



## The Library at Mount Char

*Scott Hawkins, Hillary Huber (narrator)*

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*A missing God.*

*A library with the secrets to the universe.*

*A woman too busy to notice her heart slipping away.*

Carolyn's not so different from the other people around her. She likes guacamole and cigarettes and steak. She knows how to use a phone. Clothes are a bit tricky, but everyone says nice things about her outfit with the Christmas sweater over the gold bicycle shorts.

After all, she was a normal American herself once.

That was a long time ago, of course. Before her parents died. Before she and the others were taken in by the man they called Father.

In the years since then, Carolyn hasn't had a chance to get out much. Instead, she and her adopted siblings have been raised according to Father's ancient customs. They've studied the books in his Library and learned some of the secrets of his power. And sometimes, they've wondered if their cruel tutor might secretly be God.

Now, Father is missing—perhaps even dead—and the Library that holds his secrets stands unguarded. And with it, control over all of creation.

As Carolyn gathers the tools she needs for the battle to come, fierce competitors for this prize align against her, all of them with powers that far exceed her own.

But Carolyn has accounted for this.

And Carolyn has a plan.

The only trouble is that in the war to make a new God, she's forgotten to protect the things that make her human.

Populated by an unforgettable cast of characters and propelled by a plot that will shock you again and again, *The Library at Mount Char* is at once horrifying and hilarious, mind-blowingly alien and heartbreakingly human, sweepingly visionary and nail-bitingly thrilling—and signals the arrival of a major new voice in fantasy.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## The Library at Mount Char Details

Date : Published June 16th 2015 by HighBridge Audio

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Author : Scott Hawkins , Hillary Huber (narrator)

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**Download and Read Free Online The Library at Mount Char Scott Hawkins , Hillary Huber (narrator)**

## From Reader Review The Library at Mount Char for online ebook

### Bradley says

Re-read October 14, 2016

I read this one back in September of last year and loved it enough to drop it into my Top 100 list. I've been thinking about it off and on ever since then. And I just had to re-read it for the Halloween season, too. It just fits oh so well! :)

Did it hold up to my beefed-up expectations? Did it lose any of the fires of ultimate agony or any of its Asshole Buddhism? Hello, No. :) I still love it.

I've never loved lions as much as I have in this book. I've never been more surprised to discover a love story, either, or an actual loving Father in Adam Black, the man who by all rights should go down in all literature as the most fucked up villain of all time.

All the oddness of this book, its sheer creativity, blows me away. All its characters become real and archetypes and real all over again, wrenched from all those endlessly tired grounds to become something new and fantastic again.

You want to see the training of gods? You want to participate in a war of gods? From their point of view? Well, welcome yourself to this book, my friend. It's not for the weak of heart. The stakes are really high. Maybe higher than any but the strangest and strongest SF or Fantasy out there, and the wrap-up is frankly an even more awesome story than all the action that came before it.

Expect an evolving story of unsurpassed creativity and courage.

And even though the deaths, more deaths, and even more deaths, of world-eating plagues and starvation, of the snuffing out of the sun and the raising of a new one, it's kinda odd... that this is strangely one of the most up-beat and hopeful of Fantasies or Science Fiction or Horror that I've ever read. :)

I might just have to make this a tradition and read it every year just for the plain joy of it. :)

### Old Review:

This one is going to be a difficult review because I love it so much.

I'm not going to have Steve warm my bones under his light, anymore. I'm not going to have the thunder out of the east to have my back. But in the end, it is in Carolyn I trust. I have faith in her, and I'll have to have faith in her for the rest of my life.

Confused? Read the book. You'll know what I mean afterward. :)

My word, I can't get over how much new mythology that Mr. Hawkins crammed into such a short book, or how much of it wormed its way into my brain. I haven't been this enthused about any book like this since American Gods, and I have to admit this is a BETTER EXPRESSION than even that.

Gods walking the earth is one thing, but to actually watch them perform an infinite regression of events to create their own successors in such a way that the poor sap doesn't even realize it until long after the big battle is a scale of craft that ought to be left to actual gods, and not some person named Scott Hawkins, who, out of the blue, blew my mind by actually pulling it off.

