



The Handler

Susan Kaye Quinn

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Sparking a revolution can get you burned.

Julian Navarro wants to fulfill the mission of his dead parents—to spark a revolution and win mindjackers equal rights in a mindreading world. His jack ability lets him control the instincts of others, but he wants to win jackers to his cause with words, not weapons. When he discovers his first recruit has a secret—and bloody—history, Julian has to decide how far he'll go... or if his revolution will be snuffed out before it begins.

The Handler is Julian's origin story.

MINDJACK: KIRA

Open Minds (Mindjack: Kira Book One)

Closed Hearts (Mindjack: Kira Book Two)

Free Souls (Mindjack: Kira Book Three)

MINDJACK: ZEPH

Locked Tight (Mindjack: Zeph Book One)

Cracked Open (Mindjack: Zeph Book Two)

Broken Wide (Mindjack: Zeph Book Three)

The Handler Details

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Author : Susan Kaye Quinn

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From Reader Review The Handler for online ebook

booknerd_dork says

This is set after Open Minds when Kira announces the existence of Jackers. But this from Julian's POV. It was interesting to get to know him and adore him even more, especially his promises lol. He is cute and the way he thinks so positively.

Sara says

This was a good short story about Julian. He is a mindjacker that refers to his talent as a Handler. he is the only one he knows of that is like him. he can manipulate instincts by going directly into your mind and changing them.

In his story, him and his sister Anna are cleaning up a warehouse to ready it for the mindjackers they hope to recruit to bring about a revolution. An uninvited guest shows up, named Serena, that claims she wants to join his Clan, and she has an ability that is almost like his. But she may not be all that she seems. And then they also meet with Sasha, he is a recruit sent by a friend, that just wants to fight for the freedom he deserves. When they are all together, it comes down to a showdown between the four of them. And a secret is uncovered about Serena.

Together they are the beginnings of a group ready to fight for a place to call home. I am excited to read the next book in this intriguing series. Great YA series.

Becky says

This one was VERY interesting. Loved the interactions between Anna and Julian and the mysterious Serena that showed up out of no where with harmful interests.

It was great seeing how Julian had his vision of the future and his clan and how Sasha was the first true recruit after the mistake of trusting Serena. Interesting also to see Julian have to use his ability to "re-wire" her brain and make her less dangerous.

Great prequel to Closed Hearts!

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

So, so happy to have the chance to tell you about these two short novellas (The Handler, The Scribe) that go along with the Mindjack Series by Susan Quinn. I have reviewed the first two novels, Open Minds and Closed Hearts here on my blog. I loved them.

I just love when authors give us these novellas. For me, it serves two roles. First, it feeds me need to read

more in between the actual full length novels. A little snack at intermission. :) Second, it gives me a glimpse into the lives, emotions and history of individual characters. It's awesome. Now I love Julian and Sasha even more.

These two novellas are fantastic. Julian and Sasha are both introduced in book two of this series and if you have read book two you will be wondering about them both. I sure was. Your heart will break just a little for Sasha. Well, maybe a lot.

My thanks to Susan Quinn for allowing me a chance to read and review these novellas. Love, love, love. I cannot wait to read the next installment in the Mindjack series, Free Souls.

Carrie says

I love this world, so I jumped at the chance to read these little novellas that accompany the series. This one gets inside Julian's head and shows us more about his motivations and decisions.

We join Julian as he is still in the recruiting phase of his revolution. He's obsessing a little bit about the leader of the most public step forward in years. His sister is not pleased with him, but supports the role that was left to them by their parents. It was nice to see into the inner workings and developing group dynamics as they begin to occupy their new home. If you've read the series (or up to the second one, as I have), these are must-reads.

Heather says

The Handler started off a little choppy to me, probably because it's been awhile since I've read Closed Hearts, but it fell into place pretty quickly. In the Mindjacking world, where this new ability has just been outed, one can never be too careful. There are so many abilities out there that even Julian doesn't know about and it's hard for him and his sister to protect themselves from every threat they can imagine. What he doesn't expect is the beautiful desperate girl that comes through his door disarming his sister without even jacking her. And try as he might, he just can't get a read on her, it's like trying to grab a hold of a slippery fish with greased hands. And then his recruit he was expecting, the one that is skittish and ready to run shows up. And Julian has to make a decision, one that he'll probably have to make time and again in his new revolution. He just wasn't expecting to have to make it on the very first day. This is a fast paced novella that gives you a glimpse into the way things started before Kira joined the group. It gives some background information on how Julian chose and who he chose and why. In any case, it's a great little piece of fiction in the series to hold you over until the third book FREE SOULS comes out!

Trisha says

"We're not freaks, Serena. And we're not an anomaly. We're destined to be the next step in the evolution of mankind, but only if we fight to survive."

Wow, Julian is a very complex person.

