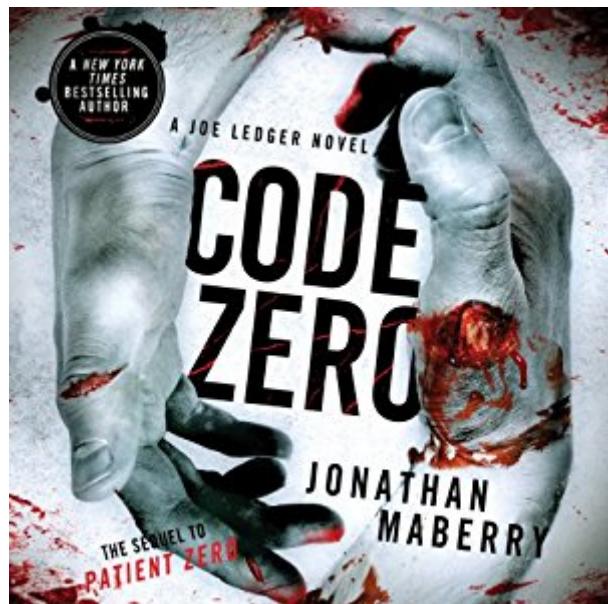


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# Code Zero: Joe Ledger, Book 6



## **Synopsis**

For years the Department of Military Sciences has fought to stop terrorists from using radical bioweapons - designer plagues, weaponized pathogens, genetically modified viruses, and even the zombie plague that first brought Ledger into the DMS. These terrible weapons have been locked away in the world's most secure facility. Until now. Joe Ledger and Echo Team are scrambled when a highly elite team of killers breaks the unbreakable security and steals the world's most dangerous weapons. Within days there are outbreaks of mass slaughter and murderous insanity across the American heartland. Can Joe Ledger stop a brilliant and devious master criminal from turning the Land of the Free into a land of the dead? Code Zero, a Joe Ledger novel from Jonathan Maberry, is the exciting direct sequel to Patient Zero.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The adrenaline rush this series creates is just off the charts. I tried to describe the genre of this series to my husband last night and I said it's action. Then I paused and said well it's kind of horror too. At that point I got caught up in my own head trying to figure out how to really describe it. I ended up throwing my hands up and saying it's a whole bunch of things but basically it's amazing. Seeing all of the pathogens and the history of the DMS come back to bite it in the ass was revisiting a horrible, painful past. I thought the plot of this one forced me to suspend disbelief a bit more than usual but I gamely went along. I think the inherent terror I get with this series is the possibility, the plausibility, of "what if". What if someone did these things? It's far too easy to believe there's a

disenfranchised part of the population who would be easy to manipulate into acting in depraved ways under the right circumstances and leadership. It's far too easy to imagine corruption at the top levels of government. It's far too easy to imagine organizations and governments working to create pathogens and financing scientific feats of genius and evil which could take out millions in the wrong hands. This may not be my favorite book in the series, Patient Zero holds that title, but it never disappointed. At times I wanted to put it down to take a breath but still kept turning pages as fast as I could read. This is a series where I buy and read each new book the week it comes out. Wouldn't miss it!

I read all the books in the Joe Ledger series and this one does not disappoint. Joe is a very likeable character - he is a hero and you root for him throughout the whole book. You also root for his team as you get to know the characters through the books. This type of plot is not new but I do find the bioweapons and bioterrorism angle relevant in today's day and age and the explanations make these things seem plausible, if not now then in the near future.

Fans of ledger series will not be disappointed by this worthy addition. This is the closest in the series to matching the excellence of Patient Zero. Mayberry is a great author in this genre and I also loved Dead of Night. Patient Zero had set the bar high and while I enjoyed the other books in the series I felt they fell a little short of the caliber of story, character development, and "believability" (understanding fully the genre we are dealing with) of the story arc and situations. This book felt like it took the Ledger series back to its roots and was the love child of Walking Dead/28 Days later and Clancyesque thriller. Loved it! Why I compare to those shows/films/books is because to me the story works and is engaging when it is "believable" in the sense that you can see the scenario play out, when the sci-fi has elements of plausibility, when the decisions and thoughts would reflect human nature and how people would/might act. My only criticism would be that the book could actually be longer and provide more details. I often find the endings of his books to feel rushed/hurried. For the details, delving more into the logistics, psychosis, science, and technology would be fascinating and add more weight to the suspense.

This book is a wreck. And I mean that in a great way! It's a mess because the situation is mess that our heroes from DMS have to try to work out, almost always several steps behind the antagonist's plays. It's a rough read because the characters are being put through hell. The only negatives I can come up with are some pacing problems due to some flashback interludes to introduce back-story,

but even that is not bad. They are great for some character development, and the effect on the pacing is actually fitting for the chaos happening in the story. Otherwise, it's everything we've come to love from a Joe Ledger novel: great action, incredible tension, probably the best antagonist yet, and quite a bit of emotional rollercoasting. The characters are put through hell, and their emotional scars carry right over into the reader's psyche. When reading this book, you'll almost certainly have to pause at times and take a few deep breaths (or a stiff drink) and mutter, "Holy hell!". Are you a Joe Ledger fan? Then you want to read this. Haven't yet read the Joe Ledger books? Then you'll want to read all of them and then read this! (and now for the anxious wait for the next one. If anyone is looking for something to read while they wait, you would do very well to read Mr. Maberry's Rot&Ruin novels. You'll come to understand why. :))

Another great read by Mayberry. Spoiler alert for those who believe in spoilers. This one starts with Captain Joe Ledger and Ghost, his Military War Dog, in the home of one Reginald Boyd. Boyd works for DARPA and has been selling secrets. Vaultbreaker among them. Ledger and Boyd come to an understanding after Ledger shows him the bodies in his closet. Two North Koreans and an Iranian who were sent for Boyd. Of course they weren't prepared for Joe Ledger. Too bad. Dead is dead. Reggie tells him about Mother Nights cyberteam. A team of super hackers. Mother Night is a person who will almost bring the country down. Ledger and Junie Flynn are living together. The sex is great and Joe finds himself and the L word getting closer. Junie has cancer and is in remission right now. Joe is worried sick about his gal and is hoping they can beat the cancer. Violin, Ledger's sometime girlfriend, isn't happy but finds she likes Junie Flynn. Five years ago Artimisia Bliss joined the DMS. She's brilliant. She's also a thief who was caught by DMS and landed in jail. She was killed there. Or so everyone thinks. So begins another damned fine read. This one has Joe, Ghost, Church, Bliss, Rudy, Circe, team Echo, the DMS, death, Violin, a man named Monk, the hooded youth who believe in Mother Night, a Mother Night with a plan, power, the VP, misconceptions, a subway tunnel, the Ark, a convention, the infected and Joe Ledger and DMS doing its best to save the country one more time. Five Stars.

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