I cried after Carolyn succeeded in getting her revenge, and I cried again after I realized what she had become by doing so. I don't need a heart coal to see me through to the end, though. I just cried like a little baby when Steve finally succeeded.

This is an **IMPORTANT** work. It's going to stick in my mind for a damn long time, and even now the story is continuing in my hindbrain, either resurrected endlessly, or a victim of the Black Book. Or, maybe worse than any of that, it's going to stay with me because I Never want to let the story go.

I'm recommending this for the Hugos for next year. It's not quite fantasy. It's more SF, and even Carolyn laughs at the notion of magic, so there you go. This novel is officially replacing my current top pick of Aurora by Kim Stanley Robinson, too.

I am absolutely amazed by what I have just read, and I'm bumping this one up to one of my top ten novels of all time. It's just that good.

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Oh yeah, and if I ever get a chance to bitch-slap a lioness, you know I'm going to be blaming this novel. Just saying.

## **Matthew says**

What just happened?

This book is bizarre. This book is weird. This book is fantastic!

Sometimes books are complex, weird, and artsy - but it all feels forced. Kind of like the author sat down and said "check out how artsy and deep and meaningful I can be". I have some books in mind, but I will play nice \*cough\* American Gods \*cough\*. But, with this one it felt like all the bizarre complexity and weirdness was flowing out of the author and he couldn't help it. He sat down and said "OMG, what is coming out of my mind right now!? It is awesome! I must be hallucinating! The world must share this acid trip with me!"

What I am trying to say is that it was odd, I often had no clue what was going on, but I loved every second of it!

I don't think this book is for everyone, and I think no matter how weird your tastes are, it will take a while to get into this. I am thinking I was 1/4 of the way through before I could put even the smallest coherent thought together. But, once you do, the great characters (pretty much all of whom were interesting in their own way), the creative dialogue, and the unique story come together for an experience not to be missed.

I am looking forward to seeing what others think about this since it is so different than anything I have ever read.

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## Justin says

I'm staring at a blank screen trying to figure out how to even review this book. Outside the rain has been falling steadily for hours. I don't think it has any plans of slowing down today. The rain is a nice distraction. I can sit and listen to it while I sit inside and wrestle with coherency. I don't even know if that makes sense, but it sounds pretty impressive to me.

I really don't know where to begin. I mean, am I even reviewing the book anyway? Aren't my reviews just a bunch of jumbled thoughts with little to no prior thought so they're really my thoughts without me thinking about them but don't you have to think to have thoughts in the first place?

The Library at Mount Char is the most fun I've had reading a book in a long time. I feel like I used that exact same line in another book review recently, but I lied if that's the case. This book really is the most fun I've had reading a book in a long time. If I use that line again in the near future, please remind me that I'm lying about that book, too. I think I've made my point way too clear at this point. I've gotta stop using the same word multiple times in the same sentence even if the meaning is different.

I didn't really understand what I was getting myself into when I started reading. Hawkins just threw me into this world without any background information with the understanding that I would put the pieces together as I moved along. And I trusted him with that, and he didn't let me down in the end. I actually felt smarter as I turned each page up until the very end where everything is revealed. Now I feel like I need to read it again from my new vantage point.

The world within these pages is awesome. One of the most creative stories I've ever read. You're not going to find anything to really compare it to since it's so unique. People have thrown around comparisons to Gaiman and I can see that. People have also compared this to Grossman's The Magicians, but that book sucks and no one should ever do that. The characters, the world in which they live, the writing... it's all so good. I felt the full spectrum of emotions while reading through this thing. It's hilarious at times, violent, thrilling, and even sad and depressing as it moves along.

I really don't want to say anything about the story. It's almost better if you don't know much about it. Just give it several chapters. You're gonna have to learn it, and you will be handsomely rewarded in the end for sticking around. I promise. I've also been known to lie possibly so don't trust me. It's cool.

Thanks, Kelley, for recommending this book to me. I didn't know it even existed until I got your recommendation.

Now I'm recommending it to all of you. Clear your calendar and read this one.

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## Victoria Schwab says

Strange and utterly delightful.

