



Ketchup on Everything

Nathan Robinson

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For the past twenty years, Elliott Tather has been living a life of mourning that almost destroyed him. After losing everything he held dear and bound by a consuming sorrow, Tather travels the country attempting to fix a wrong that haunts his every waking and dreaming moment. But one evening after pulling into a roadside diner to settle down with a simple cup of coffee, the door opens and everything changes. The nothing he had, and the regret that filled it will never be the same again. Whatever you do, make sure you order Ketchup on Everything. From the author of 'Starers', 'Midway' and the short story collection 'Devil Let Me Go' comes a troubling, heart wrenching tale of despair, loss and what might come afterwards.

Ketchup on Everything Details

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Author : Nathan Robinson

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From Reader Review Ketchup on Everything for online ebook

Bandit says

My third read by the author, who's definitely becoming one of my favorite indie horror discoveries. This is a novella about a parent's worst nightmare inspired in fact by a parent's nightmare. There is a heart wrenching realism to the characters here that surpasses stereotypical genre selections and, supernatural aspect aside, this is just good, really good writing. A sort of story you can't put down and, due to its reasonable length, don't have to. Put me in mind of Let The Right One In, which is a high compliment. The tagline for this one if made cinematic...Ketchup, the most dangerous condiment. Excellent read. Highly recommended.

Sarah Marie says

Ketchup on Everything by Nathan Robinson

4 stars

Elliot Tather is a broken man. His life is in shambles. His marriage is broken and his wife doesn't even speak anymore. Tather travels the country in search of the thing that broke his family. He stops at a diner and doesn't even think it will change his life. But something walks through the doors of the diner and it's not human and it's from Tather's past. AHHH! I don't read a lot of horror. It's good to read a book meant to be horrifying every now and then. I really enjoy Robinson's writing. His debut novel, Starers, really impressed and he's proven himself to be imaginative as well as a strong writer. I was very happy that he contacted me about reading his novella because I enjoy his work. I breezed through Ketchup on Everything. One second at I was at the 15% mark and then I looked down and I was at 75% and I thought I might as well finish it. I love books like this. Ketchup on Everything provides real life horrors as well as horrifying creepy horrors. I honestly didn't know what to expect going into this novel. I knew it would be scary, but I didn't think about the plot overall. I was quite shocked by some elements in the story. This novel is broken into three parts. The first part is when Tather gets to the diner and then the door opens changing his life. The second part is a look on the thing that broke Tather and his family. The last part... well I just won't talk about that.

Whimsical Writing Scale: 4

The main male character is Tather. Tather is a man in his forties and he's become a vagabond of sorts. I liked Tather especially learning his past and story. I didn't like him towards the end as much, but he was still likable for me.

~~Swoon Worthy Scale~~Cool Old Guy Scale- 3.75

The Villain- It was a shocking turn of events that I really enjoyed. Thumbs up for this odd turn of events!

Villain Scale: 4

I can't talk about the rest of the characters because it will give the story away. Guess you'll just have to read this one for yourself.

Character Scale: 3.75

I'm really impressed with Ketchup on Everything. It wasn't what I expected it to be. In this case, that's a good thing! I highly recommend this for fans of horror, paranormal, or readers looking for a quick, but satisfying read.

Plotastic Scale: 3.75

Cover Thoughts: The cover is simple... I'm not really sure about it, but it does look like ketchup.;)

Thank you, Mr. Robinson for contacting me to review your book in exchange for an honest review.

Bill says

Just what I needed. A short and absorbing read.

The characters were very well done, and the pacing of the story was excellent. Once the mystery was over, the fun kind of tapered off (that's just me. I love the unknown in a story; when it's found out, anything after that is usually anti-climatic). But, it wasn't for long, as this is a novella.

I'll probably read more of him someday. His writing reminded me a lot of Greg F Gifune, which is a very good thing.

