



# Dominion

*Bentley Little*

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## **Dominion** Bentley Little

Something really strange is happening to Dion, the new boy in school. Odd-girl-out Penelope understands completely. Something is happening to her too. They were made for each other. And together, they're going to raise hell.

## **Dominion Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2008 by Signet Book (first published March 1st 1996)

ISBN : 9780451187482

Author : Bentley Little

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# From Reader Review Dominion for online ebook

## Edward Lorn says

Bentley Little crammed so much Greek mythology into this book without making it feel like a course study. That alone is a huge feat. There are constant nods to the Old Gods and the unfortunates that served them.

This is nowhere near my favorite Little book, but it's still damn good. Little seems to be the only author of dark fantasy that strays this far from reality and still entertains me. Clive Barker can't do it. Edward Lee is always a miss for me. But something about Little's characters gel with me. Probably because you never know who the fuck to cheer for.

The ending to this diabolical orgy is sad in the way raping a rapist is gleefully depressing. You've stooped to their level, and that's a tragedy, but another part of you feels like justice has been done. My apologies. You have to read this book to truly understand the previous sentence.

If sex and violence make you squeamish, you might wanna skip this one. There's copulation and death on almost every page, and most of the time in the same sentence as one another. Expect to be pummeled over the head with images of people being fucked in two, semen and blood raining down over everything, nuns who like cock, and a scrotum being torn off as if it were an apple being plucked from a tree. This is Little's most sexually charged book, but not in a sexy, erotica way. Think Caligula, then times that by ten. This is Cannibal Corpse covering a Barry White song.

In comparison to other Bentley Little books (THE IGNORED, THE WALKING, THE RETURNED) this book is a solid three. When compared to other books in the same genre, this book is a five. So I'm going with right in the middle. Four stars.

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## Kim Smiley says

This was a really good book, but if you cannot handle blood, gore, and perverse sex, do not read it!

I had no idea what I was getting into when I started this book. It's about 2 teenagers, Penelope and Dion. Dion and his Mom move to Napa, where Penelope lives with her "mothers" at their winery.

When these two meet, its instant chemistry. The plot deals with a lot of greek mythology, specifically the greek god Dionysis. The book gets going about 1/3 of the way in, and it's loaded with a lot of killing, lots of bloodshed with blood being smeared over people, killing of animals, sex with animals, sex with corpses. Like I said, I had no idea what i was getting into.

But, I HAD to finish this book. The storyline was well written if you can stand all of the carnage. I would not recommend for those with weak stomachs, but if you like this kind of storyline, go for it, you will not be disappointed. IT's the 7th Bentley Little book I've read, and I find you never know what you're going to get with him. There might be some subtle writings about blood, sex and gore, or the whole book can contain it from start to finish. Happy reading!

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## **Kellybrianna says**

I really enjoyed this book when I read it and I have read all of Little's books (except Dispatch which I bought but haven't gotten to yet). This is one of my favorites of his and one of his most unique stories. It's a great horror novel and very original b/c it combines Little's usual take on the world in the face of chaos and mixes it with greek mythology (something I have yet to find in another book). Coincidentally I was taking a Greek mythology course in university at the time I read this book and it made it all the more interesting. However you don't have to be a mythology expert to enjoy this enthralling, creative book. If you love horror, especially stories that are uniquely different, or if you're just a Little fan, I would tell you to read this book. It's still on the top of my list for Little's works.

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## **Heath Kampa says**

I just have to respond to several reviewers comments about the style of Little's writing and how it doesn't come close to Stephen King. I'm sorry but King's writing is in no way complex or deep. He keeps his writing style simple (he's even admitted that fact in numerous interviews and in his book "On Writing") because he's trying to appeal to a large audience and reach as many people as possible. I would by no means ever compare Bentley Little's writing to say a Colson Whitehead or Cormac McCarthy but I would also never say Stephen King was a better writer than Little. To be fair I have read and enjoyed several of King's novels (Salem's Lot, Cycle of the Werewolf, and the Gunslinger series all come to mind) I just don't see where Little's writing is no where near as good as King's.