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## **Sean Gibson says**

Many people are familiar with Schrödinger's cat, a thought experiment developed by Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger in the mid-1930s. Essentially, the idea was this: if you put a cat in a box, to an external observer, the cat is equally likely to be alive or dead at any given moment (or, more accurately, simultaneously alive and dead—e.g., quantum superposition). Smarter people than I (of which there are many) can elucidate how the experiment suggests flaws in the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics applied to everyday objects, but I'm going to apply it to another scenario.

Let's say you've experienced something weird that is difficult to articulate, but you really enjoyed it. So, you want to recommend it to people because you think they'll dig it. But, the more you try to explain it and what you liked about it, the less likely they are to want to give it a shot, because it really is weird. And violent. And graphic. And mind-bendy. And kind of gross. And perplexing. And unusual. And sometimes a little bit funny. And sometimes a little bit dark. And sometimes a little confusing. And even a little non-sensical. And, so, when you describe it, people might be like, "Whoa, easy there, Tiger—I'm not into things that are simultaneously weird and violent and graphic and mind-bendy and gross and perplexing and unusual and a little bit funny and a little bit dark and a little confusing and a little non-sensical. I prefer cats, though whether they're alive or dead, I don't care."

So, you're faced with a conundrum: you can try to explain this thing that you liked and get people to check it out, or you can just stick it in a box, not tell people what it is, and make them wonder whether it's something they'd love, hate, or be indifferent toward, and hope that their curiosity induces them to check it out. Because, ultimately, it's the kind of thing that only someone who's intensely curious is going to enjoy.

The latter method seems more effective to me, so I'm just going to stick *The Library at Mount Char* in this unmarked box here and leave it out on the Goodreads community counter. Hopefully, some of you will be insatiably curious and open it up at some point.

(And it's totally not my fault if it turns out that there's a dead cat in there, too; I swear I fed the thing.)

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## **Ginger says**

### **Update 02-09-2018**

It's been two weeks and I still have no idea how to do a review on this one. I loved the characters, especially the despicable ones. The whole concept of whether they were Gods or not was fascinating. The plot was just complex and wonderful. **Just go read it!**

### **Original review - 01-26-2018**

**ALL THE STARS! ??????????**

What a mind fuck!

I absolutely loved this book! I'm not even sure how to go about doing a proper review. I know without a fact that this will be a book that I will remember 10 years from now. It was so great, weird and mesmerizing as I read it.

Once I sort out my thoughts and put the LSD down, I'll do a review on this.

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## **Shelby \*trains flying monkeys\* says**

This is honestly the weirdest book I have ever read.

The first hundred or so pages of this book make no sense whatsoever. I mean none.

You just get thrown into the book and hope for the best. I kept thinking I was going to dnf this sucker but I looked and most of my friends on Goodreads had given it a pretty decent rating. I didn't want to be that weird one..again.

I'm going to attempt to sum up some of this book and hopefully make some sense of it in my mind at the same time. (Probably not going to happen..but what the heck)

So there is this Caroline chick. She says she used to be normal. Then "Father" adopted her and she became one of the librarians.

Then you have people getting killed. Several times. They bring them back from the dead and kill them again. I'm telling you this book is whacked.

You have talking animals that "help" the librarians.

You also have David. A librarian who loves to kill and maim. As he wears his tutu.

"Father" taught each of his librarians, but they were only allowed to study out of the books in their fields. Or they suffered the consequences.

"Father" also seemed to have friends in high places.

I give up. This book really makes no sense. Parts of it were actually pretty good. Thus the three star rating. I think I'm going to go and take a nap now though and hope to just forget about these librarians. They gave me a freaking headache.

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## **Cindy Newton says**

### **Review from 2nd Reading - 8/10/17**

I still love this book SO MUCH!! The second reading only proved to me that my memory was correct, that this book is freaking amazing and as completely awesome as I remembered it being. The only thing missing, sadly, was the wonder of reading it for the first time. Otherwise, it's sublime! It's not for everyone--if you don't have a taste for the bizarre, if you're not willing to step outside the bounds of reality and embrace a

fantastically skewed version of our world, then you're probably better off just not picking it up. While I respect your choices and your personal tastes, I still can't help feeling a little sorry for you. You will never experience the magic that is this book, and that's just sad to me!