Ginger Nuts says

Some books despite their genre of choice have a power to affect the reader in a profound and deeply moving manner. These are the sort of books you pick up, with expectations of a straightforward narrative where the good guy faces the bad guy and the good guy wins through and saves the day.

This is Elliot's story of loss. Twenty years ago his son disappeared from their back garden, an event which unsurprisingly changed his life forever. For twenty years he has lived his life as a tortured ghost, barely living he has haunted the areas around their town hunting for clues that could reveal what happened to his son. Barely tethered to our plane of existence he is a true hollow man.

Set twenty years after his son vanished, Elliot has now become a drifter in a motorhome scouring the country

with posters of what his son might look like now. He has lost everything except the hope of finding his son. A chance encounter in a roadside diner suddenly changes everything for Elliot. Is this the night where his quest finally comes to an end, will it lead to redemption or something much, much worse?

On the surface this book sounds like a typical thriller, the sort of book where you expect a tight action packed narrative where the hero wins through in the end. You certainly don't expect to be put through an emotional wringer. You certainly don't expect to be so touched by the protagonist's plight that you have to put the book down while reading it on the bus for fear of having the other passengers seeing a big grown man with tears in his eyes.

This is a powerful story, after setting the scene in the diner, Nathan Robinson takes us back twenty years to the point where Elliott's son disappeared. He then takes us on a deeply emotional journey of loss, despair and the breakdown of marriage. The writing here is first class, with a real power to move the reader, that comes not from gushy overly sentimental manipulative prose. Rather the emotional core comes from a skillful use of an almost matter of fact style prose, that strips the story right down to the exposed nerves. A great example of this is when Elliot encounters one of his son's school friends at an assembly at the school. Robinson's description of this meeting, and especially the final act of the girl will have you straining to keep the tears back.

After the reader follows Elliot's through his bleak and barren journey to the roadside diner, the narrative style shifts into one of filled with knife edged tension. With the horror of losing a child being replaced with the horror of facing an enemy that you once thought to be the stuff of pure fantasy.

There is always a danger that integrating this sort ending onto a completely tonally different first act feels forced and out of place. Robinson cleverly gets around this by dropping little hints and clues during the first act. For example the mention of a mysterious van, and mentions of other missing people. So when this twist in the narrative is revealed it doesn't feel forced or false. Yes the chance of Elliot encountering what he encounters is a million to one, but hey if it wasn't for million to one chances there would never be any great horror books written.

Ketchup on Everything, is a brilliant novella, tense, emotional and utterly satisfying this is one of those stories that will leave a mark on your emotional core. - See more at: <http://www.gingernutsofhorror.com>

Jeannie Holbrook says

I kept thinking about Ketchup on Everything long after I had read it. It is not a long book, but it certainly makes up for it in quality. I have been debating how I was going to write this review for a little over a week now. I do not like to give too much away in my reviews. I am not sure there is much I can say without giving away part of the book.

I could not put this book down till I finished. Mr. Robinson had me interrupted from the first chapter. The writing is crisp and smooth. I felt like I was there with Elliot. I felt his loss, grief and the need to keep going in search of answers until I physically could not move. I think the ending was perfect.

Tessa says

No, no, no, no, NO! What happened Nathan? Where is that amazing creepy factor you used to put in your stories? In my opinion, from everything I have read from you this is by far your worst work. Unnecessarily long and the ending was kinda predictable :(.

I usually hate it when an author just puts in tons of nonsensical action and doesn't use description properly. In this book's case, it needs more action. There's nothing to keep you interested in it. Yup, this is boring. When I read a horror I expect a horror. 90% of this book is the story of a family not coping very well with the disappearance of their boy.

