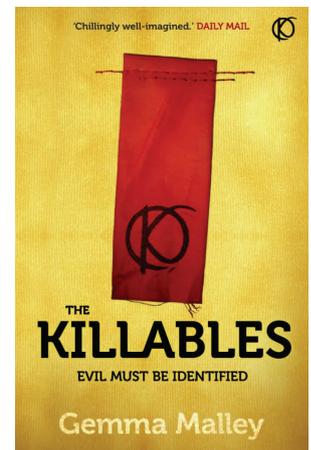


THE KILLABLES

By Gemma Malley



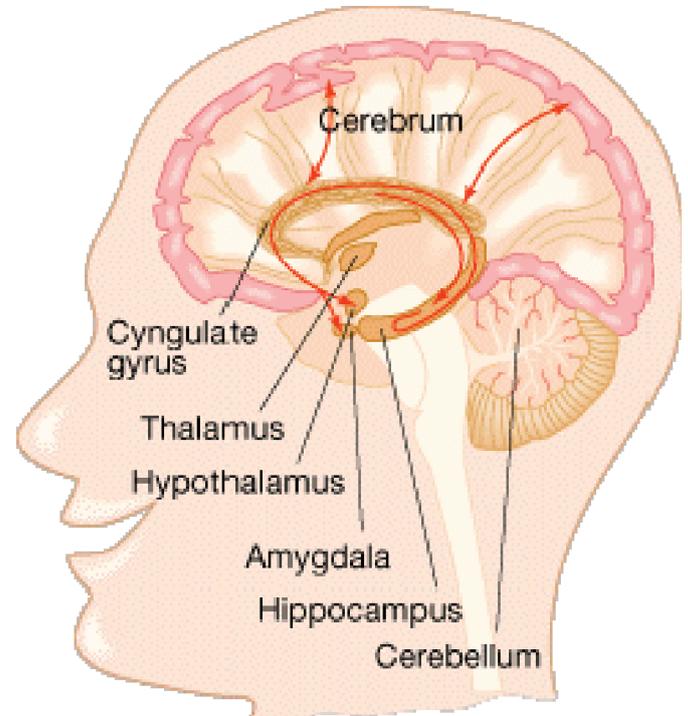
Evil has been eradicated. The City has been established. And citizens may only enter after having the 'evil' part of their brain removed. They are labelled on the System according to how 'good' they are. If they show signs of the evil emerging, they are labelled a K ...

But no one knows quite what that means. Only that they disappear, never to be seen again ...

Neuroscientists have, for a long time, been looking at which parts of the brain do what in relation to memory, feelings, thoughts and actions. Current research tends to focus on the ability to improve brain functions and how to combat degenerative diseases that effect the brain; like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Science Fiction stories often use the idea of manipulating brain functions and using it to control or listen in on people's thought processes, in an attempt to make a safer world for everyone.

In this series, everyone participating in the society established by The Great Leader (Doctor Fisher) has to undergo an operation called a *New Baptism* to "cleanse our brains, removing the draw towards evil". People willingly undergo the procedure to rid themselves of negative human instincts of violence and "evil" and submit to be monitored to ensure that their society stays stable, removing those who attempt to corrupt others.

This works by removing the Amygdala, part of the Limbic System in the brain. When you consider the placement of the this specific part of the brain, you can appreciate just how difficult it would be to perform an operation like this. The location is buried deep inside the brain itself and would risk severe brain damage by trying to access it.



On the following page, use the map of the Limbic System to label and describe the functions of the various sections of the human brain.

Cingulate gyrus

This area, together with the parahippocampal gyrus and the olfactory bulbs, comprises the limbic cortex, which modifies behavior and emotions.

Fornix

The fornix is a pathway of nerve fibers that transmits information from the hippocampus and other limbic areas to the mammillary body.

Septum pellucidum

A thin sheet of nervous tissue connects the fornix to the corpus callosum.

Column of fornix

Midbrain

Mamillary body

Amygdala

Olfactory bulbs

Pons

Hippocampus

Parahippocampal gyrus