### Original review (2016)

This book is decidedly odd. After reading it, I wondered if it was just me. Maybe my reading choices have been so traditional and hide-bound that even the slightest deviation from the norm fascinates and perplexes me. I could imagine a great deal of collective eye-rolling and slightly pitying amusement by some GR readers, shaking their heads at my naivety in thinking this was strange. After reading other reviews, however, I discovered that I was not alone. This book IS odd. Some readers, however, felt distaste for its weirdness; I loved it!

You start the story in total confusion and stay that way for most of the book. Information is released in tiny increments. Bizarre characters enter and fantastic events unfold; you scratch your head and keep reading. It does become clear, from the beginning, that there are realms of reality co-existing in this book. One is our normal one, going about its day-to-day business. That average world, with which we are so familiar, is completely oblivious of that second plane of existence, which is operating busily right under its radar. The inhabitants and events in this secret universe are largely unseen, and when they do collide with humanity, humanity suffers the worse of the encounter.

The above is not a spoiler--you get this pretty quickly from our introduction to our main character, Carolyn, at the beginning. I won't say any more because I don't want to give anything away. I just think that this whole book, and the interactions between these two worlds, must have been an extremely delicate balancing act--one which Hawkins handled adroitly. It could so very easily have gone wrong; so easily have tipped over into absurdity, but it didn't. I believed in this universe he created; I bought into the existence of these characters and events, and felt the integrity of the resolution. He even managed to infuse quite a bit of humor into these strange happenings.

I look forward to future books from this author, and hope he continues in this genre--he's well-suited for it!

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### Darth J says

12 children are abducted by a powerful man and are tasked with learning his collected knowledge of the earth's secrets.

"I don't get it."

"I'm not sure I do either, honestly. I mean, I know *what* he did to us, but I really don't have any idea *why*."

p. 239

At times reminding me of bits of American Gods and The Magicians, The Library at Mount Char is both interesting and pretty messed up. There are scenes with tons of dogs being brutally murdered and people being burned to death in a grill shaped like a bull. Not to mention that the kids grow up to pretty much be sociopaths, with the rape and murder and such.

This book also climaxes too fast, with the last third of the novel being falling action from the big confrontation. Don't get me wrong, we need that falling action because that's when the most interesting parts of the library are shown, but very little actually happens during that last 120 pages or so. I don't know how to rate this book. There are parts that were very entertaining, but there were others that were basically info dumps that had no importance to the story later on, and other things like the people with the reality virus who were growing tentacles for fingers were never expanded upon.

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## **Heidi The Hippie Reader says**

*The Library at Mount Char* is an urban fantasy/horror novel about Carolyn and her adopted "family" who are studying the seemingly endless knowledge of an immortal being that they call "Father." The lessons that they learn are terrifying but powerful.

After years of fear and torture at the hands of the Father and some of her siblings, Carolyn wants to break free from her living nightmare. She knows that she can't trust anyone, but she also doesn't know all of her Father's secrets.

How exactly does one escape from a god?

I think *The Library at Mount Char* is fantastic.

The characters are more than human and divinely flawed, all of them.

The plot proceeds at a breakneck pace, going from thrilling to apocalyptic so quickly that I couldn't put this book down.

Yes, I lost some sleep reading *The Library at Mount Char*. If you pick this up, I bet that you will too.

The distinctive mix of godlike powers and very human, emotional, knee jerk reactions contained in this story reminded me of some of the darker Greek and Roman mythological story elements like: the serial rapists (Zeus and about every other major god figure) and the unjust punishments of the innocents (Medusa, Actaeon, Laocoön, etc).

Those mythologies were written to explain the unexplainable workings of nature, weather, time, and humanity itself.

I think, if one makes *The Library at Mount Char* into a metaphor for reality, it fills the same role, in a modern way, as those more ancient stories.

It gives a rhyme and reason to the mystery that is life. Pretty deep for a debut fantasy novel.

Some of the twists I saw coming, but some of the big ones, I didn't.

It kind of reminded me of an M. Night Shyamalan film, except instead of one gasp-worthy moment, there were maybe six of them.

