



## Severed

*Simon Kernick*

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*Straight off I knew it was going to be a bad day. The room was stifling hot; and when I did finally manage to drag open my eyes, all I could see was blood. I thought I'd stepped into the middle of a nightmare.*

***But I was wrong. The nightmare was only just beginning.***

Ex-soldier Sean Tyler wakes up in an unfamiliar room next to the headless corpse of a girl he's met recently. With his memory of the previous 24 hours wiped clean, he's hardly out of bed before he notices a note next to the TV telling him to press play on the room's DVD machine. The film shows him stabbing someone to death.

Tyler is confident that the footage is fake, but will a jury see things the same way? The man on the end of the phone tells him that if he wants the evidence to disappear, he must go to an address in east London, and await further instructions.

Tyler knows he must do as he is told. He also knows that the phone caller has no intention of keeping him alive.

To survive he must recover the missing 24 hours of his life and find out who's setting him up before his time runs out for good. The clock is ticking...

## Severed Details

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Author : Simon Kernick

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## From Reader Review Severed for online ebook

### Sangeeta Sharma says

Finally, came out from the book hangover. It had an immense impact. From the beginning, it was very hard to put the book down even for a second. Unable to control myself, I became my self-spoiler and found that Tyler will be alive. The course of the book was unpredictable from the beginning. It did let the readers believe that Alannah could be the one. What a magnificent woman Alannah was! Adine was another powerful and charismatic woman. At some point, I felt bad for Lucas who was a well-prepared detective. But the thrill of the book was gripping.

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### Kim says

Das Buch begann mit einer äußerst spannenden und erschreckenden Situation, die mich zunächst gefesselt hat.

Ich dachte: "Endlich mal ein Buch, das mit der Tür ins Haus fällt".

Doch dann stellten sich meiner Meinung nach zu überzogen dargestellte actionreiche Abläufe ein und die "Flachheit" der Charaktere wurde immer deutlicher, was die Spannung senkte.

Die Idee, die hinter dem Ganzen steckt, halte ich dennoch für gut. Sie hätte wohl einfach besser umgesetzt werden können.

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### Andy says

Another fantastic book from one of my favourite authors.

You can't lose with any book written by Simon Kernick.

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### Jannelies says

Severed is fast-paced and at the same time the story evolves very slow. It was a pleasure to re-read it because apparently I didn't remember a thing from the first time I read it, when it was first published. On the other hand I now understand why I couldn't remember a thing about the book. The main character keeps running around and fighting, but you hardly get to know him. Some things he tells the reader about himself are just not quite believable.

An ok book but not Kernick's best.

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### Tom Lindsay says

Good fare from Simon Kernick, even if the premise is ultimately rather far-fetched. It's a real action book which, if one takes the time to reflect, is all rather unbelievable, but Kernick has the knack of keeping the

interest level at maximum and any gnawing doubts on the reader's part are quickly subsumed in keeping up with the twists and pace of the story. Not a literary masterpiece, but enjoyable entertainment.

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### **Phillip says**

You know that a Simon Kernick novel is going to grab your attention from the very first sentence and this doesn't disappoint. Your thrust straight into the action as the main character Dan Tyler wakes up to find the decapitated body of his new girlfriend lying next to him in a pool of blood in a place he doesn't recognise and with no memory of the events leading up to it. He then finds himself doing a job for a mysterious man who tells him that if he doesn't complete the job the murder weapon and video of him committing the crime will go straight to the police. There then follows a series of events that ultimately become a little too predictable and increasingly outrageous. The characters are wooden and clichéd and the narration suffers from too much hyperbole and altogether useless information that adds nothing to plot and leaves you with the feeling that he is desperately trying to slow the story down for added suspense. It doesn't work.

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### **Veronika says**

I don't know what to say. It was mysterious, it was unexpected, it was really bad day... But I was impressed. Throughout the whole book the author took you in the knowledge that you cannot find out who is behind all the events. And I have to say. There were only few moments I thought I know who is behind everything and as I found out in the end I was really mistaken... Only thing I knew was that if I were that man I would rather die than to fight like he had to, that I wouldn't survive - better surrender to police and be in the prison lifelong... And in the end I was really proud of him.. I really felt like he did everything he could, everything I wouldn't...

So I have to say : I LOVED this book!!!! :)

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### **Jim Bowen says**

At the start of this book, Tyler, the central character, wakes up in a house he doesn't recognise. He's clearly been drugged, and when he rolls over to get his bearings, he finds the badly mutilated remains of his girlfriend next to him.

Soon after, he gets a phone call that tells him that if he doesn't do certain things, the police will be called and evidence will be presented to them that suggests that he was involved in the mutilation.

He follows the instructions, but because he clearly can't trust who put him in this position, he goes after those who he believes were really involved in the death for the remainder of the book.

You might think that all this might sound rather enjoyable, if a little disgusting (and the way I've described it, it might sound a bit like a "boys own adventure" for adults). Trust me when I say that it's too predictable to be enjoyable.

After I'd read Chapter 1, I guessed pretty what was going to happen. This pre-cognition I had wasn't helped by the fact that Kernick seems to have borrowed plot themes from his own books to help bolster his own

story. Almost as soon as I read certain things, I just knew how they might be related to what he wrote in Relentless, the other Kernick book I'd read.

