to be a serial killer?
5. Why do you think Billy called looking for a victim “prospecting”?
6. Why does Jazz have to keep repeating “People are real. People Matter”? Do you think it helps or harms?
7. Why do you think Howie has remained Jasper’s friend for so long?
8. Jasper keeps up pictures of all the people his father killed by his bed. Is this healthy? Creepy? What about adding his mom to the list?
9. Would you want Jasper as your boyfriend? Why or why not?
10. Why is Jazz so good at manipulating people? Is wanting to manipulate the people around you normal? Is it wrong? Is it any different when it is a teenager?
11. What is the difference between manipulating people and influencing them?
12. Why does Jazz have “Remember Bobby Joe Long” running across his computer? (Remember, Bobby Joe Long was a serial killer who let someone go, even though Bobby Joe knew it would lead to his arrest.)
13. Why does Jazz need to know all about serial killers? Does it help or harm?
14. Why do you think G. William initially didn’t want to believe the murders were being committed by a serial killer?
15. What do you think was the significance of the severed fingers?
16. Why was Jazz so concerned with keeping up appearances in regards to Gramma Dent?
17. How do you think being raised by Gramma Dent affected Billy? What about Jasper?
18. What do you think was the Impressionist’s motive?
19. Did you figure out who the Impressionist was before it was revealed?
20. What is the symbolism behind the high school play being “The Crucible”? What about that fact that Jazz’s part was Reverend Hale?
21. The Jasper Dent series currently has 2 books in it and a prequel novella. (The third is coming out in September 2014). He also has a number of stand-alone novels and mid-grade series. Are you planning on reading any more of Lyga’s books?

References:

- Barry Lyga <http://barrylyga.com/>
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- Hachette Book Group <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/barry-lyga/i-hunt-killers/9780316125840/>
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