It's interesting to see just how ideal and romantic he is about how the world can be. It's nice to see that in a world that seems so full of hate and fear.

Julian is this big smiling beacon of hope.

Arlene Adams says

It's your words, not your ability, that will encourage others to follow you.

her lab at the University of Chicago, where my parents' neuroscience research covered for the real work they did: preparing for the revolution. My childhood was non-stop training for the day when jackers would fight to be free—when we would become the dominant species. When I would fulfill the mission they had entrusted to me.

Kira was the prototype, the ideal kind of jacker that we needed to recruit.

Julian handling instincts was a highly unusual and useful skill, I was deficient in the normal mindjacker abilities

Serena was a handler like me, we could learn a lot from her, including things about my own abilities that I couldn't find out any other way. She could be a tremendous asset. If she refrained from handling my sister again.

Serena couldn't quite control it. See, I can make anyone, even your sister, with her head like a bank vault, into my best friend or someone else's worst enemy. I don't know how, precisely, and it doesn't always go the way I plan. Sometimes... something goes wrong.. "I couldn't help myself, I had to stop him. And then something went wrong He turned on a younger jacker. By the time the others stopped him, there wasn't much left of the poor boy's mind. There was nothing I could do—once it started, I couldn't stop it. It was like I had unleashed something horrible inside him...

Sasha first recruit outside Serena I can erase you," Sasha said to her, and my sister's hand froze. "I can take away everything that makes you who you are, from your love of these weapons," he glanced at the table, "to what kind of childhood you had, to the kind of person you want to marry. I can rewrite you into being someone completely new, down to every last personality quirk and habit and memory. Everything that is you would be gone. Permanently." "You have my promise on that. I can't go on killing people's souls by using my ability.

Serena gets crazy "It seems that you and Sasha have quite a history together,"

"Unfortunately, yes." She scrunched her nose up at Sasha, who still stared at the ground. "I had honestly thought there was no one left from my previous Clan. Quite a bad bit of luck, him showing up here." "That is unfortunate." realized her story from before was a complete lie, and that if I didn't figure out how to control her, we might end up just like her old Clan. I grappled with a green, burning vapor. What happened to old clan? "They didn't have a proper appreciation for my skills," she said, as if they had offended her by using the wrong fork. "So I conducted a demonstration on the Clan leader's brother, turning him on his own Clan. It got a bit more out of control than I had anticipated, but honestly, they all got what they deserved with that. It was messy, though, and I didn't much care for that. Which was why I left before it was all done. Tricky one, this jacker." She waved the gun at Sasha. "He must have stopped the brother somehow, which even I

couldn't do, not once it was started anyway."

"I'm sorry it turned out this way, Serena." I meant every word. I'd made a terrible mistake with her. "Which way?" Her questioning green eyes flew wide when I shot the dart into her chest. I scrambled to catch her, easing her slowly down, so she wouldn't bang her pretty head on the concrete. sometimes you gotta fire the weapon Sasha twined red and black instinct pre-mindreading psychologist had called it the death drive. I thought of it as an anti-life impulse that lurked every mind, usually muted and buried under that hard ball of pure white survival instinct.

Except in some people, it wasn't buried so deep. I should have known there was something wrong with her when I saw it the first time. The chaos of her mind made a certain amount of sense now: with that death drive close to the surface, warring with her survival instinct, it was a kind of mental self-torture. And I was about to make it worse. I pulled up her death drive, strengthened it, and fashioned a new trigger for it. Every instinct has many triggers: visual cues, sounds, even smells can dredge up an instinctual response from the depths of the mind. For Serena, her death drive would now be sparked by any mental contact with another jacker. It would flare through her other instincts, causing a firestorm that would likely short-circuit her mind. It might drive her insane, and I couldn't be sure that she would survive it, but it would disable her from harming anyone else. And it was better than killing her outright. Anna could erase her memories, including any knowledge of us and other jackers' whereabouts. we would release her somewhere remote, maybe downstate Illinois,

Lola says

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

I really enjoyed The Handler. It's a short story set in the Mindjack world told from the point of view of Julia who we meet in book 2. It shows how frightening and powerful the mindjackers their powers can be and the start of the mindjack revolution. I liked how we get a better feel of Julia and we get a feel for Julian his handling ability. I thought it was very interesting to hear how his ability work and see it form his point of view and I could visualize pretty well how minds must look for him, it was very well written and described.

The story takes place over a short time span, but quite a lot happens in that time and the most important thing is that we get a feel for Julian, his power and a bit of backstory we don't see in the full length novels. We also see a bit of Anna, Sasha and a character we don't see in the novels. I liked learning how Sasha joined the cause.

