



## The Broken Souls

*Jack Kerley*

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# **The Broken Souls**

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## **The Broken Souls** Jack Kerley

A brilliant new psychological serial killer thriller featuring homicide detective Carson Ryder, hero of the bestselling 'The Hundredth Man' and 'Her Last Scream.'

Blood was everywhere, like the interior had been hosed down with an artery ...

The gore-sodden horror that greets homicide detective Carson Ryder on a late-night call out is enough to make him want to quit the case. Too late.

Now he and his partner Harry are up to their necks in a Southern swamp of the bizarre and disturbing. An investigation full of twists and strange clues looks like it's leading to the city's least likely suspects – a powerful family whose philanthropy has made them famous. But behind their money and smiles is a dynasty divided by hate.

Their strange and horrific past is about to engulf everyone around them in a storm of violence and depravity. And Ryder's right in the middle of it ...

## **The Broken Souls Details**

Date : Published 2010 by HarperCollins Publishers (first published January 1st 2006)

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Author : Jack Kerley

Format : Kindle Edition 563 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Thriller, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Broken Souls for online ebook

### **Tony says**

Kerley, Jack. A GARDEN OF VIPERS. (2006). \*\*\*\*. This is the third in the author's fast-paced series featuring detectives Carson Ryder and Harry Nautilus of Mobile, Alabama's homicide squad. Once again, they catch a weird murder and activate their PSIT squad privileges. Murders, preceded by tortures of the victim, keep cropping up, and they have to somehow find the connection among them. The first victim was a young woman reporter. The case widens to include a poisoned convict, a psychiatrist, and an older woman teacher who had been murdered four years earlier. They all appear to be the work of one madman, who changes his appearance as they are tracking him, amasses thousands of dollars in his spree, and even rents office space and starts an investment firm. All lines eventually point back to a wealthy family in Mobile, a close-knit family that is shunned by the rest of the social elite in Mobile because of their crass ways of supporting charitable efforts. The family is great on giving, but they always expect something back in return. To say that the family was dysfunctional would be an understatement. The mother rules the roost with an iron hand, but is barely able to keep the three sons from killing each other from jealousy of each others' talents. Each of the brothers has only one basic tenet: "I, me, mine." Ryder and Nautilus find that they aren't alone in their pursuit of the killer, and that being cops doesn't make them safe. It makes them targets. Ryder continues with his disappointing love life. Ava, from his last novel, has vanished into the bowels of Fort Wayne. His latest trinket is DeeDee, a newswoman from Mobile's TV station, but that's kind of hinky, too. By the end of the book, he finally hooks up with Dr. Claire, the chief pathologist for the city morgue. I think we saw this coming from the first novel onwards. There's a good intertwining of plot devices here that doesn't slow the novel down at all. Recommended.

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### **Rich says**

I keep enjoying this series, I got a bit lost in the story somewhere but kept reading, enjoyed it in the end

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### **Edward Janes says**

Crime marathon continues. A step down from the first 2 in the series but gets better towards the end

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### **Elaine says**

Good main characters.

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### **Geoff Battle says**

The third in this by-the-numbers series changes the formula to ensure each book is not rinsed and repeated, however it's not enough to hide a dull plot. The violence is toned down as Carson and Harry investigate a

power hungry family which may be involved in some nefarious deeds. The first three quarters of the book offer up plenty of misdirection, using previous characters in the series to add some emotional weight. The plot jumps about between (deliberately) unexplained characters and it becomes difficult to follow at times and this is hindered further by the protagonists who are still rather two-dimensional. *The Broken Souls* offers nothing new in this genre and only the finale makes it worthwhile.

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### **Myrna says**

3.5/5 stars. In this 3rd instalment of the Carson Ryder series, Kerley has improved his skills in providing the backstory for readers new to the series.

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### **Ishmael Seaward says**

This is the third in a series starring two detectives, Carson Ryder and Harry Nautilus, and probably the best so far. Investigating a murder that shows evidence of torture, Harry and Carson get involved with multiple threads of evidence from different cases, that all seem to have some relationship with the Kincannon family, a wealthy, powerful, and dysfunctional family in Mobile. How they pull these together into a single case makes for a good tale. There are subtle little clues that the detectives pick up on that are significant in their later understanding of events.

