



Deception

Barry Jonsberg

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Pandora and her team are already two members down. The survival of humanity in the post-plague world depends on them. But who can she trust?

It was difficult to know when nightmares ended and the waking world began.

Pan is still struggling to distinguish between her dreams and reality. When she wakes in the Infirmary her mind replays the sight of Nate running along the shoreline and the way his body froze and then flopped after he was shot. But her memories hold more questions than answers and she doesn't know who to trust.

When she forms an unlikely alliance with Jen to try to make sense of everyone's haunting similar memories and the conflicting information about The School, she finds herself with unexpected enemies.

Pan and Jen are determined to seek the truth - no matter what rules they must break or how terrible the danger they face. But can they even trust each other?

Intuition. Secrets. Truth. Courage. Action. Survival.

Deception Details

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Author : Barry Jonsberg

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From Reader Review Deception for online ebook

Dinah Browne says

It's a really great book, and I look forward to the last book in this series because this has left me with so many questions and cliffhangers.

Trisha says

Once I got into this, it built such great tension that I couldn't put it down and read the last third in one sitting.

The suspense and shocks are to be expected in this thrilling story of mystery. I am not sure what's going on (well, of course, I know what's going on, but I don't know where it's headed), and just like Pan I don't trust anybody or any story they are trying to tell.

Thankfully number three, Reckoning is out in May. Not long to wait for the rest of the ride.

Rou Min says

Full Review : <http://rowreads.blogspot.com/2014/12/...>

4 stars

'Deception' starts with a prologue recapping what happen in the previous book of Pandora and her friends returning from a mission. Two team mates down, Pandora makes allies with her team mate and former 'frienemy' Jen in order to work out the motive of The School and escape the place.

Following Pandora and Jen snooping around as we get to know more about The School and its hidden secrets. Through out the book we pick up pieces of the puzzle to come out with our own conclusion of The School and the world they are living in now.

There were so many great plot twist that kept this book engaging as you want to know what happen next. The ending of the book was mind blowing as while some parts were predictable most of them I didn't expect at all! My theories have turned upside down thanks to that ending!

Dang you cliff hanger! I have to wait for 6 months for the next book?!?! Why?!?! Need to know what happens next!

This book was a page turner! I enjoyed the plot development and the themes of the book. I like that this book focuses on the friendship between Pandora and her team mates especially with Jen and Wei Lin. There were some really good adventure moments and better action moments that was epic but nerve wrecking and kept me on the edge of my seat.

I love the character developments! We got to know a more about Pandora, Wei Lin, Sanjitt and the rest of

the group especially Jen! Jen has went from my least favorite character in the series to my favorite! Smart, sassy and bad ass Jen is everything I love in characters and have some of the best lines! We also get to know more about her including her past. I also love watching Pandora progress trough the book as she developed her strength and talent. While she is slightly wiser and more knowledgeable in this book she still tend to make some really stupid decisions thought not as bad as in Admission.

I like the pacing of the book and breezed trough the story. I've also gotten used to the writing style which I mention in Admission I was not a fan of at first. I am however still not fan of Pandora's inner thought. There were times where it was okay and there were times where it was really annoying as it was pointing out the obvious.

Other than that, Deception was a great sequel! Like it more than Admission. Very provocation and engaging with great story and character development. Check out the Pandora Jones series for a great Aussie YA and epic apocalyptic adventure series.

Looking forward to 'Pandora Jones: Reckoning' which is coming out in May 2015.

Bronte Wright says

Honestly, I didn't even finish this book! I got almost halfway through and just couldn't continue. I became very bored because nothing would happen in between thrilling parts of the book! The ending of admission made me want to read this book but I was expecting something a lot better! I was greatly disappointed and do not recommend this series.

Stacey Kym says

'Deception' was an EPIC novel that I can't believe took me so long to read. I mean, this series is so good that I can't believe I didn't pick up earlier! And I'm still wondering why it doesn't have that many ratings. I loved the characters and their dynamic and realistic qualities. The story plot seemed to twist and keep things hidden (LOL, at least for me). It was jam packed with lots of action and adventure. I'd recommend this series for anyone who is in for a simple but engaging read. I flew through this novel; took me all of 3 hours to read it, cover to cover. Alright, I must also confess that though the story is completely original, it was a little predictable. I myself wasn't able to predict ANYTHING but for others this may be the downfall to the series. Congratulations to Barry Jonsberg on writing such an awesome sequel in the Pandora Jones series!

Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says

This review appears on Happy Indulgence. Check it out for more reviews!

Pandora Jones Deception felt like a completely different story to Admission. In Admission, we received many different flashbacks, training and action for the students and Pan's mysterious powers, but this one was pretty much an escape story.

There's still a mysterious, sinister atmosphere in Deception, as Pan starts to put together things that are

happening in the school. Unfortunately much of this didn't really glean new information, until the very last pages. I did enjoy the psychological thriller aspects in the first book, but it felt like there was very little of that here. Instead, the focal point of the book is Pan and her previous bully Jen, forming an alliance, learning to trust each other and ultimately relying on each other to escape. I feel like the book skipped a beat, as Jen was a strong tormentor in the first book and I didn't really understand why she would suddenly want to help Pan.