Also, when it finally got to the interesting part (60% in) the explanation of this mystery did not satisfy me at all. After reading 60 pages of him moping over this kid his reaction when he found out what happened to him was very disappointing. I also think that the bad guys were intentionally dehumanized and we never get to form a proper opinion about them. (view spoiler)

Another thing I didn't like was the ending (view spoiler)

All in all, I've read better from this author. :/

M.L. Roos says

Nathan Robinson is quickly becoming one of my top five favourite authors, and here is why. The man knows how to spin a tale so well, so tightly woven, so clean and so full of depth it leaves the reader breathless. From the opening paragraph to the gripping end, Robinson grips the reader in his hand and holds them, squeezes them, sometimes allowing them to breath, but often times leaves them completely gasping for air.

Ketchup on Everything is a tough story to read for anyone who has children. Be warned. Horror and children are a great combination when done right. And Robinson did this tale justice. Gripping pace, a master in the descriptive sense and a lover of prose, this is a must read for anyone who loves horror with a dash of reality.

Read this. You will not be disappointed.

Bill says

This one was just ok for me. I really don't know what I was expecting. The story was fine, tragic and a bit heartbreaking, but nothing too crazy or out of bounds. The characters were a wee flat and could have used some depth to them. The ending I think was supposed to be more of a shock, but it really wasn't. No, I didn't see it coming, but it wasn't a total "holy sh*t", it was more like "ok, that's kinda interesting" kind of thing.

Geez. Sounds like I didn't like this one, but I did. Sort of. With a little more fleshing out I think it could have been a lot better. 2.5 Stars

The Grim Reader says

Wonderful novella

I heard about Nathan Robinson through splatterpunk magazine. I decided to try more after reading the excellent chapbook he produced with Jack Bantry. This is a fantastic short about a father's search for his missing son. I felt all the pain of the father as his search turned up nothing over and over, until one day, many years later, 3 people walk into a roadside diner....this is a fantastic read, full of emotion. 5 stars for sure.

Patrick D'Orazio says

Ketchup on Everything is a bit of a surprise of a novella. I went into it not knowing anything about the story except for the brief blurb of a description, and came out of it with some mixed emotions. It begins innocently enough, with a man traveling the countryside in his RV stopping at a roadside diner to grab a cup of coffee. He seems to be talking to his wife in the vehicle before he steps inside, but it is a one-sided conversation that leaves the reader puzzled as to whether she is there or not. Elliott seems like an affable, pleasant man, though there is a sadness about him that is only hinted at during the introduction to this tale.

Through flashback, we discover that Elliott's young son disappeared years before. He was playing in the family's garden and all the sudden was gone. The author makes the process of facing first the horror and dread of this experience quite vivid and real-especially for someone who has children and cannot escape the fear that your child could go missing. From there it becomes a helpless, mind-numbing agony of frustration the more time passes without knowing what has happened. The idea of an innocent child that you love more than life itself vanishing without a trace is something hard, if not impossible, for most of us to fathom.

Nathan Robinson allows the reader to ride along with both Elliott and his wife, who take two different roads in coping with the loss of their son, for the years of torture they suffer through.

By the time we return to the present, past the flashbacks, the sense of having lived in Elliott's shoes makes what happens next all the more intriguing, though perhaps not as intense as the first part of the story where there is both pain and an undeniable hope that somehow, their lost boy will be found. This is not a criticism of how the story comes to completion, just a tribute to the writing that leads up to that part of the story, which adds an interesting twist on Elliott's sad and tragic tale.

Nathan Robinson says

Two of my books are free today! Get some free horror!

Devil Let Me Go by Nathan Robinson?

UK <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00E5G85GG>

US <http://amzn.com/B00E5G85GG>

Ketchup on Everything?

UK <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00JANUJXQ>

US <http://amzn.com/B00JANUJXQ>

Fabrizia says

3.5 ??

I really liked the writing but the story is a bit too weird for my personal taste.