The other facet of this series has been the development and changes in the relationships of the characters from previous books. I look forward to the next in this series.

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### **M. Sprouse says**

With *A GARDEN OF VIPERS* Jack Kerley and Carson Ryder are at their best yet. Compared to his first two books, the writing is better as well as the plot and character connections. From the start, the chemistry with Carter and Harry seem to flow more easily compared to *THE HUNDREUTH MAN* and *THE DEATH COLLECTORS*. Both good books, but this one seems to be better than the sum of its parts. This is definitely a page turner and kept my interest. Maybe the ending is a little forced, but can a climax really be overdone? It's escapism at its best and that's one of the main reasons I read. The twist kept me on my toes. Kerley makes Mobile come alive for the most part, enough to make me want to visit. If you like this genre I can't imagine you wouldn't enjoy this book.

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### **Victoria says**

I enjoyed this third installment in the Carson Ryder series more than *The Hundredth Man* and almost as much as I enjoyed *The Death Collectors*. It was a different sort of mystery/thriller than the previous two, with a more surprising storyline in a lot of ways. As a whole, though, the series started to bother me a bit as far as the lack of female characters. Ryder also was paired with a different woman in every book - which wouldn't bother me as much if it didn't always seem so serious, followed up with little to no explanation on just what happened to the last "love of his life" - where he a traveling investigator this would bother me a lot

less, but as a rooted man with a house, I hope that this part becomes more fulfilling. Still, this book had a riveting conclusion and was all in all, fun and thrilling. Unfortunately, despite Kerley being an American author, the remainder of the series appears to have only been published in the UK, so I imagine I will have to wait a bit to acquire it.

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### **LJ says**

A GARDEN OF VIPERS (Police Proc-Mobile, A1, Cont) – G

Kerley, Jack – 3rd in series

Dutton, 2006- US Hardcover – ISBN: 0525949526

\*\*\* Detectives Carson Ryder and Harry Nautilus pick up a call from dispatch and beat another pair of detectives to the scene of a reporter found murdered in her car. The reporter is a friend of Carson's girlfriend, Dani Danbury. The trail soon leads to other murders, a police cover-up and to the very wealthy, influential Kincannon family, including Buck who is counting Carson's girlfriend.

\*\*\* This book lacked the spark of the previous two novels by Kerley. I found the plot implausible and imminently forgettable. Even to write this review, one week after reading the book, I had to go back and leaf through it to remember the plot. The best part of the book was the relationship between the two detectives, although even that didn't have quite the impact of previous books, and the growing relationship between Carson and Claire Peltier, a forensic pathologist 11 years his senior. There is a suspenseful scene toward the end that does make the book exciting. It's still a good series, but this wasn't Kerley's best effort.

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### **Geert Daelemans says**

A nice discovery

The super-wealthy Kincannon family has earned its enormous fortune, like many other rich families, thanks to practices that cannot always tolerate the light of day. But that is not the only secret they want to keep hidden. At first the murder of a young reporter seems to be unrelated to the Kincannon's, but when detectives Carson Ryder and Harry Nautilus start to piece things together some harmful links start to pop-up. A serial-killer is on the loose with only one objective: to ruin the Kincannon's reputation for good.

Having never read a novel by Jack Kerley before, I was truly taken by this book. It's very strange that I never heard of this author before. Thanks to a sales bin and some divine intervention I became the proud owner of this audiobook for less than 5 euro. The rough voice of Kerry Shale quickly engulfed me in this mysterious world of dark intrigue. The build-up is supported by strong characterization of its main players. This is quite unique accomplishment because with most returning characters (Broken Souls is the third episode) this quickly tends to become a bland rehash of some need-to-know facts. Not with Broken Souls. It digests perfectly as a stand-alone novel.

I must admit that once the setting for the final confrontation is ready, the story becomes a bit too action-adventure like for my taste. Luckily this doesn't hurt the narrative too much because it still stays true to its nature. No miracle solution or deus-ex-machina denouement, but a fair conclusion that does not hurt the personality of its characters (not like a Clive Cussler fantasy to just name an unfair comparison...).

