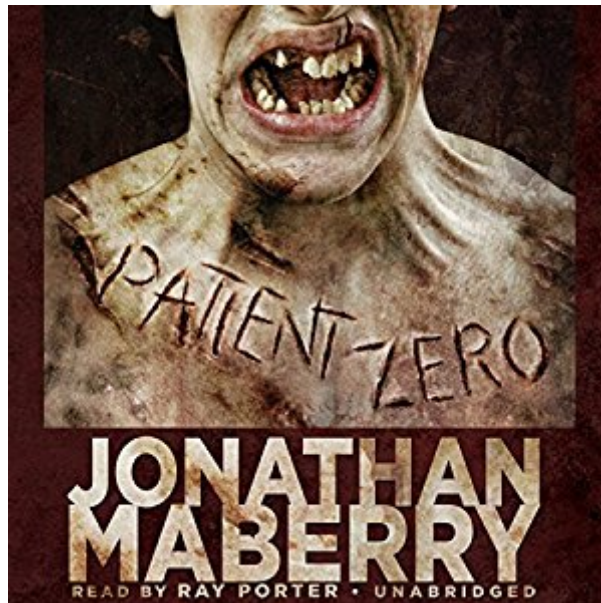


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# Patient Zero: The Joe Ledger Novels, Book 1



## Synopsis

From multiple Bram Stoker Award-winning author Jonathan Maberry comes a major new thriller that combines the best of the New York Times best-selling books *World War Z* by Max Brooks and James Rollins' *Sigma Force Series* to kick off the start of a new series featuring Joe Ledger and the Department of Military Sciences. When you have to kill the same terrorist twice in one week there's either something wrong with your world or something wrong with your skills - and there's nothing wrong with Joe Ledger's skills. And that's both a good and a bad thing. It's good because he's a Baltimore detective who has just been secretly recruited by the government to lead a new task force created to deal with the problems that Homeland Security can't handle. This rapid-response group is called the Department of Military Sciences, or the DMS for short. It's bad because his first mission is to help stop a group of terrorists from releasing a dreadful bioweapon that can turn ordinary people into zombies. The fate of the world hangs in the balance. Jonathan Maberry is the New York Times best-selling and multiple Bram Stoker Award-winning author of *Ghost Road Blues*, the first of a trilogy of thrillers with a supernatural bite. A professional writer and writing teacher, he has sold more than 1,000 articles, 17 nonfiction books, six novels, and two plays.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have not read a book that genuinely spooked me in quite some time! Am I jaded? No. I am just very advanced in my threshold for terror. (Okay, I'm jaded) This book was like watching a B-horror flick with a million cheap shots to make you jump in your seat. It was great! I am female, and lest I

betray my gender in a stereotype, I do not read military action novels. But this book has an action/military/horror/mystery theme that works beautifully. Joe Ledger is my new hero; he can do it all. So, why not 5 stars? The action got a bit repetitive and ho-hum in parts. I feel like the book could have been condensed by about 50 pages. But definitely read this book! It is pure enjoyment from start to finish.

Congratulations, Jonathan Maberry. You have managed to combine two of my biggest fears - the fear of unchecked biological warfare and the fear that my brains will be sucked out by zombies. Hardened, world weary Detective Joe Ledger has seen it all in the course of his job. He knows the very worst that human beings can do to each other. Then he's not-so-willingly introduced to the Department of Military Sciences (DMS) and its mysterious, powerful leader, Mr. Church, and he finally learns that he hasn't scratched the surface of the worst that people can do. Turns out that religious fanaticism and hatred of the United States have met up with big-money corporate interests, and \*voila\* the Sword of the Faithful is born - zombie weapons unleashed by terrorists upon the U.S. to purge the world of infidels. Ledger is all man. He's tough. He has an eye for the ladies and a deep abiding love for his country. He knows weapons and military strategy, and he's a natural born leader. He's chilled to the bone by this new, hellish weapon, but he and his team push forward to try to save the country before this plague spreads to the world. If you like explosions, fighting, tough-guy talk and scary, brain-munching zombies, you'll love this book. I was riveted from page 1, and I raced to get to the last word. The zombies are strong and hungry. The good guys are the best, and the bad guys are the worst. There is nail-biting action at every turn, and a surprising amount of humor thrown in. This is one of the best zombie novels I've read in a very long time. Bring on the sequel! I can't wait to see what Ledger gets himself into the next time.

I once heard a movie critic say of one of the Jurassic Park movies that you if you go to a movie like that to get complex characters and deep, philosophical discussions on the nature of God, you're going for the wrong reasons and you are going to be disappointed. You go to see dinosaurs. Lots and lots of dinosaurs. That's how I felt about this movie--excuse me, book. It was everything a thriller should be. The hero was a brick who could hold his own in just about any fight, but had enough of a brain to wonder occasionally about what all the killing was doing to his psyche. The black hat had understandable motives for trying to unleash a zombie plague and had his own trials to overcome. There was a bit of a love interest. And there were zombies. Lots and lots of zombies. The pacing was terrific, the bon mots made me smile and the whole thing was so visual that it was easy to see

how this would make a great movie. Listening to it as an audio book performed by Ray Porter was the perfect way to experience this adventure. I've started to get used to the way many of the best audiobook performers can switch accents seamlessly, but Porter really amazed me when he nailed the voice for the protagonists' best friend, who is described in the book as sounding like "a young Raul Julia." An all-around fun listen that will not disappoint anyone looking to be entertained.

I'm a big fan of zombies and action. The reviews I read made me think this book was written for me. The start was good; gun-nut/tactical porn that would make anyone whose played a Rainbow 6 game excited. As it wore on, however, I liked it less and less. Paper-thin characters who are so extreme I was left shaking my head. The bad guys are evil geniuses who put together a cutting-edge medical lab in an Afghanistan cave. The woman is so beautiful she can stop traffic with just her eyes AND she's a super genius who can manufacture zombies. Her counterpart on the other side is gorgeous AND a weapons expert. And these are just the henchwomen. Skip it. You can find something better to do with your time.

Patient Zero is a lightning paced biotech thriller introducing Joe Ledger (a kick-ass protag). Ledger is a detective from Baltimore who gets recruited by the Government to lead the DMS (Department of Military Sciences), a rapid response task force created to take care of problems too tough for Homeland Security. The DMS has to stop a terrorist group from releasing a bioweapon that turns people into Zombies. If released, this bioweapon could destroy civilization as we know it. A well-crafted story. Great writing, tons of action with complex and authentic characters; and, oh yeah, zombies. What else could I ask for? LOVED IT!!! Need more...

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