Having said that I enjoyed this book tremendously for two reasons; the first being it introduced me to a great horror novelist that was new to me and secondly I thought like many other reviewers that the premise of the novel was original and the Greek mythology aspect was a highlight for me. Much like most of Little's other novels he has an inherent ability to take something mundane and seemingly innocent (a trip to the grocery store, a call from an insurance agent, a visit from the mailman) and turn it into a horrible nightmare. I think that true horror is finding yourself in a situation beyond your control and not being able to figure out how you got there and how to get out of it. When I started reading this book I certainly didn't see a lot of the twists and turns coming and that's what I liked about it so much...I had no idea how things would play out and just when I thought things couldn't get any more weird or violent or disturbing he'd hit you with something else. If you read much of Little's work you shouldn't be surprised by the amount or type of violence or gore found within this novel either.

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## **Adam Wilson says**

Domion was the only Bentley Little I honestly didn't like. I liked it in the beginning but after that I got lost in the weird sex rituals. The story is about a kid who is trying to fit in in a new school but, after meeting a girl named Penelope find themselves mixed up in a take over of the town and a festival for Dion, the main character, whom Penelope's multiple mothers believe to be Dionysus. The novel is violent and involves as much random sex as a Laymon, but I don't like it as much when Little writes it. Dominion is the kind of book that I dislike half way through but push through to the end anyway hoping that it will improve.

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## **Dawn Leitheuser says**

Deliciously wicked!!

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## **lina says**

### **Love it**

Loved it want more and not for the weak of heart and the cry baby who say that is morbid...Bentley little is morbid and i love it

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## **Dana Petrovski says**

After reading *Dominion* by Bentley Little, you will be able to write a compelling manual *How to Make a Novel, Full of Imaginative Violence and Perverted Sex, Boring as an Account Book*. The plot is amazingly predictable, virtually no surprises are waiting for you. The leading characters are almost loveable, but that is not enough. There is very little action, dramatically speaking, most of the time the characters do or want to do unimaginably bad things and then think about how unusual it is for them to do or want to do such atrocities. As a result we have a shallow metaphor about order and chaos, culture and nature, masculinity and femininity (yes, there is an overall misogynistic tone in this novel to my ear), with no breathtaking plot and no colorful characters. Waste of time, to say frankly.

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## **Sean McBride says**

I was whole-heartedly disappointed with this book. There was a lot of potential that Little built into the concept of the book, but he decided to go the route of shock artist instead of building a unique and satisfying storyline. The rating of the book is a little bit deceiving, because there are moments of brilliance. Little is a good writer and there are some passages in this book that are just...well...great, but that makes the rest of the book that much more disappointing.

The characters are built well, and the mythos of the book are built well, but then Little doesn't follow his own rules that he built. Three quarters of the way through the book, the characters dialogues begin to blend, and the story takes a strange turn. It builds to an obvious anti-climax, and it doesn't make all that much sense. To top all of this off Little tries to hang a lantern on some of the tropes, which is fine, but he does it time and time again in the last 100 pages...for example: "It was a cliched phrase, a staple of bad horror novels and worse horror films, conjuring up vengeful demons and cursed land."

If you're going to do this don't admit that it's bad! He does this at least two more times, where he admits that what he's doing is bad, but it's what is happening. Took me right out of the book.

Little has some good books. I've really liked everything that he's set in Arizona so far, something about the setting maybe, but I'll stick to those in the future.

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## Sunni says

not as out-right frightening and most of the Bentley Little books I read but it made up for it with all the shock factors

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## Ron says

I wish I could rate the book's 2 parts separately...I would give part one a "5" and part 2 a 3. I found the first part to be a great horror story with mysteries and hints at some future unstoppable horror. Plenty of gore and bizarre sexual practices and I could tell this was all leading to something really big. In Part 2 the really big event has occurred and now the characters are dealing with the situation. In my opinion the horror aspect of the story vanished and part 2 is more of a fantasy adventure. I think the author should have shortened the novel a little instead of continuing the story 120 pages or so after the horrific event. Since part 2 is less than one third of the entire novel I still give it a 4.