N. Gosney says

I started this book without any expectations really, and at first I did wonder where the story was going. A tale about a man in a diner; it seemed fairly innocuous enough. It was not too long after this that the emotional roller coaster really took off. I'm not ashamed to say I felt myself welling up at the disappearance of Evan. I was surprised by just how strongly my heart-strings were pulled. I wouldn't have expected that basing it purely on the very beginning.

Despite the author's confession at the end of the book that he doesn't know anyone who has had a child disappear in mysterious circumstances, he really managed to capture the gut wrenching torment of the parents at this situation. I really felt I was there with them in their kitchen as they wept. I was there with Elliott as he pinned the "missing" posters on posts all around the neighbourhood, and searched tirelessly in bushes and hedges for his absent son. It hit me right in the stomach, and I could almost imagine it wasn't actually fiction at all, but some terrible true-life story entitled "My life was shattered when my son vanished" in a type of *That's Life* magazine. I can fully appreciate why the mother turned to the bottle. I think in that sort of situation you can't possibly predict how you would crumble under the turmoil.

It's a book that will make you cling to your children (if you have any) and thank God you know where your little ones are. The ending of the book is bittersweet, horrific, touching, and fitting all at once. I don't want to ruin it for anyone who hasn't read it yet, so I shall say no more. It's not a long book (obviously, being a novella), but it's a great read and I recommend it without hesitation.

Vi Reaper says

Horror stories evoke fear; it is the nature of the beast. So rarely do you find a horror story that causes other emotions to stir. But a good horror writer knows that in order for the fear to really pay off you have to engage the readers with not just the concept of the story but with the characters that populate the world of the story. So what if a character you don't care about dies? No matter how visceral or detailed that characters demise, without invested emotions it just doesn't resonate.

Luckily for the reader, with this story, you will care.

Elliott Tather has a good life. A happy wife, a nice house and a young son. All that is thrown into disarray when one day his son, Evan, disappears from the backyard. With no sign of the boy, Elliott's life becomes a hell of misery and tragedy. As the days become years and with his entire existence disintegrates around him, he never gives up hope that one day he will find his lost boy. Then one night, Elliott stops at a diner and what happens there will alter his future forever.

The main horror aspect in this story does not come from copious amounts of gore (although there is enough of that to keep the gore hounds happy) it comes instead from the very real idea of how one thing can change a life for the worse almost instantaneously.

This is an excellent novella. While it won't take you long to get through, the emotional hit this story inflicts is no less devastating

David Watson says

Elliot Tather is a man who has lost everything. He had a good life but one event caused it all to fall apart and now he is a lonely person traveling the countryside in an RV searching for meaning. He finds what he is looking for one night when he arrives at an all night diner and witnesses something unbelievable that changes everything.

I'm not even sure where to begin on talking about Ketchup On Everything by Nathan Robinson. This is one great novella, but if I talk about it too much it will spoil it. When I started reading it I immediately fell in love with the main character, Elliot. Everything is described from his view-point and he goes into great depth describing the diner that he goes into and the waitress that is taking his order. You begin to care for the waitress as well as Elliot's inner thoughts describe the kind of person he thinks she is. In the beginning you also get a quick glimpse of the RV that he is traveling in and I found myself wondering what brought Elliot to the diner and why does he talk like his wife is with him.

The story may unfold slowly with very little action but you are so into the characters that you don't really notice. We eventually hear about Elliot's past and I found myself wondering would I be like Elliot if this happened to me? When I was half way through the book I was thinking where is this story going? Then a whole new story begins that makes you question what happened earlier in the book. This is a masterfully told tale that has a slow build and ends with a lot of action and an exciting climax.

Ketchup On Everything combines real life horrors with fictional horrors. This is the perfect horror novella because it preys on your emotions. You care about Elliot and you watch him go through every parent's worst nightmare and then you get hit with a surprise twist. This book may have an odd title but it does make sense when you read it. The title and description of this book gives no clue as to what comes in the second half of the book, which is where everything changes. Do yourself a favor and get a copy of Ketchup On Everything. You won't regret it.
