



Soultaker

Bryan Smith

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Beautiful . . . Sexy . . . Inhuman. — Jake McAllister knows that his brother Trey's new girlfriend is a bad influence, but he doesn't know what Myra's really after — Trey's soul. Trey is just one of her new playthings, a pawn in her centuries-long game. One by one, Myra has seduced and enslaved the young men of the town. The women have joined her cult as eager priestesses, lured by promises of sex and power. But Myra's unholy plan is almost complete. Can one man hope to battle such seductive evil? Will he be able to resist the . . .

SOULTAKER

Soultaker Details

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Author : Bryan Smith

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Lede says

This book had all the elements of an erotic horror and the writing was fine. I just wasn't scared or horrified at all...in fact I was bored, which you should never be when reading books in this genre.

Marvin says

A somewhat cynical horror tale that wallows in sex and violence and belly flops into the shallow end of three stars. I don't mind sex and violence. In fact, the author writes some of the most tense sex and violence I've read in a long time. Yet at least one of the characters should be likable while they're wallowing in all that sex and violence. The story involves the appearance of a serpent-goddess named Lamia who plans to devour the souls of the entire teen population of a small backwater town. Why she just doesn't show up at a Justin Beiber concert is beyond me. Maybe Justin Beiber fans already had their souls devoured. It becomes the mission of a few misfits including a washed out alcoholic "supermarket" horror writer (What's your point, Bryan?) to try to save the town. The author knows how to tell a tale and kept my interest but I would have liked the story to elevate beyond the feel of a cheesy TV movie with the predictable and pat "gotcha" ending.

David says

Vielleicht vermittelt die Beschreibung des Buches schon in etwa, dass der Leser hier ein wirklich besonderes

Buch in den Händen hält.

SEELINFRESSER ist anders.

Es ist brutal, es ist blutig, es ist verstörend. Aber vor allem hinterlässt es ein Gefühlschaos aus Abscheu, Anziehung, Verwirrung und Begeisterung.

Bryan Smith bietet in seinem zweiten im Festa Verlag erschienenen Roman fast nur Neues, was ich als jahrelanger Thriller- und Horrorleser noch nie zuvor geboten bekommen habe. Szenerien und Storyabläufe, die absolut nicht vorher zu sehen sind und mich immer wieder aufs Neue geschockt haben. Personen, die auf den ersten Blick nett und sympathisch wirken, werden ein paar Kapitel später zu sadistischen Perversen. Jeder in diesem Buch hat ein Geheimnis, welches der Leser nach und nach entdecken muss, ob er will, oder nicht. Und gleich zu Beginn schockte der Autor mich mit sadistischen Szenen jenseits unserer heutigen Moralvorstellungen, die ich in dieser Form keinesfalls erwartete. Ich saß nur da, und dachte: WAS GEHT JETZT HIER AB? Es war geil, aber keinesfalls für jedermann Lesegeschmack, da bin ich absolut sicher. Ja, ihr merkt, das Buch IST anders. Es ist sehr, sehr speziell. Ich bin mir sicher, dass SEELINFRESSER entweder geliebt oder gehasst wird. Entweder man steht auf diesen SHIT oder man legt es angewidert beiseite. Ich für meinen Teil STEHE auf diesen SHIT!

Daher kann ich auch eigentlich nur eines sagen: Ihr müsst dieses Buch selbst erleben und ausprobieren! Denn jedes Wort und jede Beschreibung, was genau anders ist oder was nun genau Jake und Co. passieren, würde nur die Spannung und das Gefühlsempfindung ruinieren, welches ich beim Lesen empfand.

Es sei gesagt: Wer VERKOMMEN mochte, muss nicht zwangsläufig auch SEELINFRESSER mögen. Das Buch ist einfach völlig anders. Ich selbst empfand VERKOMMEN nicht so brutal, wie einige andere Leser es taten. Jedoch ist SEELINFRESSER viel brutaler. Demnach kann hier jeder selber entscheiden, ob er sich traut.

Wer MELLICK III und LAYMON liebt und kennt, dem muss ich dieses Buch allerdings zwingend ans Leserherz legen: Es ist sehr ähnlich abgedreht und verrückt. Ich könnte wetten, dass Smith sich ein Beispiel an die beiden verrückten Autoren nahm, während er an SEELINFRESSER schrieb. Parallelen zur Härter und besonders zur Abgedrehtheit sind nicht zu leugnen, wie ich finde. Das spricht nur für ihn, denn ich bin Fan aller drei Autoren.