Now you might think I have a knack for guessing the endings of books. I don't. Anyone with half a brain would guess what was going to happen in this book. Anyone who has read anything that's remotely similar to this book would guess what's going on in this book too. Everything he writes in this book is that well telegraphed. Trust me on that.

In short, don't read this book. Have a good look for a book with a similar plot and read that book instead. It's almost bound to be better written.

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### **Dave says**

I waded my way through 3/4's of this book and then I did something silly and deleted the book off my Kobo - I couldn't be bothered downloading it again to finish it. I have read several of Simon Kernicks books before and thoroughly enjoyed them. This one didn't do it for me

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### **Jamie♥Books says**

#### **DNF @ 56%**

I am strained my brain enough. I wish i could have loved this one. Not happening.

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### **Mark Williams says**

Another standard Simon Kernick thriller, edge of seat action all the way.

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### **Magan Chang says**

If you're looking for a book involving tons of fight scenes with a dash of mystery, this is a book for you. If you're looking for something that's more of a psychological thriller, then this probably isn't a book for you. "Severed" by Simon Kernick is a mystery novel involving a fast-paced plot and new pieces of information being thrown constantly at you.

Imagine waking up in a bed, seemingly alone. Everything is quiet when your eyes are drawn to drops of red strewn all over the bedsheets. Slowly, you turn to your side, only to find a body lying next to yours. A decapitated body you know that once belonged to a girl you met just a few weeks ago. You sit up in shock, paralysed by the sight of the corpse. You have no idea what happened last night. A note on the TV tells you to turn on the DVD player, and you do so. You stand petrified at the movie playing on the screen. It's one of you stabbing the girl in the bed to death. You're sure that the person in the film *isn't* you, but who knows what the court would think? Now you're told to head to East London if you want all traces of the DVD to be erased. Knowing that you're required to do what the man on the phone says, and also knowing that you'll

probably be dead at the end of all this, what do you do?

As much as it sounds interesting, I didn't really think it was. I borrowed the book from the library after finding the summary on the back intriguing, but I was surprised when my interest in the plot started dying once I got about a quarter of the way in. The main character, Tyler, was difficult to relate to and I couldn't pinpoint any distinct qualities that made him stand out in my head. I think that there was a lack of voice throughout the whole story, and it just became very tiring for me to read.

This is a book you *really* need to get into to enjoy, and is better to read in one shot. There are multiple characters with little information given about them that are introduced and it might be confusing to keep track of all of them, especially since most of them only stay for about a couple of chapters. Some of the dialogue kept my attention and made me want to keep reading, but I couldn't find majority of the scenarios interesting. I felt that the ending was rushed and for some reason, a little disappointing as well. This wasn't exactly a continuous page-turner for me, but the beginning started off with a bang and was quite good.

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### **Melanie Lewis says**

This is an excellent, fast paced story. The speed of the action is so breakneck, that I had to wear a surgical collar to ensure I didn't get whiplash whilst listening. A very clever, very intricately woven tale of murder, blackmail, dangerous deeds and repugnant reprobates. Fortunately we have a fabulous hero in the shape of Dan Tyler, and I found I was a fully paid up member of The Dan Tyler fan club before I was even half way through, (honestly, I've got a badge and the welcome pack and everything). Paul Panting does a wonderful job as the narrator, not easy when there are so many males voices and a couple of females too. A stellar performance Mr Panting, well done that man! A superb, action packed thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat and breathless with anticipation. I highly recommend *Severed* if you like your thrillers totally and absolutely thrilling! You can thank me later!!!

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### **Lynne says**

Ex-soldier Sean Tyler wakes up in bed beside his butchered girlfriend, with no memory of the previous 24 hours. Next to the television is a note instructing him to watch a DVD. It shows him committing the murder. Believing it to be a fake, he knows he'll have an uphill struggle convincing the authorities.

An anonymous phone call tells him to follow a set of instructions if he wants the evidence destroyed. Tyler knows he must act quickly if he's to discover who's blackmailing him and the reason why.

*Severed* is a fast-paced thriller which takes place over two days. It has a little bit of everything - organised crime, illegal firearms, blackmail, assassinations and shootings galore! Yes, it's a little far-fetched but at the same time immensely enjoyable.

I'm a huge fan of these sort of thrillers and this one is no exception. The action spills from every page and the short, punchy chapters make for easy reading. It's the ideal book for a few hours of action-packed escapism.

Read my review on my blog: <https://bit.ly/2wRZtY7>

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**Erline. says**

This was a slightly frustrating read, there was a lot of superfluous build-up in the first half and I skimmed quite a bit of it without losing any of the plot. After passing the half-way point, the author seems to dial back on dragging out action scenes and that's where the story begins to get a little interesting.

I read this book as part of my book club and one of girls raised an excellent point. The character development is quite lazy, it's difficult to connect with any of them as there is no real background. This is particularly true with the protagonist, the author resorts to constantly falling back on incidents experienced during his time in the military for pretty much everything.

There were a few twists that I hadn't expected and I enjoyed the second half more than the first, the ending was certainly a surprise but a good one.

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