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## Jason says

If you are looking for something "deep" then move along--there's nothing to see here. If you are looking for a Stephen King clone, again, move along. If you are looking for a good, pulp, horror novel that makes no apologies in its presentation, then you've found it.

I love Bentley Little novels. They are truly a guilty pleasure. They are perverse, unapologetic, twisted & very jolly in their excess. This novel is no exception.

& it takes place in snobby Napa Valley. Ha! Love it.

It is about a teenage boy who doesn't realize he is the host for the god, Dionysus, & with said god being the deity of the grape & ecstasy, how perfect the setting is in Napa Valley. Actually, how convenient. Dion (I know, I know. How obvious) is the new kid in town & he is targeted by a group of women who own a vineyard & are the "mothers" to a gorgeous girl, Penelope. They want to awaken the god within Dion & have him mate with their "daughter". You see, the women are actually harpies & are devoted to changing the world into a massive orgy with the coming of their god. Dion is important in their scheme.

From the opening chapter--a flashback of a man keeping naked women in his basement, impregnating them in order to give birth to the harpies (I love the scene where the newborns with sharp teeth come at him to rip him apart!)--to the last, this is a wild novel. It revels in it's excess that one can't be offended & should just enjoy it for what it is: A good pulp novel. How can one take a novel seriously when Penelope's "mothers" have the sex-talk with her & emphasize their want of her to have as much sex as she can & DO NOT USE BIRTH CONTROL! Awesome. & when Dion does morph into Dionysus, the madness is kicked into high gear--group sex everywhere! Love it.

B. Little is very good at what he does & I intend to keep reading more of his mindless, entertaining novels. He'll go to the dark places King is too pussy to take on. Good. Somebody has to.

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## Reece Smith says

With Bentley Little you get a true nightmare, an otherworldly evil without logic or explanation that leaves you feeling hopeless. You get that in this book, but what made me like it better than his other books is that this one - from what I've read previously - is the first book to really try and develop relationships between characters; to provide some research into the premise; and to build the horror slowly. In short, this one seemed more ambitious.

There are things I don't like. The horror isn't really set up. Bentley Little goes right for the shock. For instance, there is a scene in which a husband is visiting his wife who is in a coma...and something shocking happens. But this is the first time we meet these characters so the shock comes from the act itself, instead of from knowing the people.

Of course this might have been a very different book if Little had carefully set up every scene.

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## Debra says

Stephen King recommended author. He says: "BEST OUTRIGHT HORROR NOVELIST. Bentley Little, in a walk. Don't know Bentley Little? You're not alone. He's probably the genre's best-kept secret, but at least 10 of his novels are available in paperback; you can pick up three for the price of that flashy new hardcover you've got your eye on. The best thing about Little is that he can go from zero to surreal in 6.0 seconds. My favorites are The Store (think Wal-Mart run by SAYYY-tan) and Dispatch, in which a young fellow discovers that his letters to the editor actually get things done. Bad things."

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## Monty Merrick says

I give the book one star for original content which was unsettling in its depiction of excruciatingly violent sexuality (really a brilliant idea for a horror novel) and one more star for the bittersweet love story.

Aside from that, the writing was very juvenile. Now I can handle some pretty disturbing imagery (this book has plenty) but what made this particularly disturbing was that the writing seemed to improve tremendously whenever he was describing something dementedly violent and sexual. Maybe that's just me though.

The book would have been better if the author didn't spend so much time over-articulating what everyone was feeling and thinking, I mean like very OBVIOUS things. Also it was irritating having characters introduced who had absolutely nothing to do with the main characters or the rest of the story only to have them killed. Another thing that really weighed the book down was how many times we get inside characters heads and they think something like, "all he could think of was how much this was like something from the movies, not something from real life." This is actually said quite a bit, something that, in my opinion, should never be said in a horror novel.

There were also a lot of portions that read roughly like this:

She wanted to do it.

She didn't want to do it.

Yes she did.

Maybe she did, deep down inside.

But the storyline was interesting enough to where I wanted to finish, so I'll give it that. I had absolutely no clue how it was going to end. I just skipped over certain paragraphs as the book progressed because I knew what they were saying and didn't feel they were necessary, but that's just me.

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