To summarize: I really enjoyed this novella, we get a feel for Julian, his mindjack power and the start of the revolution and the why behind it. I felt like we got a good feel for Julian his character in this novella and I feel like we understand him better now and why he is so determined to get this plan of revolution started. We also see Anna and Sasha and understand how they got involved with the movement. And Julian has to make a difficult decision in this novella. I also liked how this novella illustrated how powerful and frightening the mindjack powers are. A great addition to the series!

Sheila says

How would it feel to read minds, to see emotions in color, to manipulate thoughts? How tempting would it be to use such powers for ill? And how quickly would the authorities try to appropriate such skills for themselves once they appeared?

Susan Kay Quinn's novella, *The Handler*, doesn't answer all the questions, but it lets the reader see through a different pair of eyes, think from a different background and history, and enter a different world. With beautiful writing, vivid imagination, fast action and pleasing relationships, these short stories build a world where much can happen, and leave the reader satisfied even though much is yet to be told.

Disclosure: The author gave me free copies of these stories when I expressed an interest in them.

Sarah says

(Read using Kindle Unlimited)

First of all, the formatting in this was really annoying. Every time I turned a page, the top 2 or more paragraphs were exactly the same as the last 2 or more paragraphs on the previous page! The font changed from page to page, and the constant jumping about was really quite irritating.

As for the story, well, I didn't really understand quite a bit of it, because I think this is set after book 1, and I can't really remember much of that book. Because I didn't understand what was going on, I lost interest a bit. 5 out of 10.

Diana Febry says

I received a free copy of this short book for my review. My review is an honest opinion and I do not know the author.

I was very impressed with the writing style. It was clear and concise and easy to read. At no point did the writing get in the way of the story or draw attention to itself which is something I like. I also felt the pace of the story was spot on.

I understand the book is part of a series which I have not read. The book could be read in isolation but it has made me want to read at least some of the other books in the series.

At some point in the future human brains have evolved and people are able to read minds. There are some who are able to do more, block others from their own mind and actually control the mind and thoughts of others or wipe their memories completely. A brother and sister team are building a clan/army to protect and nurture those with the additional skills. (I assume the need for this is explained earlier in the series). In the handler two new recruits with special skills are introduced, the calculating and cool Serena and the angry Sasha.

The book was easy to read and I very much enjoyed the book. I will myself seek out other work by the author Susan Quinn.

Sandy S says

THE HANDLER (enovella #2.1) by Susan K Quinn

THE HANDLER is the latest e-novella release (August 2012) in Susan K Quinn's Mindjack series. In a world where mindreading is the norm (due to decades of contaminated water) those without the ability are known as zeroes, but there are a few who possess a power greater than most. The Handler focuses on Julian Navarro and the characters introduced in Closed Hearts and takes place between Open Mind and Closed Hearts before Julian has ever met Kira Moore.

Julian can manipulate the instincts of the mind. Hoping to amass enough people to create an 'army' for the revolution, it is Julian's belief that one day mindjackers would be the dominant species on the planet. But mindjackers came with all sorts of problems and abilities and Julian would meet a few in the early days of the revolution.

Along with his twin sister Anna, Julian would encounter a couple of new recruits that would hopefully become a part of his close circle of mindjacking specialists. But many of the mindjackers coming to New Chicago were forming lawless clans and were not capable of following orders and Julian was determined that Kira Moore, a revolutionary in her own right, would further enhance his stature and presence as a leader.

Julian and Anna would welcome two new recruits, but like most Handlers, the new recruits would have to learn to control their abilities. And it would soon become obvious that one of their recent additions to the Clan, was someone they did not want on their side. With Anna's special ability, the new recruit would be re-assigned to a new location and Julian would continue his search for the best mindjackers his Clan required.

THE HANDLER is a quick and easy read that offers some background information into the personalities of some of the characters introduced in a previous storyline. Approximately 3 chapters in length, we become privy to the abilities of the mindjackers and the knowledge that they too, fear the power, that many of their own 'species' have developed. A great addition to the Mindjack series.

Copy supplied by author.

see all of my reviews at : thereadingcafe.com

Peter DeHaan says

Part of the Mindjack Trilogy Box Set

Sher A. Hart says

The Handler is a short but exciting read, just the right amount and flavor to make my mouth water for more. Even though SF is my favorite genre, I don't give many 5 star ratings. But Susan has created a world of mindreaders vs. mindjackers that keeps me interested in the characters as well as the technology, and she never fails to throw a curve.

I wished I could peek into the mind of this handler, a jacker with the special ability to manipulate emotions, in Closed Hearts. I got the good guy vibe from Julian, but Kira couldn't jack into his mind so I couldn't be sure Susan wasn't going to bait and switch. Anna, Julian's sister, seems a little one-dimensional in this story, but her constant weapons cleaning serves as a good contrast to Julian's character cleaning. He helps recruits clean their souls.

I'm not telling what happens when some new recruits join his clan except to say, expect the unexpected. And if I weren't too old for teams, this novella would have made me declare for team Julian.
