

The Manhattan Hunt Club

By John Saul

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The acknowledged master of psychological suspense and heart-stopping terror, New York Times bestselling author John Saul now invites you to descend to chilling new depths of darkness--and discover a secret, savage world that exists beneath our very feet.

The promising future of New York City college student Jeff Converse has suddenly been shattered by a nightmarish turn of events. Falsely convicted of a brutal crime, Jeff sees his life vanishing before his eyes. But someone has other plans for Jeff, in a far deadlier place than any penitentiary. He finds himself beneath the teeming streets of Manhattan, in a hidden landscape of twisting tunnels and forgotten subterranean chambers. Here, an invisible population of the homeless, the desperate, and the mad has carved out its own shadow society.

But they are not alone. The pitch-dark tunnels and abandoned subway stations are haunted by the unmistakable sounds of predators in search of game. Someone has made this forsaken civilization beneath the city a private killing ground . . . and the hunt is on.

Trapped in a treacherous underground maze, cut off at every turn by ragged gangs of sinister "gamekeepers," and stalked relentlessly by unseen hunters, Jeff faces overwhelming odds in the race to reach salvation and elude capture. With no weapon but his wits, and an unimaginable threat lurking around every dark corner, Jeff must somehow move heaven and earth to escape from a living hell.

The Manhattan Hunt Club is the most thrilling and suspenseful novel yet from the ingenious mind of John Saul.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
In *Manhattan Hunt Club* John Saul plumbs the depths of the Manhattan underground--the network of subway tunnels and secret caverns and chambers where the homeless denizens of the city have created their own society. It's a world Jeff Converse, a young college student convicted of a crime he didn't commit, never knew existed until he is plunged into it after an "accident" that occurs while he is being transported to prison. He soon realizes that it's no accident, but the opening move in a deadly game being played by some of the city's most powerful men and women, a game in which he is the prey and they are the hunters. Jeff's only chance to make it to the surface and survive lies in allying himself with a homicidal maniac who's appointed himself the young man's protector, but whose designs on Jeff are almost as lethal as those of his enemies in the Manhattan Hunt Club.

Saul made his reputation in the horror genre, but he now focuses on psychological terrors rather than things that go bump in the night. His narrative gifts are displayed to great advantage in this heart-stopping thriller; the pacing is flawless and the central characters are very well developed. What keeps this from living up to its fullest potential is the inadequate motivation of the villains, who are largely one-dimensional cardboard cutouts. But that won't keep this otherwise topnotch thriller off the bestseller lists, where Saul (*Nightshade*, *The Right Hand of Evil*), like Stephen King, is a perennial contender for the number one spot. --*Jane Adams*

From Publishers Weekly
Why mess with success? Twenty-four novels and 24 years down the road, Saul continues to deliver the same sleek pulp entertainment that he's been selling in high numbers since his debut with Suffer the Children in 1977. This time out, Saul sets his melodramatics mostly below the surface of Manhattan, in the tunnels populated by the homeless. Because of mistaken eyewitness testimony, Columbia University architecture student Jeff Converse has been convicted of attempted rape and attempted murder. En route to Rikers Island, the police van carrying Jeff is rammed, and Jeff is taken by a homeless man into the tunnels, only to be locked in a room with another prisoner, homicidal maniac Francis Jagger. Days later, Jeff and Jagger are released into the tunnels, told that if they make it to the outside world, they live; if they don't, they die. Eventually we learn that an elite group of Manhattan power brokers has created a club devoted to hunting convicted malefactors and having their bodies stuffed in the manner of big game trophies, using the underground homeless as beaters in the hunt. Meanwhile, Jeff's fianc,e and father search desperately for Jeff, first above ground, then below. The novel builds suspense steadily, but reaches full steam only when Saul plunges his principals mercilessly into the stygian underworld of Manhattan. The premise of a Manhattan Hunt Club skirts absurdity, as do the villainous members of the club, but Saul scores points about society's treatment of the homeless. The prose is serviceable, the action rough, intense and often distasteful in other words, this is vintage Saul. (Aug.)Forecast: With major ad/promo, including a sample chapter in the mass market edition (June) of Saul's Nightshade, this will reach the author's fans. Expect many to travel with Saul into the nasty depths, only to breathe deeply as they look up from the book to a sandy beach and clean ocean waves.

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From Library Journal
When Jeff Converse is convicted and sentenced to prison for an assault he didn't commit, he believes matters couldn't get any worse. Of course, he's wrong. While being transported to prison, he's kidnapped and thrown

into the tunnels below the New York subway system, where he's the latest participant in a game in which humans are hunted for sport by a group of the city's business and civic leaders. The only way Jeff can win is to make it to the surface alive, which, not surprisingly, proves more difficult than it sounds. Complicating matters further is that the only people on the surface who believe Jeff is still alive are his father and his ex-girlfriend. The prose is often clunky and the characters lack real dimension, but nonstop action keeps the book moving at a brisk pace. Rather typical thriller fare, but since Saul's 22 suspense novels (including The Right Hand of Evil) have won him a huge fan base, this one will be popular in public libraries.
-Craig L. Shufelt, Lane P.L., Fairfield, OH
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Becky Pope:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This The Manhattan Hunt Club is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Pearl Moore:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled The Manhattan Hunt Club the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get previous to. The The Manhattan Hunt Club giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful info for your better life within this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Roosevelt Alday:

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Georgia Evans:

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