



Shadow Man (Smoky Barrett Book 1)

By Cody McFadyen

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Once, Special Agent Smoky Barrett hunted serial killers for the FBI. She was one of the best—until a madman terrorized her family, killed her husband and daughter, and left her face scarred and her soul brutalized. Turning the tables on the killer, Smoky shot him dead—but her life was shattered forever.

Now Smoky dreams about picking up her weapon again. She dreams about placing the cold steel between her lips and pulling the trigger one last time. Because for a woman who's lost everything, what is there left to lose?

She's about to find out.

In all her years at the Bureau, Smoky has never encountered anyone like him—a new and fascinating kind of monster, a twisted genius who defies profilers' attempts to understand him. And he's issued Smoky a direct challenge, coaxing her back from the brink with the only thing that could convince her to live.

The killer videotaped his latest crime—an act of horror that left a child motherless—then sent a message addressed to Agent Smoky Barrett. The message is enough to shock Smoky back to work, back to her FBI team. And that child awakens something in Smoky she thought was gone forever.

Suddenly the stakes are raised. The game has changed. For as this deranged monster embarks on an unspeakable spree of perversion and murder, Smoky is coming alive again—and she's about to face her greatest fears as a cop, a woman, a mother...and a merciless killer's next victim.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This disturbing serial killer drama set in California marks a promising debut for McFadyen, who combines many conventions of the genre but with far more exquisite, intricate results than the norm. FBI agent Smoky Barrett, a haunted, complicated woman, leads a team of investigators assigned to a serial killer task force. Barrett, who escaped the clutches of a different serial killer a year earlier but lost her husband and daughter in the attack, is now tracking a madman known as "Jack Jr.," who believes he's a descendant of Jack the Ripper. He mauls women, mostly prostitutes with Web sites, then sends the videotapes of the killings to Barrett and her crew. The plot follows a typical arc, complete with some nauseating details and predictable twists. There's also a romance between Barrett and a bodyguard that seems tacked on for future installments. Yet McFadyen's writing is crisp and smart, and his scenes pack a visceral punch without being cheap or exploitative. Barrett, for her part, is a memorable protagonist, a deeply troubled woman trying to move on from tragedy, yet possessing special insight into the criminal mind. (*June*)

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From [Booklist](#)

A serial killer murdered FBI agent Smokey Barrett's husband and daughter. Smokey killed the fiend but was left deeply scarred. Now, after spending time contemplating suicide, Smokey finds herself drawn back into the game . . . by a new killer who has addressed his latest crime to her personally. First-time novelist McFadyen writes like an old pro, acknowledging the conventions of the serial-killer thriller without being slavishly devoted to them. Smokey, the not-quite-five-foot-tall, sharp-shooting FBI agent, is no standard-issue heroine, and her nemesis, the killer who calls himself Jack Jr., is both chilling and strangely compassionate. A series to watch. *David Pitt*

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Review

"Few men who write serial-killer novels have created a woman of such depth [as heroine Smoky Barrett].... a powerful mixture of strength and vulnerability, courage and fear. In a strange way, Barrett's mingled roles as woman, victim and avenger make the novel as humane as it is violent..... If you can handle the violence, it will be among the best crime fiction you will read this year."—*Washington Post*

"Terrifically good, terrifically scary.... McFadyen seems to have done ample research on the mind-set of serial killers to give his characters more believability.... This one's very hard to put down."—*San Francisco Chronicle Books*

"A thriller that mixes Michael Connelly-style procedural details with gore that's Thomas Harris ornate."—*Entertainment Weekly*

"Disturbing ... a promising debut for McFadyen, who combines many conventions of the genre by with far more exquisite, intricate results than the norm.... Pack[s] a visceral punch."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Coldly, stunningly brilliant. Move over Thomas Harris, Mcfadyen has brought a new game to town."—Lisa Gardner

'Shadow Man is one of the most powerful and authentic portrayals of a serial killer and the people who hunt them I have ever read. It kept me riveted right to the last page. Cody Mcfadyen is the real thing."— John E.

Douglas, author *Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit*

"First-time novelist McFadyen writes like an old pro ... A series to watch."—*Booklist*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dale Burt:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want sense happy read one along with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. Often the Shadow Man (Smoky Barrett Book 1) is kind of publication which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Clifford Jones:

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Mitchell Peed:

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