I can only conclude that I am putting Jack Kerly high on my to-read list... a list that is getting longer and longer... I need more time! ;-)

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## **Sridhar Babu says**

AUTHOR...

Jack Kerley

CHARACTERS..

Carson Ryder, Danielle Danbury (Dee Dee) , Harry Nautilus, Pace Logan, Crendell, Buck Kincannon, Nelson Kincannon, Racine Kincannon, Lucas, Maylene Kincannon, Rudolnick, Clair Peltier, Carole Ann Hibney, Frederika Holtkamp, Taneesha Franklin and others...

LOCATION..

Mobile City (USA)..

GENRE..

Thriller...

PLOT...

THREE MUTILATED CORPSES...

TANEESHA FRANKLIN.....was found inside the open door of Mazda car, tumbled across the transmission hump, head on passenger seat. Her nose appeared to be broken. Her lower lip was torn. There were wounds across her torso, her blouse glossy with blood. Her throat had been slit. Three fingers were broken in one of her hand, the digits bent backward. MPD, Detective Inspector Carson Ryder and his partner Harry Nautilus start the Investigation...Victim Taneesha was reporter for a tiny radio station in Mobile city. During the investigation Detective Carson, learns that murdered Taneesha was a close friend of his girlfriend Danielle Danbury (Dee Dee)..sort of mentor and mentee.

CAROLE ANN HIBNEY..a prostitute went by the name Sonia, her corpse was found by the fire fighting team in the burning apartment building at Corcoran and Hopple. Her arms were handcuffed behind the body's back. Detective Carson Ryder was there when the body was found.

FREDERIKA HOLTKAMP.....A retired teacher, her body was found by hunters in a shack. Remained Unmarried. Lived alone. No narcotics in the blood. She was crumpled inside the little hunter's shack with over two dozen knife wound, with fingers broken in one of her hand. This four year unsolved murder, was told by Montgomery Police Department Detective Ben. T.Pettigrew To Carson, when he and Harry were searching clues for Taneesha's homicide.

THE BROKEN SOULS..

THE KINCANNON CLANS... A weird family consisting of Mama Maylene Kincannon and Papa Buck Sr. with four sons. Buck Jr, Nelson, Racine and Lucas. Maylene hailing from a family of total nutters. An eye blinking brother, A crazy Auntie howling, laughing and running naked all around the house. Maylene successfully passing this genetic sick qualities to her three sons. The Kincannon clans with their KEI enterprises,(Kincannon Enterprises International) and with their old money, pass out funds for charities, symphony, museums and all other cultural events to buy respect and acceptance, but they are heavy handed and self serving, making the insiders loathe them more.

The family by employing the biggest PR agency in the state, does all their public related events, posing as likeable and kind-hearted people in the public. They spend vast sums to appear like benevolent royalty, to be

adored by the public. They show themselves as law abiding citizens, until something threatens their world. If that happens the dark side of their souls and broken side of their family will be seen. One never want to deal with that side. The family follow a policy "One hand giving, the other taking, if had a third hand, it would carry a knife".

Maylene's last boy LUCAS KINCANNON , came as a surprise when she was in her forties. Right from the beginning Lucas Questioned everything, argued about everything. He hated living with a family full of nutters. When he was fifteen he ran away from the family and was traced and brought back home. Though he was handfuls of troubles when he wanted to be, he was also a whip-smart boy. Helluva lot brighter than his siblings. Even at the age of ten, he can carry on a conversation better than most of the adults. When he was eighteen he ran away from the family once again, never heard afterwards, his whereabouts unknown.

CRANDELL, is a "fix-it" man working for the Kincannon family. He is a shark for sharks. He is a problem solver, working for the biggies, like Oil Companies, Brokerage houses, has an itch for killing, murdering anybody if it is a last resort. For doing a killing someone in the hierarchy has to point a finger towards a target and say go. Crandell's job, other than problem solving issues, is to return lost items where they belong. Such as Missing Art, Misappropriated Stocks and Wayward spouses.

