



Absorbed

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When Violet finds a beautiful but mysterious gift on her front doorstep, her sometimes missing and always abusive boyfriend Mick is not pleased. How will this gift change both of their lives forever?

Absorbed is a 16 page short story you do NOT want to read to the kids.

Absorbed Details

Date : Published October 5th 2011 by Blackbird (first published October 4th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Penelope Crowe

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Genre : Horror, Short Stories, Thriller, Mystery, Drama



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From Reader Review Absorbed for online ebook

Yianna Yiannacou says

This free short story definitely was not what I expected. I didn't know what I was reading until after I finished. All I knew was that this was a free since the title didn't give anything away.

It begins when Violet is at home and she receives a package. She doesn't have many friends so she wonders where she got it from. She has made a name for herself. She is very successful. She has her own car and home in which she lives alone. She has a very abusive boyfriend named Mick, which she seems to always end up with when he decides to return to her. They would get into arguments and he would leave for weeks. When he returns it would be like nothing even happened. Violet knew that the beautiful box on her doorstep was not from him. When she opens it, weird things start to happen. In the box is a necklace that apparently changes her. But it mostly helps her gain confidence.

There was nothing super special about this short story but I would recommend to anyone looking for an eerie short story about the revenge of the girlfriends. Haha

Heather Adkins says

"Absorbed" is a Poe-esque tale that will get under your skin... Short in length, but not in content, this tale will make your skin crawl, as well as have you rooting for a character you're not so sure you should support. Crowe has crafted another fantastic piece of psychological thrill.

Marcia Carrington says

ABSORBED is a short-story thriller about Violet, a woman pushed to the edge by a violent, psychotic boyfriend, and how an elaborate gift she finds on her doorstep one day triggers events in both her life, and that of her boyfriend's, which changes their lives irrevocably.

ABSORBED is a vivid, suspenseful adult story of a toxic personality who manages to maintain an air of sympathy for the reader throughout the course of the story. A story with punch, it is graphic without lingering too much on details, and leaves the reader highly unsettled, but at the same time compelled, until its conclusion.

Chamera says

Wow. Amazing short story. I rarely give a short story this well a rating but Crowe's story was titillating and slightly chilling. Absorbed told the story of a woman who constantly found herself in abusive relationships, and the chilling change in her personality after mysteriously receiving an old but gorgeous necklace. The

amount of thought put into this story and it's plot is phenomenal, especially considering the page length.

I'd recommend this to both teens and adults. The slight chill you are left with after reading this story is well worth it, and this is coming from someone who isn't a fan of horror, however mild it may be.

Brilliant.

Kristy Carey says

I'm not a fan of dark stories. Its just me, I like a 'Happily Ever After' at the end of my stories. But this one intrigued me.

The subtle twists from what seems to be such a wonderful thing, into something much darker and more sinister helps to draw you into the piece and really makes you wonder just who you're supposed to be rooting for.

I enjoyed the link back to something historical, and the gift makes me think of an 'Artifact' from the show Warehouse 13. Looking back, I could almost expect to have seen Pete and Myka show up to retrieve it.

The ending throws you for a loop in some ways, and really does leave you unsure of whether or not you should be happy for the outcome... And at the same time, not sure you'd have wanted it to go any other way.

Christina says

I have one simple and uneloquent word for this novella - "Wow."

I read this yesterday on the train ride home and was instantly engaged from the first paragraph. The novella starts off simple enough. Violet, a successful New York City woman in her own right, receives quite a regal-looking package on her front door. She's intrigued and starts going through her mental checklist of who it might be from. Her girlfriends? Nah, they're strapped for cash. Her boyfriend? Nah, he's an abusive SOB. Ultimately, she opens up the box and voila! Her world changes as she finds and puts a beautiful ruby necklace around her neck. She was successful before, but there is hell on earth to pay for any poor schmuck who dares to cross her.

It took me about twenty minutes to breeze through this novella and once done, I thought about those stuck in abusive relationships and thought about how they could also use a ruby necklace gift.

Marla says

I've read this three times now. The second, because I forgot I read it. The third - today, on my lunch break - because I saw it had so many 5 star reviews. I figured I missed something, so I would give it a second (third?) shot.

What an awful idea. This is just terrible. I finished it three minutes ago and can't remember any details about

the main character. I know it's a short story, but there has to be some way to make your characters memorable.

I'm not sure why this is marked as a horror. Nothing particularly scary happens, and I'm as jumpy as they come (I literally left the theater crying due to the trailer for *The Unborn*).

The book unsurprisingly ends with main girl on an apparent mission to exact revenge on her many abusive ex boyfriends, with the "ominous" message that her newest boyfriend "won't be around for long."

I would have appreciated more history on the necklace, why it turns its wearers into gigantic bitches, and more on the mechanisms of how it becomes embedded into the wearer's skin. Because at first her skin grew over it, and then black filaments were attaching it to her body. Weird.

Anyway, the good news is that this book is VERY short. I think a longer story may have been more successful.

??™ says

Change always comes bearing gifts. - Price Pritchett

Violet finds an exquisitely wrapped present left on her doorstep. the giver's identity remains a mystery. unwrapping the gift brings changes to Violet's life and to her relationship with her boyfriend Mike. author Penelope Crowe's dark short story is a mesmerizing journey into a woman's psyche as she undergoes an eerie transformation.