The main thing that prevented me from really enjoying *Deception* however, is that Pan is still a weak character that needs help. She undergoes a fair amount of exercise and training to get stronger, but in the end Jen is the one that really pulls her through. A bully and a weak girl with strong intuition – they aren't exactly riveting characters, and I found myself bored at times and craved more development or complexity. The book also doesn't explain Pan's powers of intuition at all, and I continued to be frustrated at the lack of answers and development.

Pandora Jones Deception focused mainly on figuring out the mystery as revealed in the first book and an escape from their captors. While the suspense is still here, I wanted more reveals and character development for Pan. It does have a pretty shocking ending though, so I'll probably read the final book.

I received a review copy of the book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Pat says

The excitement and pace is kept up in the second in the series. Great friendship between Pan and Jen and a stunning cliff-hanger at the end.

Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says

4½ Stars.

<http://www.divabooknerd.com/2014/10/p...>

Pandora Jones: Deception completely surprised me, it was engaging, enthralling and took me on a thrill ride while exploring new friendships and alliances. It focuses on Pandora and Jen, two girls who formally held a strong dislike for one another and now a friendship is on the verge of blooming. Jennifer has quickly become my favourite character, she's incredibly tough, sassy and sarcastic. In *Deception*, we see her befriend Pandora for the sake of the adventure of exploring outside the compound, but she begins to allow Pandora to see her softer side, that is just as resilient. I really enjoyed reading the banter between both characters and their friendship blossoming.

Unlike *Admission*, *Deception* doesn't focus on romance but rather exploring new friendships and alliances. There is also the inclusion of a new character, who is bound to spark a few interests, quite literally. After the group returned from their deadly expedition, I assumed that the experience would have strengthened the group, but I was surprised that it seemed to divide the alliance and the girls keeping their reconnaissance mission a secret from the others certainly didn't help. I thoroughly enjoyed *Admission*, but was able to completely immerse myself in *Deception* and it kept me enthralled throughout.

I'm so excited seeing the direction Australian Young Adult is headed, no longer is it subjected to

contemporaries but now we have incredible post apocalyptic and dystopians with Barry Jonsberg leading the charge. His style of writing is incredibly laid back, simplistic and allows reader to fully immerse themselves in the storyline without large blocks of mindless information or purple prose. I loved Deception, it was an intelligent read and once again Jonsberg leaves the reader on a tenterhooks with another cliffhanger, even more explosive than the last. Book three in the Pandora Jones series, Reckoning, is no doubt going to be epic.

Jen says

Oh, Holy Crap!

jagle says

This series is amazing - dystopian fiction at its best - and I cannot wait to see how it all finishes!

Belinda says

3.5 stars

Katharine (Ventureadlaxre) says

‘Deception’ by Barry Jonsberg is the second in the Pandora Jones series. We were left on quite a cliffhanger, wondering the whereabouts of one of the characters and our world turn upside down like that of Pandora Jones – we no longer know what’s true and what isn’t, and that’s what this novel sets out to discover. Has there been a deception, and if so, what’s the reality?

Jonsberg starts this novel with a cleverly used recap of the first book, shown in nightmares that haunt our main character, Pandora Jones. It easily triggers the main points to get us back on track, then throws us into the main story. Everyone in the School suspects Pandora of either being a troublemaker or in the least, being unstable. This isn’t going to stop her from trying to discover just what’s going on out there in the world the virus has torn apart, and now she has Jem for company now that Nate is as the first book left him.

Together they start to piece things together, but that knowledge will take them out of the little comfort they’ve managed to work up in the ‘prison’ the School has become. This is a short book at 288 pages, but it certainly packs a whole lot of plot into these few pages.

I said of the first book (in my short reviews post of June):

Admission (Pandora Jones #1) by Barry Jonsberg is one of Jonsberg’s first speculative fiction works – generally he is known for perfectly capturing realistic teen fiction set in schools. This was an engaging dystopian that has a few questions in the world building that I think adds more to the mystery of it all, and shall hopefully be answered as more books come out.

This continues to be true – engaging dystopian that maybe doesn’t have fully fleshed world building, but that’s showing to be a point – the characters don’t have all the answers, and we’re left just as much in the dark as they are. The point of view is kept strictly to Pandora, and it’s effective to keeping you reading throughout the night, unable to put the book down.

The character development comes through in this book, and it’s good to see Jonsberg confirm that we have a bit more diversity in our characters. Though we come full circle in this book you aren’t left thinking that we’ve gone nowhere, no, it only makes us so much more eager for the third book. Bring on May 2015!

To read this review on my blog and others like it, please [click here](#).