After each one, I'd put the book down for a second and start to rethink the story from the new vantage point that the author had just provided.

It's really an amazing work for a first novel.

Highly recommended for fantasy and horror fans. More sensitive or squeamish readers should keep walking.

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### **karen says**

i don't read a lot of fantasy.

i read slipstream, magical realism, and horror, but fantasy typically just confuses me.

i think my obstacle is that with MR and slipstream, things are only just *slightly* tweaked, and what i relish is that unsettling feeling - that the possibility for fantastical occurrences is present, but there's still something concrete and recognizable to ground me.

my imagination is typically not strong enough for pure fantasy.

but that cover?? and a library??

i was intrigued and ready to give it a shot.

and at first, i was not digging it. at all. for at *least* the first fifty pages i was all: holy shit what is happening is this part two of something what is going on?"

this book does not gentle you into its world. there are definitely elements that are "our-world;" character names like "michael," "carolyn," "david," there is mention of a post office, and horses and club soda, but there are also things like *Pelapi* and people coming back from the dead, a man wearing a helmet of blood and a tutu and another communicating with animals.

initially it is unclear when this takes place, if this is our world or just a *version* of our world, if there has been some sort of global event that forced people to live ...differently and have different associations and only vague memories of *something called Reese's Peanut Butter Cups*.

but all will be revealed if you are a patient reader.

and it's pretty great.

in fact, i already want to read it again to see how those earlier scenes read now that i know all that i know.

because the book takes some unexpected turns. so many, in fact, that i'm not really sure how to review it without treading into spoiler territory.

at its most basic level it's a dark fantasy version of a bildungsroman in which orphaned children are schooled in esoteric and powerful arts by a man known as "father," whose lessons are dangerous and frequently cruel. they grow up in the flexible time of his library and are raised according to the ancient rituals of the pelapi, which distances them from the americans they once were. they never break into song like the charming orphans in *annie*,

their particular lessons are harder, and turn them into harder people, prone to infighting, violence, and fear.

at the start of the book, father has gone missing, and without him in place the world, including our world, is in danger of his equally-powerful enemies making a power play. which would be very very bad.

unusual alliances are formed, there is a great deal of violence (for those of you with triggers - many animals are harmed. people, too - scores of them - but i know a lot of readers are more sensitive to animal deaths, so be warned), and the story is not at all concerned with who the reader may have become attached to - this is a harsh realm.

it's a vengeance plot with a long fuse that demonstrates that power doesn't just corrupt, it also dehumanizes.

i really enjoyed it, and i would be really interested to see what those of you with a deeper background in fantasy think of it.

but i do know that never has a tutu been more terrifying than it is here.

or has slapping a lion been funnier.

come to my blog!

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### **Dan Schwent says**

When Father goes missing, the Librarians he trained try to solve his murder while his legacy hangs in the balance. But what happened to him and who is responsible? More importantly, what will happen to His Library?

#### **I got this from Netgalley.**

I'm not completely sure how I felt about this book. Hell, for most of the book, I wasn't sure who was supposed to be the main character. However, I did enjoy it. Here's how it all went down.

Father, aka Adam Black, aka various other aliases, scooped up twelve orphans and spent three decades training them to be Librarians, the wielders of the knowledge he accumulated in his sixty-thousand year dominion over Earth. When he goes missing and the Librarians are barred from the Library, things go to hell quite quickly.

Each of the twelve orphans has a catalog. Carolyn, whose catalog is languages, is the main character, although supporting characters Erwin and Steve get a lot of screen time. As the story unfolds, the backstory of the Librarians is revealed.

The writing was pretty good and there was a surprising amount of humor. I thought the scheme the mastermind pulled off was very well done.

As I write this review, it occurs to me that this is one of those books that I like the ideas way more than the execution. The magic system reminds me of The Magicians a bit and I love the idea of a nigh-immortal wizard training twelve orphans. However, I didn't really care about any of the characters other than Steve and

the lions. I thought the story meandered all over the place and could have been more focused. It's also one of the few books where I wanted a lot more worldbuilding.

All things considered, the Library at Mount Char was a pretty engaging read. I guess my only problem was that it wasn't the book I was expecting. Three out of five stars.