Violet's tale is as hypnotic as it is chilling. at first, i looked at the mysterious gift as something symbolic or a metaphor if you will of Violet's metamorphosis. however, it turned out to be much more than that. my heartbeat kept pace with the events as they progressed. i became unsettled and wary that something tremendous and unexpected was going to take place especially towards the end. when i read the last two lines, i felt goosebumps erupting all over my arms and neck as some of my suspicions were confirmed. pardon the pun but this is undoubtedly an excellent and absorbing piece. once you read the story, you would know what i mean and if you have read it already, i think you would agree.

Susan says

Author PENELOPE CROWE is at her best with *ABSORBED*, in this bizarre short story regarding jewelry, boyfriend issues, and something that lurks in the dark.

Who would have guessed?

I've read CROWE'S other works, such as *100 UNFORTUNATE DAYS*, and this author never fails to entertain. I'm also a fan of her blog, *As The Crowe Fiies*.

I read this fabulous short story, *ABSORBED*, in about twenty minutes, and actually had to sit on my porch and give the story a good thought, since the ending was so unexpected! But that's what readers expect,

correct?

Definitely worth the read, I promise, friends!

Milena says

This was a very easy and quick to read short story. Some of the elements were quite creepy, which I think was the author's point. Reading about Violet's transformation was a bit of fun, though the portrayal of her abusive relationship had me cringing (like they're supposed to make you feel - but I was very bothered by how her boyfriend kept using the word "retard" and its variations). As the story progresses along, we see that Violet's mysterious gift is a necklace that completely transforms her personality: not only does it make her more confident, it also causes Violet to develop an urge for revenge, driving her to kill her abusive boyfriend and even other men once she gets bored of them. I think some aspects could've been more developed if the story had gone on a bit longer, but overall it was okay.

Lily at Bookluvrs Haven says

A freebie that I picked up on Amazon.com, this was a short story with a 'Twilight Zone' kind of feel.

A mysterious, and exquisitely wrapped package appears on Violet's doorstep. Inside is a gorgeous and unusual necklace. No clue as to who the sender is. The note that came with it was cryptic and of no known meaning to Violet.

But the moment Violet puts the necklace on, something in her changes. Where she was one meek and (I'm sorry to say) somewhat pathetic when it came to her abusive boyfriend Mick, now she is a pretty scary b*tch! Much to Mick's confusion, she deals with his abusive mouth in a pretty ironic way.

Enjoyed the writing style, and Victoria's character really came to life for me even though this was a pretty short little tale. Though I wish there was more page time invested into the mystery of the necklace itself, it was a pretty interesting, if dark, short story.

Jenna Scribbles says

Short stories can be difficult to write. The author needs to provide the reader with enough info to get them interested and, in the end, make an impact. Tough.

Absorbed is roughly 188 Kindle locations once you subtract the intro and ending bits. I downloaded this one when it was offered as a freebie.

The main character is solid and the creepy necklace concept is such fun. My only complaint is I wish I had a little more build up regarding the men. More subtle abuse - less in your face. It would have made me want them to die. The addition of five to ten more pages could have built the tension more and made the final impact greater.

But - I would definitely read more by this author. She has a creative writing voice and I'd gladly hear more of it.

Lanise says

I don't usually read horror stories; however, I made an exception when I found Penelope Crowe's *Absorbed* for free on Amazon. This sixteen page short horror story is dark, grisly, and its plot gives me goosebumps. *Absorbed* details the transformation of a somewhat timid woman named Violet as she becomes twisted by an unexpected gift.

Violet's gift is a necklace that begins to absorb her life completely. The necklace grafts into her neck, and changes her from being the queen of graphic design to slowly likening herself to the Queen Anne Boleyn.

Unfortunately, Violet takes both verbal and physical abuse from her boyfriend Mick. And as the necklace embeds itself deeper and deeper into her skin, she decides to put an end to Mick's abuse. It's basically off with his head. Yet she doesn't stop there. Another abusive boyfriend follows and Violet has bloody plans for him as well.

Absorbed is definitely entertaining. Its morbid ending left me a little happy that the main character stood up for herself but also disturbed by the woman she'd become. For the length of the story, its transformation of the main character, and the lingering feeling that this tale has a message reaching far deeper, I highly recommend *Absorbed* as a good read.

Sandra says

Absorbed was a great short story. Complex, thrilling and compelling, I read it in 30 minutes or less, it was really, really short, I wish it had more pages because I enjoyed it very much.

Violet is like a lot of women in the world: They stand abusive pricks just because they think they're so in love and doesn't realize that they don't deserve this treatment.

Penelope Crowe did a great job writing Violet's issues with her abusive boyfriend, Mick. I hated him so much, its unreal. I loved how she managed to write a real story and add a spark of fantasy and mystery to it, because that ending was IN-CRE-DI-BLE.

Sandy Wolters says

Book: *Absorbed*

Author: Penelope Crowe

Genre: Psychological Suspense, Psychological Horror, Thriller

Length: 16 Pages

Currently Available: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Smashwords (all e-reader formats)

Great read for horror fans!

Violet gets a mysterious gift in a beautiful box left on her doorstep. Her on again, off again boyfriend, Mick, is not happy about this. Then again, I couldn't see that anything would really make Mick happy unless it was berating and abusing the one person that loved him, Violet.

This gift, though really creepy, possess a magic so strong that it gives Violet the means to deal with the very objectionable Mick. This is a really fun horror read, great for all us that enjoy a little vengeance.
