



Countdown

Iris Johansen

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When it reaches zero, you die.

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Iris Johansen sets her readers' pulses racing once again in this relentless psychological thriller of a young woman caught in a maze of secrets and stalked by a merciless killer. The countdown begins the moment you open this riveting novel that only grows more electrifying as the pages turn, more exciting as time runs out. . . .

“Don’t kill her. She’s no good to us dead.” These words haunt Jane MacGuire after a shocking attack shatters her world in an instant. Was it a random kidnapping attempt—or the countdown to something far more sinister?

Who is after her—and what do they want so badly they’ll kill anyone in their way? That’s what Jane is determined to find out, without the help of the police, the FBI, or her adoptive parents, forensic sculptor Eve Duncan and her husband, Joe Quinn, of the Atlanta PD—because whoever is after her won’t hesitate to hurt those she loves the most. Now Jane will go on the run with the only man who may be more dangerous than those who are pursuing her. A smuggler, a con man, and who knew what else, Mark Trevor had his own mysterious reasons for wanting to keep Jane safe and out of the hands of a killer obsessed with a two-thousand-year-old mystery that could rock the modern-day world.

Orphaned at an early age, Jane grew up the hard way, but she was given a new life, a loving family, and a chance to pursue her interest in one of the greatest archaeological finds ever unearthed. Now someone was trying to destroy that new life before it could even get started. The past is returning with the kind of vengeance that knows no mercy. The countdown has already begun, and it’s approaching zero faster than anyone thinks.

From the Hardcover edition.

Countdown Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2005)

ISBN :

Author : Iris Johansen

Format : Kindle Edition 528 pages

Genre : Mystery, Suspense, Fiction, Thriller

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From Reader Review Countdown for online ebook

Keri n David Horner says

One of my favorite books so far!

I love the way this series keeps you on edge the whole time, always guessing and then getting blindsided. Awesome book!!!

Shauna says

I don't know how this is a New York Times Best Seller because the book is horrible. I couldn't get past about page 50. The characters are all simple-minded, one-dimensional people. The dialogue is atrocious. I don't know anyone who speaks with people they know and have loved forever in a manner in which they are giving background information on each other and judging one another. The author would have been better off to paint a picture of how the character came to be the way he/she is rather than have it talked out amongst each person.

Christine Kirchoff says

I read this awhile ago but forgot to post it here. Good book!

William says

I think that I would have enjoyed this book if I were a woman. The main character is a "superwoman" whose abilities are a little unbelievable. The author spends far too much time detailing the relationship between the female heroine and the anti-hero male counter-character who also has some ultrahuman abilities. Too far-fetched and romantic to be considered an action/adventure tale. This was one of those books that halfway through, I wish I had never started to read.

Kwoomac says

one of a series of novels by Iris Johansen following forensic sculptor Eve Duncan and her husband Joe Quinn, an Atlanta PD cop. They have minimal roles in this one. The main character is Eve's 21 year old adopted daughter Jane Maguire. I didn't read the previous book in the series, which took place 4 years earlier. It also dealt with Cira, who was an actress in ancient Rome. She may have died in Herculaneum when Mt Vesuvius erupted, leaving behind a treasure of gold. Jane, for some reason looks just like Cira (a statue of her was recovered from the site), and she also seems to dream as Cira (no explanation given for this). Jane is a strong-willed young woman who manages to ensnare the un-ensnareable (unsnarable?) Trevor, a 36 year old con man/smuggler with a shrouded history. He's been pining away for Jane (basically stalking her) since their

last encounter in Herculaneum 4 years earlier. Anyway, convoluted story about trying to find Cira's gold. All kinds of bad guys. Jane knowingly puts herself in dangerous situations. Far more mature than any real 21 year old. Very little suspense. Skip this one.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

This was the first Irish Johansen book I ever read. I noticed this in the store where I work at, and it looked interesting enough, so I thought, why not. I was expecting way more than... this.