Sally906 says

I read the first in the series, ‘Pandora Jones: Admission’, earlier this year and it was fabulous. It was with a sense of trepidation that I pounced on **DECEPTION** as soon as it arrived in the mail; would it be as good as I expected/wanted it to be? Well that would be an unequivocal yes! In ‘Admission’ Pandora Jones woke in a hospital and discovers that her family along with the rest of the world has succumbed to a mutant flu pandemic. She and the other teens are some lucky survivors that have been rescued and relocated to this isolated school to be quarantined for their safety. The teachers at the school start training the kids to learn some intensive survival techniques ready for when they leave the complex. What is clear in the second book is that nothing is clear. They still don’t know what have they have actually survived, and why have they have been rescued is not clear. Just what is the school hiding from them? The first part of **DECEPTION** recaps a little of what happened in ‘Admission’ and why these events have left Pandora trying to find out what is true and, more importantly, what isn’t. Is there a deception, and if so what and why? Now Nate is not in the picture Pandora buddies up with Jem who is seriously questioning the truth behind the school herself. The two of them plan a massive exposé and plunge into one edge of the seat adventure after another until their biggest one ever leads to a surprising cliff-hanger.

Pandora is increasingly convinced that there was no end of the world and that somewhere out of the schools influence nothing has changed. The suspense that started in ‘Admission’ continues in **DECEPTION** - just what is going on? I was sure I had it all sussed at the end of ‘Admission’ and that **DECEPTION** would just confirm my beliefs. But, but in a shocking twist at the end of **DECEPTION** my theory has been turned on its head and I am left gulping like a fish out of water wondering how I can possibly survive until the final instalment is released next year. What a cliff-hanger! **DECEPTION** is not a huge book but it packs a whole lot of story into the time frame. The main characters don’t have all the answers, in fact sometimes they don’t even have the right questions! Pandora and Jem work hard to make sense of the known to give them an insight into the unknown and when the unknown finally becomes the known – is it the truth? The reader still doesn’t know why everyone in the dormitories have nightmares that keeps them moaning and screaming in their sleep – and why they appear to be having the same nightmares? All will be revealed, I hope, in May 2015 when **Pandora Jones: Reckoning**’ is released.

With thanks to Allen & Unwin and the author for this copy to read and review.

Ashley says

-insert the longest 'uggggggh' ever-

So there's partial character development and at least the pacing has picked up but over all there's still hardly any plot.

And to add salt to the wound the entire book is filled to the brim with fan service and gay baiting.

Jen's no longer a 2D character. In fact, I think the Jen from the previous book and this one are two different characters. The main's still fucking useless only now, **THE OTHER CHARCTERS ARE LITERALLY CARRYING HER.** On their damn backs and everything. None of the other characters exist anymore. They're no longer relevant to the plot so say your goodbyes, except to the one who dies.

Half the book is still handed over to setting up the novel, and it's just the main and her buddy going somewhere they're not supposed to, getting caught, and 'only just scraping out of punishment'. As if anything bad could actually happen to them so early on in the book.

There was more action in this book but it was undermined by the characters absolute uselessness and her 'intuitive gift' where she surrenders her body to its natural reactions. Now, I'm not trying to say that having a character surrender to their natural instincts to survive/fight is a cop out, but that's exactly what I'm saying.

I am going to read the last book but only because it appears to be a theme where the last chapter is full of actual plot development. I doubt I'll enjoy it but at least I can read these books in less than three days.

Eugenia (Genie In A Book) says

This review also appears on the blog Genie In A Book

3.5 stars

Thank you to Allen and Unwin Australia for sending me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

My reaction immediately after finishing this book

This second book in the 'Pandora Jones' series has just as much mystery and suspense as the first, with a few questions answered, but many more created at the same time. Barry Jonsberg definitely knows how to write a real page-turner, and all the palpable tension really made me want to see what happened next. By the end of this book I was left with another 'what just happened?' moment, because once again there are shocking revelations and a definite need for the next book so that we can finally find out what is really going on in The School, and what other secrets there are to uncover.

Lies are everywhere and she breathes them in. They coat her face like sweat, And through the glittering shards of reflected light, The School comes into view. The biggest lie of all, a nightmare that refuses to fade.

While the first book took a more general perspective on The School and its workings, in this case there was a character focus on Jen and Pan specifically which was interesting. Jen's characterisation was great, and she came across as a resilient and daring person who was ready to kick-ass when need be. Although reckless, she was smart too and I found her and Pandora to make a great team while trying to unravel the lies that surround their makeshift prison of sorts in The School, and find out what lay beyond the wall. There was also a little more about her intuition/psychic abilities which did play a small role, but I'm sure they will be even more important in book three too.

'You're too pessimistic, said Jen. 'You and me against the world, and you wanna know something? I like those odds.'

If you were left itching to find out more about the outside world and The School's inner motives, along with the fate of some of the previous characters in the first book like Nate, then rest assured that there is *some* consolation. While the pacing dragged a little in the beginning and a few parts in the middle, it really picked up in the crucial moments as well. This is turning out to be one heck of a series where I have no idea what's coming - and that's a good thing. I'm looking forward to there being even more shocks, twists and turns to come in book three, 'Reckoning'.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Overall, I found this novel to be a riveting read, even though the momentum did wane in some parts. In any case, this series is shaping up to be an unpredictable rollercoaster ride, and with each development I'm left even more intrigued as to what Pandora will discover in her quest for the truth.