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### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

Okay, I have to admit, in the beginning of the book to almost half way I wanted to stop reading and run away. I didn't like it or know what was going on half the time!

My brain is not qualified for this book!

Then I started to really like it when the kids were in Mrs. McGillicutty's house with Steve, it got comical and I started understanding an eenie meenie bit more! :-)

I loved Steve's character. I thought he was a pretty good ole dude. I kinda like Carolyn and I loved Michael and a few others. I couldn't stand David. Either way, this book is so bizarre and it goes back and forth from one thing to another just enough to almost collapse my brain!

Anyone can read from the blurb that these kids were adopted when their parents were killed by some bomb. They were adopted by the FATHER, he is a god, or God or something. He brought the kids to live in the library and they all had sections they were assigned to and they had to learn that all the time. Then FATHER goes missing, or is he missing? I can't even give a review it's so strange to try to do without some major spoilers.

These kids are very strange and they seem to die and come back to life a lot. The only part with David in it that I did like was when he did something to the President. Teehee, but I digress....

I loved the lions in the book as well. They were cool!

All I can truly say is if your not liking the book at first give it a bit and then see. The whole half end of the book was awesome, the beginning for me, not so much.

I'm going to leave it with some of the funny EXCERPTS from the book:

*"Hello Steve," Carolyn said, her voice not quite a whisper.*  
*"Hi!" he said, a little too brightly*  
*"That's Mrs. McGillicutty. She speaks English."*  
*"Yes. Yes, she certainly does."*  
*Carolyn jerked her thumb at the couple behind her. "These are Peter and Alicia. They don't speak English. Not much anyway."*  
*"What about the big guy out in the living room?"*  
*"That's David. His English is pretty bad as well."*  
*"And the other one? The one who keeps playing with the lighter?"*  
*"That's Margaret."*  
*"No English?"*  
*"Hardly anything. She almost never talks."*  
*"Can I ask you something?"*  
*"Sure."*  
*"Can you think of any reason I shouldn't grab one of those kitchen knives and stab you in the fucking neck?"*  
*Carolyn pursed her lips, considering. "You might get blood on the cinnamon rolls."*

.....

*Steve wanted to focus on the press conference, but he was having trouble. The big guy and the smelly woman were having some truly epic sex back there. It started with squeaking bedsprings, but those were eventually drowned out by bear noises and something not unlike yodeling. The smell of sex and rotting meat wafted throughout the house. Mrs. McGillicutty's bed evidently wasn't rated for stunt fucking, though. Right before the big finish it collapsed with a splintery, wrenching sound. Steve, not unimpressed, noted that the happy couple didn't so much as skip a beat.*

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*\*\*I would like to thank Blogging for Books for a print copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.\*\**

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### **mark monday says**

super fucking fun adventures with some super fucking powered librarians. it all gets very fucking dark; after all, it features the end of the fucking world. (kinda.) what's not to fucking like?

but why all the fucks, mark? this is an all-ages site! come on, man. restrain yourself. for teh children.

okay! this devious, bizarre, pitch-black, evilly sardonic, take-no-prisoners adventure novel is written by Scott Hawkins. it is his first piece of published fiction but it reads like he's been publishing novels for years. I could not pull myself away from this book and I read my eyes out til the crack of dawn. crack cocaine for people like me who have no interest in crack cocaine but still want that exciting high. unlike many, my version of crack includes a novel whose first three-quarters are dense with action but whose last quarter is basically a series of melancholy and contemplative conversations between three characters about change, death, ptsd, empathy, and the natural and unnatural cycles of life. plus lots and lots of GOD. gimme!

so here's a fucking story that I've probably already used in another fucking review:

as a lad, I grew up in a household that was just not into the traditional concept of God, or into God at all. my dad was sort of an atheist and my mom was sort of an existentialist (which amounted to basically the same thing, to me at least). like most kids, I rebelled against my parents' rule. I did this by finding God. haha, that really came out of left field for my parents! this included accepting Christ as my personal savior, going to bible study, and a few summers spent at a religious camp. at the end of one such summer, the pastor had a practice of gathering us all together to answer any questions we might have. I had a classic one: *"If God truly loves us, why does He allow bad things to happen to us?"*

his reply was equally classic: *"Imagine a quilt. If you turn it over, all you can see are a mess of colors that make no sense and go nowhere. But the top side is God's side. And there you can see a beautiful pattern. That's God's plan. We don't see its beauty, but it is there, guiding us."*