Wer sich nicht sicher ist, ob SEELINFRESSER etwas für ihn ist: Schnappt euch in der Buchhandlung das Buch und lest die ersten beiden Kapitel. Danach wisst ihr, was euch erwartet. Mich haben die beiden süchtig nach dem Rest des Buches gemacht und ich war schockiert und angetan zugleich.

Diese Rezension trotz nur so vor Begeisterung, warum aber gebe ich dann nicht volle Punktzahl? Schwer zu sagen, dass muss ich zugeben. Ich empfand die Story besonders zum Ende hin zu überladen. Es passierte für meinen Geschmack zu viel und die Ereignisse überschlugen sich nur so. Das brachte zwar viel Action und Spannung rein, jedoch machte es mir das Finale zu lebhaft und überdrehte die sowieso schon verrückte Geschichte nochmals ein Stück weit mehr. Toll wäre hier gewesen, wenn Smith einen Gang runtergeschaltet hätte. Das Ende ist zwar genau nach meinem Geschmack – tja, mehr verrate ich da nicht – aber der Weg dorthin war mir zu ereignisreich.

... SEELINFRESSER habe ich an knapp zwei Tagen verschlungen. Da fragt man sich doch, ob Lamia da nicht ihre Hände im Spiel hatte ... Oh Gott, hoffentlich nic-

Karl says

This is copy 14 of 52 Hardcover copies printed and are signed and numbered by Bryan Smith.

Kristen says

This is the second book by this author that I have read, and I have to admit... that he really doesn't draw me in. Sure the writing was fine, there is sex, violence and little green scaly critters romping about... but I have the hardest time investing myself emotionally in his books.

So we're in a small town, and some goth girl turns out to be Lamia, an ancient half snake deity who needs a jump start of souls... so she's possessed the women of a small town and turned them into psycho witch-like priestess hoes. So we've got a pack of male teens and an older brother who are trying to stop it all.

I had a hard time determining whether or not our author is deeply terrified of women... the women in this book are evil, corrupt, vengeful, lustful and extremely dangerous to the men... except of course for the lesbian. There are some really strange psychological ideas you could take from the author.

I did like the idea of his use of one of the more rarely mentioned mythological monsters rather than simply going with the standard vampire/werewolf/alien/zombie fare. I really wish I had been able to get into this book more. As it was, I had a hard time keeping my mind on it and struggled to get to the end. I'm not sure why either... the writing was fine, the concept was fine... perhaps it was the characters, I didn't really care for any of them... and we never really had the opportunity to know any of the women prior to their possession so we couldn't really regret their transformation. The men were just SO weak that they were hard to root for, granted we wanted someone to stop what was happening... but it's hard to root for a bunch of guys who think like pervs.

Moral of the story: men – Keep it in your pants

Tressa says

What can I say? I loved Bryan Smith's Freakshow but couldn't even finish this book. It had moments, but it was predictable and not very interesting.

After this one I'm not sure if I'll even give Smith another try.

Suzanne says

Not my cuppa.

Bob says

Another interesting read from Bryan Smith. This time Lamia, a blood-thirsty reptilian demon with the ability to suck the life force from her victims, returns to Rockville, Tennessee to wreak havoc on the inhabitants. Not for the prudish or faint of heart. Highly recommended.

harlequin {Stephanie} says

If the author had killed the first 120 pages of this book it would get a 3 star rating. After getting through those hundred+ pages of nonstop porn and you get to the actual story telling. It's not a bad read. Very under your skin creepy.

The ending fizzled in my opinion.

Su Halfwerk says

It's been a while since I read a horror book like Soultaker. It has a sense of old fashioned horror that kept me guessing till the end.

I loved the ending, by the way :-)

Vince Darcangelo says

This review originally appeared in FANGORIA

SOULTAKER (Book Review)

Ghastly Reviews - Books

Written by Vince Darcangelo

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:46 AM

In order for a horror novel to work, the author must strike a balance between realistic and fantastic elements. Bryan Smith skews heavily toward the latter in his new release, SOULTAKER, which has moments of great imagination but too often emphasizes shock over substance.

Jake McAllister, a mildly successful horror author and recovering alcoholic, returns to his hometown of Rockville to keep his younger brother, Trey, from going down the wrong path. More specifically, to protect him from his new girlfriend, Myra, who is the head of a demonic cult that is taking over the town by seducing its men and recruiting its women.

