



The Forbidden Zone

Whitley Strieber

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Whitley Strieber has long been renowned as one of America's most spellbinding storytellers, a writer whose novels have consistently broken new ground in the exploration of the dark unknown. With The Forbidden Zone, he continues his journey beyond the cutting edge of terrifying suspense into the sphere of a relentless psychological thriller only he could have written. Every small town has a special place like the mound. Lovers go there to woo, families picnic in summer, children sled in winter. For the community of Oscola, New York, the mound has never been dangerous...until now. Now something beyond cunning or imagining, something that appears undeniably evil is hiding beneath the mound. The terror comes from out of time, space, and the depths of the human mind with its alien needs and desires. It spreads its roots in secret...changing, transforming, reshaping reality. It seeks to sweep aside all that the good townfolk love and cherish: their past, their hopes, the promise of their souls. It fills the innocent earth with its presence - it screams with power. How can ordinary people protect themselves from this evil? How can they fight its weapon of soulbreaking potency - a sweetly seductive yet unspeakably savage pleasure too intense to resist? Brian Kelly, a courageous physicist still grieving over the hideous death of his first wife and child, suspects that the shell of reality must have been torn to let in this monstrosity. He must discover a way to repair the rift. His very pregnant second wife, Loi, a beautiful and brilliant refugee from the pain of Vietnam, has battled demons before. She's ready to dare anything to save her unborn son. The tough yet dangerously vulnerable EllenMaas, a big-city reporter trying to revive the local paper, must finally commit to destroying the beast - or perish herself. Bob West, a cop who saw every kind of madness and violence during the war, will return to the law of the jungle - or worse - if it will save his family. They

The Forbidden Zone Details

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Joey says

Scary. The first half of the book better than the latter. It got a little long-winded in the second half, as the two main characters kept getting into the same situation repeatedly time after time to make it somewhat tiresome. But if Lovecraftian type far out horror is your cup of tea then this is for you.

Pickleman says

I've read quite a few Strieber books in my day and have become a big fan. Warday, Wolfen, Nature's End, The Grays, for example, are all classics, and all pretty well written. This one however, seems really like a general lack of effort on the authors part. It reads like a first year college literature student's final exam paper or something. No continuity or flow in the sentence structure. Assumptions that the reader can fill in the blanks of a storyline that even at the end leaves you wondering what the heck you just read about abound. Maybe he couldn't afford an editor at this time in his career and had his teenage neighbor edit the thing. Anyway, unless you are a super fan, don't bother. Just remember, like I do, the good things he's done.

William M. says

Even if you don't like Whitley Strieber for his claims regarding alien abduction, one cannot deny that he is an incredible writer. From the opening sentence, he pulled me right in. The Forbidden Zone is one of those rare books where you truly feel that the evil is so overwhelming, there is no possible hope for the protagonist to survive. I love having that feeling.

And while some of Mr. Strieber's descriptions are confusing at times, he manages to stay on course through this highly original landscape of terror. This book came highly recommended to me and I am thrilled to say it was even better than the hype. I'll definitely be checking out his other fiction after reading this one.

Emmy Jackson says

I will admit that I am reading this in spite of the fact that Streiber has been hit or miss with me, and in spite of the REALLY TERRIBLE COVER COPY. Seriously, tell me what the story's about, not how awesome the author is. That doesn't bode well.

But I'm reading the damn thing anyway, so there's that.

Michael Vischi says

I read this novel back when I was in high school. It was the first novel of my life that had me literally sitting

on the edge of my seat, staying up late, having crazy dreams, talking about it & theorizing about it... with my mother, lol. An amazing read that I would highly recommend to anyone, especially those of us who enjoy a good psychological thriller. The Forbidden Zone will get in your head, and stay there for some time. Well done Mr. Strieber... well done!

Gavgav says

This is my first review, mainly due to the fact that I am bored and just finished this book today.

The plot was reminiscent of a made-for-tv movie on the sci-fi channel, but if there is a movie adaptation of this, I am thankful I have not seen it, even though it maybe would have provided some semblance of imagery on my part. As it stands, his descriptions were more grotesque than scary, and throughout every suspenseful moment of the book, I felt the imagery used was tired and cliche. I literally skimmed the paragraphs about (view spoiler). If he had used some of that ink to actually make the plot make **any** sense by the end of the book, the storyline might have actually been worthy of contemplation.

In the end, if you're the type of person who will watch an occasional B-rated science fiction flick on TV out of boredom, this may give you an afternoon or two of entertainment, but has little in the way of anything groundbreaking, or even thought-provoking. just a Chthulu remix.

Jay Rothermel says

An ambitious and poorly focused novel. Clearly an attempt to regain lost ground.

Mary says

Every town has a place like the mound - a place where lovers go to meet, picnic and sleigh ride. But for Oscala, New York, the mound has become a place of terror. I found that this story started out very scary, but then turned very much science fiction. I don't really like science fiction too much. I give it a B+!

Jeremy Vaeni says

I'm going to read this one again. I read it when it first came out and I remember the beginning terrifying me, but by the end I had no idea what went on. But then, I was young and a fool. I'll bet it's coherent and I just didn't get it, so it'll be like discovering a brilliant Strieber gem!

Michelle Hanson says

Really good.. though I didnt like the ending.. left some things unknown..

This book is definitely for adults.. with sexual situations..

Nikki says

Certain parts of this novel are utterly captivating and deserve a rating of 5. I enjoyed the nod toward Lovecraft. The descriptions are very unnerving and well-done. Certain parts, however, are glossed over and in need of deeper explanation. Also, though I enjoyed all of the action (the pass of the book was incredibly fast nearing the center of the book), at times it left the reader behind and slightly confused.

I did find some of the dialogue to be a little unbelievable. The end was just a little too "neat" for me, especially in contrast to the horrors seen within the book itself.

Rebecca McNutt says

This book is much better than it looks, daring to dive into the horror of the unknown, taking a popular place and filling it with an obscure terror. Definitely a book worth reading.

Betty says

It was like driving down a really bumpy road trying not to spill your drink!

Cyberpope says

A slightly lateral move from Strieber's usual obsessive fascination with UFOs. The forbidden zone is a horrific breakthrough of something terribly alien yet with a very non-comforting familiarity.

The overall plot is good, pulling you along from one dramatic confrontation to the next.

The violent horror is described in a way reminiscent of my ten year old self's first attempt at a novel. It would convey better in cinema than literary form. Ranks in the lower third of Strieber's novels

Melissa says

In the beginning I was just like oh this book isn't that bad and it's not but when it got into the purple light stuff that's when I was like whoa what!? It was defiantly odd and maybe a bit weird, all the monster stuff was totally fine the pleasurable purple light is just weird. I have a love/hate Loi. I don't know I think Loi and Brian are an odd couple. I would have liked of Ellen and Brian got together I'd get that cause they can relate

to each other. Just some of the stuff that Loi says when she complains about how he hasn't rebuilt the house. Honestly I'd slap her, doesn't she not understand how painful that'd be for him when he's not ready. Hell his wife and child died in the fire that took the house! At the end when everything was turning into sludge and pretty much the town was destroyed, I was just like man have fun cleaning that up! And did the Wests make it out, they never said if they did, unless I somehow missed that.