I loved that answer! It made perfect sense to me. I came home excited to challenge my heretical dad and his outlandish lack of faith. I told him my big question and then I smugly recounted the pastor's golden answer.

an approximation of my infernal father's reply: *"Well, genius, if God is so good, then why does he only show the shit side to us? Why doesn't he show us that other side and why does he hoard it all to himself? What kind of fucking God does that?"*

So I think it's safe to say that Hawkins shares my dad's perspective on God.

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### **Edward Lorn says**

*The Library at Mount Char* is one of the more original books I've read. It's been compared to the works of Joe Hill and Neil Gaiman. Content wise, I would agree. With that being said, it's nowhere near as well written as Hill's books, and vastly better written than Gaiman. Love Gaiman, don't get me wrong, but he'll be the first to tell you that he takes minimalism to a whole new level. And Hill? Well, Hill is just the man. If you don't fan-swoon over either of the aforementioned scribes, you'll likely hate this book like a trip to the dentist. If you don't like weird shit in general, you're apt to drain your UTI onto its pages and keep right on steppin' without a fuck shown or given.

Scott Hawkins has some fantastic ideas showcased herein. Dude has an imagination on par with Gerald Brom (*The Child Thief, Krampus*). Maybe a little Lovecraft thrown in because reasons. I don't read Lovecraft but I am familiar with his mythos and there was quite a bit of that on display here. There's even a mention of The Deep Ones (Lovecraft was... what? The Old Ones?). So, if you like Lovecraft you will probably like this far-out book. (Please don't try and convince me that Lovecraft is fantabulous and I should consume his literature ASAP. I don't like the guy or his writing, and that's all I need say on the subject.)

One major complaint I had was the lack of character development. There is some tacked onto the ass end of the novel, but it felt like an afterthought. It's as if Hawkins said, "Oh, well, we've come this far with these characters, I guess it's about time to learn something meaningful about them." What we learn is good. The problem lies in the timing. At the point the character dev drops, it really doesn't matter if you love or loathe the characters. The meat of the book is gone and all that's left is the juice. This last-minute character dev seemed to be the optional slice of bread with which to sop up said juice. It's filling. It'll hit the spot. But it's not the same thing as *more* steak.

Which brings me to the meat. Hot-fucking-damn is this book gory. If they ever manage to put to film the

contents of this story we're talking a very hard R-rating. Guts on the ceiling, testicles removed, and a metric-fuck-tonne of blood are only a few things you'll come across. The horror fiend in me was giddier than a redneck at a Larry the Cable Guy show. You will also run into nuclear explosions and time travel. I'm telling you, sports fans, this book is fucking out there.

In summation: I know I haven't told you shit about the plot, and I'm not going to. If you want a rundown, read the goddamn synopsis. I'm here to tell you what I liked or didn't like about the book. Will you like and dislike the same things? Fuck if I know. Should you spend your hard-earned coin to buy this book? I don't know. Can you afford it? Is your rent paid? Are your kids fed? Have you completed all your adult responsibilities for the month? Can you read it and return it within the seven-day grace period? Book buying like every other life choice is your decision to make as a discerning adult. I can hold your hand through the process but I can't make you like the book. All I know, padawan, is that the force was strong with this one, and I have no idea why I just went all Star Wars on your ass. Until next time, this is Harry Potter coming at you from Narnia with some timey-wimey supernatural bullshit. Holla!

**Final Judgment: If I were an adult with an income, I would buy this book.**

*(Special note for my book fairy: Thanks for the swag, yo. You rock.)*

*(Ridiculous note to Dan 2.0: This book is fucking ridiculous. Do not read this ridiculous book. Ridiculous shit happens with ridiculous consequences at an alarmingly ridiculous rate in this ridiculously fictional book. Did I mention it's a bit ridiculous? Because it is. Ridiculous that is. \*ridiculously waves at Dan 2.0 and smiles ridiculously\*)*

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