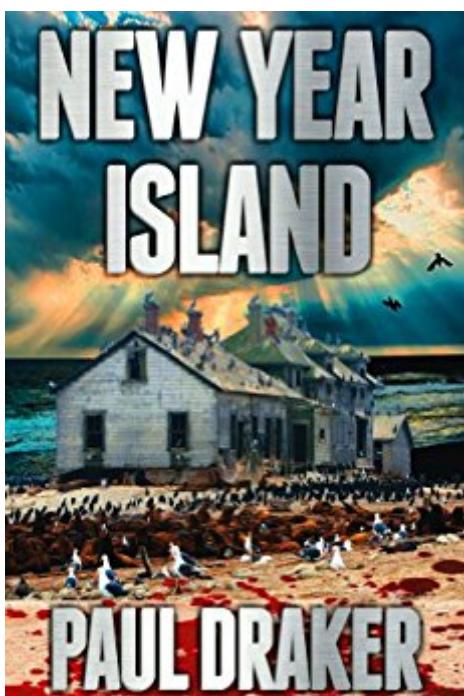


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New Year Island: A Psychological Suspense Survival Thriller (Northern California Suspense Thrillers Book 1)



Synopsis

Ten strangers... marooned on an island for society's amusement. As they're picked off one by one, they realize that they have something in common -- they've each already survived atrocities. But can they live through this twisted mind game?"A twisty, engaging thriller featuring well-developed characters." -- Kirkus Reviews" . . . the most exciting, most promising work of fiction to cross my desk in the past year." -- Michael J. Carr, Editor of over a dozen NYT and International Bestsellers, including Brad Meltzer's #3 NY Times Bestseller The Zero Game" ...might easily be a best seller. It's that good." -- Brent Butler, Top 500 Reviewer" ...one of the most thrilling and nuanced books that I've read in the past several years. Meticulous yet effortless, this book is literature that will stand up to the test of time." -- Madeline, Top 500 Reviewer" Brilliant psychological thriller... New Year Island is dark, intelligent, with an intriguing and captivating plot." -- Edward Shook, Reviewer" Every once in a while, you come across a book that stands out from all the others...and New Year Island is one of these...it's an experience you won't soon forget." -- terrylynn, Reviewer" As a whodunit, New Year Island ranks up there with Agatha Christie's Ten Little Indians." -- Robin Landry, Top 500 Reviewer" ...exceedingly well written...wonderfully horrific...This doesn't read like a first novel, but rather like one written by a pro who has been at this for a long time." -- James Tepper, Top 1000 Reviewer" ...one of the best books I've read in at least the last year." -- Cheryl Stout, Top 1000 Reviewer" ...plucky, strong female protagonist Camilla makes this violent thriller impossible to forget." -- emmerline, Reviewer" ...unforgettable survival thriller from the new master of psychological suspense." -- Ben V., Reviewer" ...nearly impossible to set down ...awfully, awfully good and shamefully good fun." -- T J McCarthy, Top 1000 Reviewer" ...one of the most riveting books I've read in the last few years." -- digsblues, Top 500 Reviewer" This is one you don't want to miss." -- OutlawPoet, Vine Voice, Reviewer A Psychological Suspense Thriller with a Twist...Ten strangers, recruited by an edgy new reality show and marooned on an abandoned island overrun by wildlife. One dies in a horrible accident. Nine realize they are all past survivors, alive only because they've beaten incredible odds once before. One by one, their hidden secrets are revealed. Eight discover they are trapped. Caught in a game so deadly that the most terrifying experiences of their lives were only its qualifying round, they must now face the greatest danger on the island... each other. There's nothing deadlier than a survivor-type whose back is against the wall. And one of them is not who he or she claims. Seven fight to escape. Six try to solve the mystery of who lured them there and why. Five... Four... Will anyone survive New Year Island?

Book Information

File Size: 1879 KB

Print Length: 725 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Mayhem Press; 1 edition (January 11, 2014)

Publication Date: January 11, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00E69E91M

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #16,303 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #38 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Alternative History #44 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Alternate History #54 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Horror > United States

Customer Reviews

As a high school English teacher, a former game-show contestant (the original "Dating Game"), and a former Disneyland Cast Member, Paul Draker had my attention from the opening pages of his book. With obvious similarities to "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding and "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell, "New Year Island" is like TV's "Survivor" on steroids. Try to imagine the ultimate reality show that pits ten real-life survivors in a winner-take-all competition, and you've got an inkling of the story's plot. Our willing, but unknowing, contestants are literally plopped on Ano Nuevo Island in the middle of the night with very little information about what lies ahead of them. Even before daybreak they realize how dangerous their new environment will be. "New Year Island" has more twists and turns than the Matterhorn Bobsleds. (Take it from someone who knows.) Mr. Draker has created a crazy cast of characters. There are so many, it would be wise to keep a scorecard close at hand so that you can keep up with who's who. The author has the same sick sense of humor that Stephen King has, and I mean that as the highest compliment. He doesn't care what he does to his characters. One of the most despicable "contestants" is Mason, and yet I laughed out loud at an off-handed comment that he makes at a moment of extreme tension. You'll

find yourself cheering the heroes and hissing the villains. But don't get too attached to any one of them. When you turn the page, the unexpected may occur. I thoroughly enjoyed reading "New Year Island." But I have to admit I didn't think I could plow through 707 pages by an author that I had barely heard of. I made a commitment to it like I did when I first picked up "It" by Stephen King, and I was not disappointed.

Let me first say that my husband is a bit irked with debut novelist, Paul Draker. I took this book with me on vacation, and every time we were ready to head out someplace, he got tired of hearing, "Wait, wait...I'm at a really good spot in my book." The book grabs your attention right from the start with short flashback storylines for four of the main characters...each of them facing an intense, life-threatening ordeal. The short flashback chapters leave you with the sense that there was much more left unrevealed to the reader about each situation. Back to present time, and these same people along with six others have received invitations that are too hard to turn down. The mystery begins as the ten selected candidates board a luxury yacht to find they are the only ones aboard other than the ship's crew. A video announces the players for the two teams and provides a cursory explanation of "the game." They're then transported to a remote biological research island off the California coast where they're to be marooned for two weeks in competition for the \$5,000,000 grand prize in a new reality show. Sign me up, right? Adventure and big bucks. Umm, not so fast...Once abandoned on the island, it quickly becomes obvious that things are not as the contestants expected. The most basic needs for survival become their first objective as they begin their search for shelter, food, and water. Although they have no means of contacting the outside world, they do continue to receive instructions of what is expected of them. Some days, the two teams are taxed with games of daring, ingenuity, and skill that will earn points for the individual players toward winning the 5 million. Other days, the only expectation of them is that they try to survive...

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