



## Necroscope: The Touch

*Brian Lumley*

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To test of the power of God, an insane triad of malevolent aliens decides to become so evil that God himself will have to stop them. They have already destroyed their homeworld, an entire solar system, and most of their own race. Their next target: Earth!

In addition to advanced science mankind can only dream of, the Mordri Three have the unique ability to forever alter skin, bone, and muscle with a simple touch. Once this powerful touch was used only for healing, but the Mordri Three use it as a weapon, literally turning people inside out, mutating them in front of their horrified loved ones, or seeding them with cancer.

Scott St. John is mourning the painful death of his beloved wife when he is struck by a golden arrow of light--a fragment of the soul of Harry Keogh, the original Necroscope--and gains powers he does not understand. Soon after, a mysterious, beautiful woman begins appearing everywhere he goes. She warns him to keep silent--about what, he does not know--and keeps trying to tell him something critically important, but each time, she vanishes before she can fully explain. And Scott begins to dream of a very unusual Wolf, who begs Scott--in human speech--to rescue him before the hunters come.

A fledgling Necroscope, a telepathic Wolf, a beautiful woman from beyond the stars, the ghost of Harry Keogh, the best of E-Branch's psychic fighting forces, and a dead girl who is not yet ready to seek her just reward must defeat three impossibly strong, psychically gifted monsters whose touch literally melts flesh from bone.

## Necroscope: The Touch Details

Date : Published June 13th 2006 by Tor Books (first published 2006)

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Author : Brian Lumley

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## From Reader Review Necroscope: The Touch for online ebook

### **H says**

As far as *Necroscope* books go, this one is disappointing. Once again, Lumley readers find themselves at Schloss Zonigen, with all of the thrills and suspense of the (previously ended) *Necroscope* series. However, the book read as if it was written by an imitator of the author's, with all the twists copied from previous the books.

Also disappointing are the racist and sexist sediments: The alien woman is okay for sex, she only looks half Asian! Complete Asian looks would make her a useless heap of alien flesh, I guess.

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### **Stacy Croushorn says**

Disappointed. Another spin on someone else being the Necroscope, with Harry making these “dreamlike” appearances. There wasn't any vampires. Why do you do a Necroscope with no vampires? They have stretched this series as far as it can go. If they go back and add more stories to when Harry was alive and the Wampiri were a threat those might be ok. However, this “Touch” thing is stupid. This cash cow needs to go to pasture.

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### **Randy says**

I found this one in an airport, and was very happy to see Lumley continuing his story with different enemies. No, this one isn't about vampires, but it still has some very lethal and interesting villians.

On a side note, the villains wear watches that allow them to travel from place to place. A week after I finished the book I was watching the John Carpenter classic 'They Live', only to be see the aliens wearing watches that give them the same ability. Since I love the books, I'll just say great minds think alike!

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### **Maggie says**

As a side story to the main Necroscope saga, The Touch benefits from not having much of the baggage that comes with the Harry Keogh character. Things feel fresh and a little more laid back than usual.

Lumley is always pulpy, but I appreciate his commitment to this kind of silliness. After dozens of stories about trans-dimensional vampires and Russian necromancers, he decides that, hell with it, he'll throw in some space aliens, too. Why not?

If things feel a bit too similar to Necroscope: Invaders, it's made bearable by wacked-out crazy scenes involving people turned inside out or aliens fighting zombies. Even despite a fairly mediocre plot and resolution, it's still crazy fun reading about the teleportation powers of mystical, mathemagical Moebius and the British Ghostbusters.

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### **Carl Alves says**

The writing was a bit tedious. The plot was pretty solid, but as a fellow writer, Brian Lumley's attention to the craft did not impress me. I wouldn't recommend it, and had a hard time making it through the whole book.

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### **Rick says**

I loved the first two Necroscope series... and the third series was a big sign of fatigue on Lumley's part... not bad, but nothing special like the first two.

This book...

Did not suck, but was far from worth it. Nothing new was presented, the story was acceptable but seemed forced, and the ending was a GIANT cop-out. Plus, having the evil villians be motivated by \*horrors\* atheism was as about as thrilling as watching golf. I am sorry, but religious people have committed more atrocities and evil in the name of their gods than any atheist ever. But that is another argument... let's just say I had a hard time buying this motivation.