#### THE INVESTIGATION...

Detective Carson and Harry, discovers that, there are strange goings on, that might center around the Kincannon family. Dr. Bernard Rudolnik a well known psychiatrist was treating a patient from the family for a long time. Carson suspects that it was runaway Lucas Kinconnon, the last boy of the family, since his finger prints were found in the crime scenes . But after reading the medical report of Dr. Rudolnik it turned to be the elder brother Buck Jr and his two siblings, performing murders and rapes as a fantasy, and dumping dead bodies, in deserted warehouses and barns with the assistance of the hit-man Crandell.

Carson, soon discovers That Lucas was framed by his elder brothers, by putting evidences containing his finger prints in the crime scenes, with the support of their police connections, and by insisting psychiatrist,Dr.Bernard Rudlnik, to write a false medical report on Lucas, that he was a psychopath and should be kept under close watch. Mother Maylene was manipulated by Dr.Bernard Rudlink's false medical report, that Lucas had terrible and incurable psychological problems that may worsen in the long run.

Buck with a help of a hired killer Leland Harwood, murders the Doctor and makes look like a bar fight gone wrong. Buck also discovers that Detective Carson is obsessive in finding the murderer of the unsolved homicide victims, with his paid informer cop in the police Department, Tyree Shuttles.

Crandell kidnaps Detective Carson and keeps him drugged in an isolated farm house out of the city. With the help of his partner Harry ,and his girlfriend Dee-dee, Carson arrests the three Kinconnon brothers, and Lucas takes over the Kinconnon family business.

#### TRIVIA...

In addition to the twists and turns of the novel, there are two trivial romantic angles which makes the story even more gripping. Detective Carson's love with the TV anchor Danielle Danbury (Mentioned as Dee Dee in the novel) and break up, after she went with Buick Kinconnon for better opportunities and big money. Carson's love budding afterward, with pathologist Dr.Clair Peltier, of the Forensics Bureau, her longings for Carson after he was kidnapped, were interestingly portrayed in the novel, in relevant portions, without deviating from story.

MY COMMENT...

THE BROKEN SOULS.....UNBROKEN THRILL and SUSPENSE..

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### **Ricardo says**

I like Kerley's writing style. The book is not a literary masterpiece, but it sure is a fun read

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### **Laurie says**

A Garden of Vipers was a solid read from Jack Kerley. Carson Ryder and Harry Nautilus are back and this time they catch a case that runs deeper than it appears. After racing to a crime scene, Ryder and Nautilus discover the body of a young reporter who has been brutally tortured and stabbed to death. This young female was a friend of Carson's girlfriend, reporter DeeDee Danbury, so Carson strongly wants to get to the bottom of this murder. The investigation leads him in a shocking direction towards a wealthy philanthropic family named the Kincannons. Money buys trouble in this case and soon Ryder and Nautilus are investigating a slippery slope of anger and deception. Meanwhile, DeeDee and Ryder have split and she is currently seeing one of the Kincannons. With tangled webs running in all directions and influence hiding clues at every turn, this case could be Ryder and Nautilus' last.

Jack Kerley's writing is engaging and thought-provoking. Each book that I read in this series draws me further into the characters and I enjoy each story more than the last. Carson Ryder and Harry Nautilus have the perfect relationship as partners. Harry showed more of his emotions in this book and watching his character grow made him feel more real. As for Carson, he learns something about himself through each of his relationships and his growth leaves me rooting for him to prevail at every turn. The shocking absence of Jeremy (my favorite character) in this book made the plot even more interesting. The suspense was preserved at every turn and I liked the intricate details of the Kincannon family that were slowly delivered through the action taking place. Ryder's romantic situation enhanced the book rather than detracting from it and I would love to see something develop between him and Claire. I cannot wait to read the next book in this series and see what adventure these partners will face!

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### **Terrie Sharp says**

I enjoyed this one so much that halfway thru reading it ( yes I actually have the book) I searched online and found a used book vendor through Alibris that had really cheap, slightly used, copies of all Jack Kearlys books for sale. Three days after finishing Garden of Vipers, I have started the paperback Blood Brother which is going to bring brother Jeremy back into the story...any one that's read the earlier Carson novels knows to shiver at the thought of Jeremy. I'm off all week and reading is high on my list of pleasures.

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