The story is not very well-constructed and focuses more on the character of Jane and her connection with a Roman woman named Cira. I know this is supposed to be part of a series, but the mark of a good series is that any book within could be read by itself. The story is rather sparse given the description on the back of the book. Unless you're a die-hard Johansen fan, I can't recommend this book.

Willow says

Never has it taken me so long to read Johansen book. The characters weren't intriguing, the plot blatantly obvious and just seemed too blah.

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

It's been a while since I read this book, but I want to get all my reviews completed. It was also one of the earlier thrillers that I've read. I think this one was promoted back in the day as something almost Dan Brown-ish since it has something to do with a very old and powerful secret, but I don't think that makes any sense really.

Chronologically this follows a few years after the event in Blind Alley, which I read after this one, and which is not a good idea. The story wasn't particularly special and neither were the characters, but hey, I've read two more of her books since, so it wasn't too bad. A small side note that I would like to make is that however, I had read far less books at the times and have become much more critical, that's why I'm not 100% sure I would still have enjoyed it.

Note: I read a Dutch translation of this book.

Carl Alves says

In Countdown, Jane Maguire is a student at Harvard who has managed to elude serial killers in the past twice—a real believable premise to begin with—and now people are trying to get her again. If you detect the

sarcasm, it's because this novel has a major failing in believability. This time Jane is targeted because she resembles Cira, a concubine of Julius Ceasar, who was alleged to have a major cache of gold given to her by Ceasar. All of these nefarious parties are after the gold, which for some reason I'm supposed to believe that they would think she would know about because of her resemblance. It's a ridiculous premise for a ridiculous novel.

There is very little that I liked about the novel. The character of Jane Maguire bears no resemblance to an actual person. She has skills that far surpass anyone of her age and experience would have. She also doesn't come off at all like a college student. The plot also has a complete lack of reality to it. At the point where terrorists got involved, I should have just stopped reading. Unfortunately, I slugged through it, and the book did not get any better as it got along. The characters, the plot, and the writing were all subpar, and I would advise skipping this novel.

Carl Alves – author of Conjesero

Sarah says

Great book! Incredibly fast-paced, and unusual plot without leaving the realm of believability. This helped to put a period on Blind Alley without repeating the same story (something I was worried about when I read the description on the flap).

I'm continuing to enjoy this Eve Duncan world. It took some adapting to realize that Eve is not the protagonist in every book - heck, in some, she's barely there - but Johansen creates such interesting secondary characters, you can't help but want to know more about them...and your curiosity is often rewarded in the next book in the series :)

Amy Burns says

I finished reading this book yesterday afternoon and I really liked it.
I think this one is my favorite in the series...so far.

I give this book a B+.

Here is how I rate my books:

A+ - Awesome book - couldn't put it down.
A - Really good book - would read it again and again.
B+ - Good book - would maybe read it again.
B - Good book - wouldn't read it again.
C - Okay book - would definitely never read it again.
F - Worst book EVER.

Angela Anderson says

I see a lot of mixed reviews on this series, but the truth is , I really like it. I actually started the series with

Chasing the Night and liked it so much, I went back to read it from the beginning. Now that I am about half way through the series, I still like it. I love the characters, the suspense and the mild romance.

I enjoy the characters, I love strong women in books and movies and Eve Duncan and Jane Macguire are those strong women who surround themselves with stronger men, the kind of men you want taking care of you.

The story lines might be far fetched to some, but no more than any other fictional plots in suspense books and movie thrillers.

If you like suspense, without all the gore, mixed with a little romance, you will enjoy the series. Start at the beginning so you can grow to love the characters the way I have.

Amanda says

How is this "an eve Duncan forensics thriller"? I could care less about Jane and her sexual trysts. Make a separate series about her. :-(

Debra Longmire says

A little better than the previous Eve Duncan book. I am determined to finish this series!!!!!!

Startup says

I wish I could get that 8 hrs of my life back. I will never read another book by Iris Johansen again. Her writing style reminds me of the nonsenical love stories we girls used to write in junior high. The characters don't act at all like real people would and the plot was ridiculous. Pee-wee's Big Adventure had more substance than this book.