Probably the best thing about the book was the fact that there were no vampires in it, which was definitely new for the series. But when the villians have much of the same powers, it makes me think this was a rework of an older, rejected story in some parts.

Anyway, I think I am done with any new Necroscope books. They will never match the original series and the second series set in the vampire world. So why bother torturing myself reading them?

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### **Guy Ferguson says**

I have to declare my bias here. I have thought at times that Lumley was a worthy successor to HP Lovecraft, maybe even channeling the statesman at times. And with that in mind I forced myself through this latest work of his. Loosely tied to the Necroscope series, but really more of an E-Branche story than a Necroscope story, this standard "Crazy evil aliens" story offers little new. And I could not engage with any characters really. I got the feeling that Lumley really had to produce a book for contractual reasons, not because he had a story to tell. I was very disappointed.

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### **Tom Boshell says**

Good to have something new in this area. It may be me, but this just doesn't have the old feel any-more. Harry was built-up over many books. He developed as a character. As a new beginning this would be great, and with aliens it would allow for many possibilities. But now, if there is a new hero needed they would simply be the recipient of one of Harry's golden arrows and two weeks later they can defeat any threat.

Lumley does go more into the godly aspect with allusion to the trinity and to the older stories from the alien race.

It is worth reading to follow the series, but don't expect too much on the old characters.

I am a bit undecided on the stars: I would give it 2.5 stars.

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### **Jamie says**

had to read this for my book club... weird. it was kinda scarey and if ya like vampire-ish stuff then go for it but it is a series so maybe start with the first one

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### **Joseph Barnes says**

I love the entire series. I think the only thing I would change would be the fact that the Author repeats "phrases" and the background of the characters over and over. That really isn't necessary and distracts from the flow of the storyline.

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### **Marc the Darc says**

A reasonable follow-up to the Necroscope series. Or serieses. I guess the plural is still 'series'. Now, keep in mind that I read this at least 5 years since I last picked up a volume in this series. As a result, in some ways it was like getting back to see old acquaintances. If I had read this right on the tail of prior series entries, however, I likely would have been more frustrated by some of the novel's shortcomings. Primarily, these are the length of time that it takes to get to any substantial action; the amount of time spent by the characters reviewing events, both from past Necroscope novels and from within this novel itself, and the failure to use the Necroscope abilities to their fullest for the bulk of the story. The same applies to many of the characters' natural talents. For example, the main character is hailed as being a martial arts expert, sufficiently so that others are reluctant to approach him physically, but these skills are never put to any substantial use. But since it had been in fact a while, in many ways I enjoyed the slow burn and build up to the final confrontations. One remaining issue is the alien nature of the threat in this story, which the characters seem to accept rather readily; I guess having dealt previously with extradimensional and supernatural issues, the extraterrestrial holds little additional fascination to the characters. Overall, 'The touch' ranks below most of the prior Necroscope novels, but is not a totally unworthy addition to the series.

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### **Paul says**

It's a shame to think this is the final Necroscope (barring two collections of shorts and novellas) this has been my side reading for quite a while now.

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### **Michael Hall says**

A Necroscope novel without vampires is like a peanut butter sandwich without the jelly. I did learn a new word: evaginate. The badguys had a nasty habit of turning their victims outside in while still alive.

Parts of this one seemed a bit repetitive, making me want to skip over the previously known history of E-Branch and Harry Keough. Unlike the other three Necroscope cycles this book seemed to be more of a stand alone in the series, so would probably be good for someone who has no idea what a Necroscope is.

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### **Angraecus Daniels says**

I kept trying to force myself to finish this book. Finally decided it wasn't worth the effort. I enjoyed the first book in the series. But compared to that first book, Touch is sluggish, bloated and repetitive. Shania is a cliched female with no interesting traits. The scenes in E-Branch headquarters do little more than recap the previous 1-2 chapters.

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### **Michelleandderek Nakagawa says**

I did it! I finished the series!

This last book entered a whole new realm, if you will. It involved no vampires, but instead there were aliens. I admit it was a tad disappointing, but when I got used to it... E-branch is still involved as is Harry Keogh and his Mobius Continuum but it's a completely different thing. Not my favorite in the series, but I am glad I read it.

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