If Russ Meyer were to pen a modern-day horror novel, it would probably be a lot like SOULTAKER. Rockville is apparently overrun with hot, sadistic, sex-obsessed females, and this includes the women that aren't part of Myra's cult. Nearly every chapter includes one over-the-top sex scene, to the point that it feels more like watching Cinemax than FEARnet.

There is also a lack of a strong protagonist. Jake McAllister is certainly SOULTAKER's most compelling

character, and rightly billed as the lead, but he shares the stage with a troupe of characters so large that he becomes part of an ensemble cast. The book would benefit from streamlining its shifts in perspective and focusing more on Jake's story.

That said, there is a lot to enjoy in SOULTAKER. Smith is adept at bringing together the forces of good and evil for a final battle in the high school. Though the shifting storylines can disengage the reader early on, Smith ties them together brilliantly at the climax.

He gives us some excellent scenes along the way, such as when the adulterous principal gets his comeuppance from his fed-up wife—complete with a startling twist and a gruesomely enjoyable beheading. Then there's a sadistic torture sequence that will make you shudder next time you face down a beer bong.

And the ending is fantastic, a combination of gore and revelation that puts the finishing touch on SOULTAKER and has me eager to read the sequel.

What came before, however, was too concerned with shock and less concerned with character. I would have loved more Jack McAllister and fewer sex scenes. But once you get past the hyperbolic horrors, this is a classic tale of a small-town haunting.

Amy says

Soultaker was my first sampling of Bryan Smith's work. I enjoyed this book even though I wasn't too crazy about the premise of the story, very cheesy. Basically, a very powerful lizard-like demon takes over the body of a young goth chick and wreaks havoc in the small town of Rockville, Tennessee in preparation for the Harvest, where she plans to consume the souls of many teenagers in order to recharge, live another 100 years with man she loves. The hero of the story, if you can call him that, is Jake McAllister whose mother has begged him to return to Rockville to help his younger brother Trey, who has changed dramatically since hooking up with his new girlfriend, Myra Lewis, the big bad demon in disguise. Overall, a good read, reminded me a bit of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, only much more frightening what with all the bloody gore. I look forward to reading more from this author.

Rhonda says

Jake McAllister's mother is worried because his younger brother, Trey, has been acting weird since he started hanging out with his new girlfriend, Myra. Although Jake can't believe that one girl could really make that drastic of a difference in Trey, he returns home to check things out anyway. What Jake doesn't realize upon his arrival is that most of the females in town consider Myra a leader, and that they are starting to overpower the men in town. Jake meets up with a love interest, Kristen, and together they try to save Trey from Myra's clutches, and stop the harvesting of souls that they have discovered is Myra's ultimate goal.

Soultaker has many strong points. Character development is particularly strong. There are several key characters in this book and Smith detailed each of them and their growth throughout the book beautifully. I truly felt that I got to know the characters as the story progressed. A lot of authors tend to focus on one or maybe two characters, but Smith continued a detailed progression of change of at least six people. Fair warning to those who don't like sex, this novel is a bit heavy on sexual content, but Smith writes it well and for this story it's fitting. Highly Recommended.

Contains: Sex, Violence, Profanity

(Review also posted at MonsterLibrarian.Com)

Alex Bough says

I'm a big horror fan and also a big fan of Mr Smiths work in general but recently I've ventured off to explore various other genres in a bid to not get too jaded about the horror genre and its many variations. I found myself reading a few titles from the bizzaro world, dabbled in a bit of true crime and after I'd got a few titles onto my 'read' list, I thought to myself; fuck this, let's get back to one of the old favourites. Enter Mr Smith and Soultaker. It's a book I've been wanting to read for a while having read all the 'classics' (Depraved 1,2 , Killing Kind 1,2 , The Freakshow etc). I got a few chapters in I almost didn't notice a smug/knowning grin start to bisect my skull! I just fucking love his writing style! This novel was very well put together, jumping from one group of characters and situations to another with all the fluidity of a molasses lava lamp!! I'll not say anything about the plot as the blurb sums it up pretty well. What I will say though is how Bryan Smith repeatedly delivers straight up horror in a style I personally fucking love! Sex? Check! Gore? Check! Protagonists you're rooting for throughout? Check! This book is highly recommend along with just about anything else this guy has penned! A truly goresome ride Mr Smith! Thank you very much!! Fan boy out!!!!
