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Night Chill



Synopsis

In the tradition of Stephen King and Dean Koontz - intended for mature audiences. Jack Tremont moves his family to the quiet mountains of Western Maryland hoping to leave behind a troubled past and restart his life. Instead, he finds himself caught up in a nightmare when his daughter Sarah is targeted by Nate Huckley, a mysterious and horrifying stranger driven by a dark, ancient power who will stop at nothing to abduct Sarah. When Sarah goes missing, suspicion falls on Jack and he must uncover the secrets of the small mountain town of Prescott City and face the evil secret hidden there. As he digs further, he learns the conspiracy reaches more deeply than he could have imagined. He must soon face the question, What is a father willing to do to save his child? The answer? Anything. Anything at all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I see a lot of book synopses that claim works by lesser known authors are King-like or that their writing style is similar to Koontz. I always take these with a grain of salt. But in this case, it is very true. The plot was so deeply layered and well thought out I was half expecting a scene where

someone spots Pennywise while driving through Derry, or of someone eating a bologna and Bermuda onion sandwich (has anyone else noticed King's character's obsession with this sandwich?), or that Jack was committed to Juniper Hill Asylum because this book does have that amazing degree of creepiness that Stephen King has perfected. Then again, there IS a yellow lab, a dog species which Koontz often has traipsing through his plots. This is a dangerous book of "one more". One more chapter and I'll do the laundry. One more chapter before I start dinner. One more chapter and I'll call and order a pizza deliver. One more chapter ... eh, the kids are old enough to make themselves a sandwich when they get hungry. Be prepared to have a very unproductive day because this book is incredibly fast paced and there is no good place to set it down and walk away. I was constantly wanting to find out what would happen next and was not disappointed. There were quite a few editing errors but the storyline more than made up for the annoyance.

This was my first Jeff Gunhus novel. It won't be my last. There was a comparison to King and Koontz in the description, which I normally find both off-putting and false. In this case it's fairly accurate, as Gunhus has created a suspenseful and layered plot, and interesting, multi-faceted characters. Jack Tremont moves his family to Maryland after an accident. Instead of leaving trouble behind, things ramp up when his young daughter is targeted by a madman. When the child disappears, he must delve into the secrets of his small mountain town. He must answer the question of what a father willing to do to save his child. Although I figured out who the bad guys were before they were revealed, this didn't detract from the story, particularly since they, too, were multi-dimensional with motivations that were not obvious. Best of all, the ending allows for the possibility of a sequel. An excellent read.

I started reading this book and the beginning encourages the reader to continue as the pace was just right. However, the rather unpredictable turns and twists of the book especially the surrealistic psychic characters involved, many of whom were just evil, and somehow side-tracked me. I found that I could not keep up with the author's imaginative writing style. This was distracting and gave the feeling that the scenes portrayed were a bit forced and needed the added psychic, gory twists to keep the reader interested. I would not recommend this book to readers, who are not into psychic, highly imaginative thrillers. Many readers can handle thrillers, even far-fetched ones, provided that there is a hint of the credible. The lack of any credibility because of the psychic slant, surrealistic cave scenes with superhuman, psychic players that I found rather distracting and marred what could have had the potential of being a great, thriller.

I downloaded the sample of this book on a whim and before I'd even finished the first chapter, I knew I'd found a winner. Night Chill is a rich, meaty, very well-written supernatural thriller that made me sit up and take notice. I download lots of kindle samples before I decide what to buy, and most of them never lead to a purchase, especially in the horror genre because the market is saturated with so many poorly written dime-store slashers and glittery monster romance novels. Not my thing. While Night Chill isn't one of the scariest novels I've ever read (those books would be Summer of Night by Dan Simmons, Let the Right One In by John Ajvide Lindqvist, and The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson), the writing was just so good that it really didn't matter. There are plenty of hair-raising moments and more than enough suspense to keep the reader eagerly turning the pages late into the night. The main characters are richly brought to life and very believable, the dialogue and situations feel natural, the pacing is fast but not rushed. I could tell that this book was written by a very talented writer who takes his work seriously. Those who enjoy the talents of Stephen King, Dean Koontz, Jack Ketchum, Dan Simmons, and Robert R. McCammon should really enjoy Jeff Gunhus as well. He's the real deal, folks. Loved this book and looking forward to reading the sequel, Night Terror. Highly recommend!

I absolutely enjoyed reading Night Chill! I have read numerous books by Stephen King & Dean Koontz since I was 11 years old (don't judge, I suffered a family tragedy & they were my escape!), and Jeff Gunhus is definitely up to their standard of writing! I have read other authors who have claimed to be of the same caliber as King and Koontz, only to be severely disappointed. Not so with this story! There is no slow start or stale parts in this, it grasps you right from the beginning! The characters are wonderfully written, they had depth, were heroic times, but were still flawed (like all humans). Plus the story had many layers to it! I would think I had things figured out when there would be a surprise revelation! (I will not go into detail, as I hate spoilers!) I agree with the review by 'A Goddess of Literature' when she wrote the part about 'one more chapter before...'. Only I usually read at night before bed, so I spent a couple of nights falling asleep on my kindle trying to get in 'one more chapter'! The only negative thing I could say is there is more foul language than I would like (I am not a fan of profanity), but there is a lot less than in most Stephen King books! That being said, I gave it 5/5 stars, kindle prints on my face and all!

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