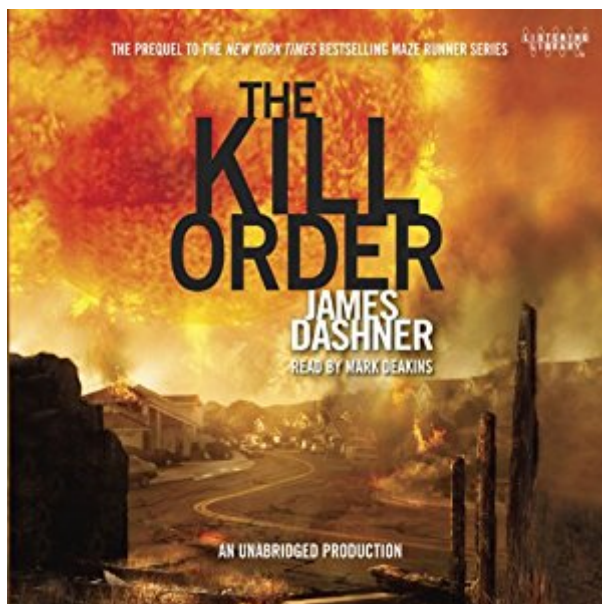


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# The Kill Order (Maze Runner, Book 4; Origin)



## Synopsis

The prequel to the New York Times best-selling Maze Runner series. Before WICKED was formed, before the Glade was built, before Thomas entered the Maze, sun flares hit the Earth, and mankind fell to disease. Mark and Trina were there when it happened, and they survived. But surviving the sun flares was easy compared to what came next. Now a disease of rage and lunacy races across the eastern United States, and there's something suspicious about its origin. Worse yet, it's mutating, and all evidence suggests that it will bring humanity to its knees. Mark and Trina are convinced there's a way to save those left living from descending into madness. And they're determined to find it - if they can stay alive. Because in this new, devastated world, every life has a price. And to some, you're worth more dead than alive.

## Book Information

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## Customer Reviews

First Impressions: I loved The Maze Runner series so much that I wanted to really love this book. I have a fascination with wanting to know what happens before I find myself in a story, and I love that Dashner has created a world that existed before the first pages of The Maze Runner were penned. I wanted to know more about the sickness infecting the world, the darkness that had enveloped a crazed planet. Well written as always, the opening pages of this book seemed like they were going to answer a lot of my questions. But, it didn't. I will go into that more later.

First 50 Pages: Besides the brief prologue, there is not too much that is familiar about The Kill Order. You are introduced to a new group of characters fighting a completely different battle. What this book does well, and

instantly, is set up the post solar flare world. Everything changes on earth when a solar flare hits and nearly destroys everything. What is left are small settlements and resilient people. That is, until the ships come from the sky and reign a new kind of terror on the flare survivors. Instead of being their salvation, the giant ships sends Mark, Alec, Trina and Lana on a new, horrifying journey. Characters & Plot: At first, I was a little disappointed that more of the story was not going to be dedicated to the characters I had met in the Maze Runner series. I wanted to know more of their story, for sure. But, Dashner created a whole group of characters that are tough, hardened and yet somehow still vulnerable. Mark, the main character, goes through every emotion possible in the pages of this story. He is hopeful, playful, angry, lost, scared and brave all at once.

(I read this book for free from the library.) Full disclosure: I'm not really a fan of prequels. It's very tricky to create suspense and peril in a story the reader already knows. Some prequels have been very good but most are not. This book falls into the "not good" category. I read the other three books in this series with increasing distaste. The first one was just good, not great, but I felt like the series went downhill with each step. It became more and more violent and gory while never providing any explanations about what was going on. It's hard to enjoy long stories about kids being killed with no justifications. This book took that feeling to an extreme. I read this book because I hoped it would (FINALLY) provide an explanation of the events in the other three books. The mystery in those books revolved around Thomas' memories being erased. This book is set before that happened, surely it will explain everything, right? In the other three books, there are many hints that Thomas and Theresa helped design the maze and the trials, that they were willing participants and that they were even in charge at one point. Since this is a prequel, surely we'll get to see all that, right? No. This book starts in a small settlement in the mountains. Thomas and Theresa are nowhere to be seen. Solar flares have fried most of the planet's surface and the survivors are huddled into camps, scratching out a meager existence. Suddenly a flying ship comes by and shoots everyone with darts, injecting them with a deadly virus. The two main characters manage to fight back and take down the ship. Neither of them were hit with darts, but the virus is highly contagious. The chances of them being uninfected are basically zero (and they know it).

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