



The Night Parade

Ronald Malfi

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First the birds disappeared.

Then the insects took over.

And the madness began . . .

They call it Wanderer's Folly—a disease of delusions, of daydreams and nightmares. A plague threatening to wipe out the human race.

After two years of creeping decay, David Arlen woke up one morning thinking that the worst was over. By midnight, he's bleeding and terrified, his wife is dead, and he's on the run in a stolen car with his eight-year-old daughter, who may be the key to a cure.

Ellie is a special girl. Deep. Insightful. And she knows David is lying to her. Lying about her mother. Lying about what they're running from. And lying about what he sees when he takes his eyes off the road . . .

Praise for Ronald Malfi and His Novels

“Best horror novel of the year.”—Hunter Shea

“Slowly but surely creeps under your skin.” —The Horror Bookshelf

“An emotionally compelling and interesting read.”—*Booklist*

“A beautiful and ultimately terrifying story.”—Shotgun Logic

The Night Parade Details

Date : Published December 26th 2017 by Pinnacle (first published July 26th 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Ronald Malfi

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Horror, Thriller, Science Fiction, Apocalyptic, Fiction, Post Apocalyptic, Suspense

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From Reader Review The Night Parade for online ebook

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

I'm not even sure what to say about this book. I was thinking it was going to be about insects killing everyone! LOL! Yes, the insects are crazy everywhere after the birds disappear and some creepy stuff happen here and there but it's not an insect killing people book. :-)

David Arlen runs away in the night with his daughter Ellie because some peeps at the CDC want to experiment on her to see if she can cure THE DISEASE. That didn't work out so well for David's wife so they are on the run. But there IS something different about Ellie. <---let me backtrack and say, there is a part with an ice cream truck coming into the neighborhood at midnight that totally has me creeped out still. Nothing bad happens, it's just the thought and I can't get it out of my head!

So, moving on... Ellie has some things she can do. Uggg, how do I not give out spoilers! Anyway, she does these things and it kinda freaks her dad out but he still loves her and they are on the run to his brother Tim's place. He's a good guy too. David keeps getting calls on his phone from the doctors to bring her in and stuff. I wanted to smack him because.. uh.. trace the phone... hello! Throw it away.

And through-out the book Ellie is carrying around a box of birds eggs. They tell about it at the end of the book but I think the significance was lost on me. My little brain doesn't work that well. At any rate it's a sweet thing with the eggs.

Anyway, so like if you get this disease you just start wandering around and seeing things and other stuff before you keel over. I kept thinking this was the end of days with plagues and miracles and weird stuff, but then it could all just be the hallucinations. See, there is the twist. I'm sure someone with more smarts will figure it all out.

I did love Ellie's character. She's was a really good little girl and I think she's going to do great things. And I like the fact that good people still know what to do to the evil people. That's all I'm saying.

I would like to thank Netgalley and Kensington Books for a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

RedemptionDenied says

Well, the last three/four chapters gave my emotional-content a severe work-out.

This definitely reminds me of Firestarter (Stephen King) - with a father and daughter on the run from the authorities - or CDC/Govt. Officials in this case. Both Charlie (Firestarter) and Ellie (The Night Parade) are

around the same age; seven and eight, respectively. Although, Charlie McGee's -gift? - abilities (The Bad Thing) were far more potent. She could conflagrate the planet, causing total annihilation, whereas Eleanor 'Ellie' Arlen is the possible cure for a disease known as "Wanderer's Folly," which sounds like an STD - for some reason. Anyway, the CDC wants to conduct experiments on her, in the hope of saving our species from going the way of the Dodo. To save humanity? How about trying to save humanity from itself, which, ironically, is the biggest threat. Probably. Not an asteroid, virus, or disease.. At least, it seems that way. The main character (David Arlen) was a bit of an enigma - at times - in the way he feeds his eight-year-old daughter misinformation, and the lengths he's willing to go to - to feign an action - in the hope it'll keep her happy, and stop her asking awkward questions, he doesn't want to answer. He upgrades to emotional-blackmail to get her to comply, after they make a stop at a diner, and she sees a news broadcast about them being wanted, and that her father is wanted for questioning in connection with the death of his wife, Kathy, which culminates in him having to tell his daughter the truth, about her mother. Well, some of it, anyway. He leaves out a few significant details. No need to cause her more heartache. She's very astute. She knows, he's lying. He knows, she knows, he's lying. But he does it, anyway. She unloads a barrage of questions throughout their journey, which amused me quite a bit. She wants to help, if she can; to go back, instead of running. But there's an obstacle in her way: her father.

She has the ability to remove the bad stuff from people; making them feel better - euphoric, even - in their last moments. And her ability is getting stronger. She can do other things, too, which comes in handy, when they make a stop in Goodwin, which isn't as deserted as David originally thought.

He blames the doctor's for his wives' death, and he doesn't want his daughter to be used as a guinea pig; having her blood tested, and being experimented on - like his wife was. Not on his watch, anyway. Even if she is humanities, only hope.

Kathy volunteered to be at the hospital to be studied, after Head Epidemiologist of Infectious Diseases, Sanjay Kapur, visited her home - telling her she was immune to the Folly, which we get more insight of - via flashback chapters, every so often. I think the flashbacks, were my favourite aspect of the story: 21, 19, 16 months ago, until we eventually get the flashback, where the story starts and David is in the car, after picking his daughter' up, from the babysitters' house - does some breaking-and-entering and goes on the run.

There are quite a few creepy scenes: scarecrows in a field, red crosses on doors, etc. I think it's due to the context, which makes the scarecrows seem, creepier, than normal.

In conclusion: I'm still not sure what to make of David. It's obvious he loves/cares for his daughter, and will do anything - to protect her. But I think he should have been more candid with her, from the start, instead of dancing around questions being asked. Then there's the emotional-blackmail aspects, which took me off guard; where he threatened to break something, she's been taking care of - for an extended period of time - if she didn't get in the car. So, I guess, my feelings about how he handled certain situations, vacillated, every so often.

Final thought: I may have to reread the last two chapters, as I'm not entirely sure I fully understood what happened. I think it was imaginary, due to a touch. I think.

Bark says

This review and the rest of the crap I write can be seen @ my blog Bark's Book Nonsense . Stop by and say

hey.

Set during the onset of an apocalypse in the form of a plague, *The Night Parade* is part road trip, part survivalist thriller, part emotional relationship drama and, fortunately for me, all parts were good.

The plague is dubbed Wanderer's Folly because it makes you lose your marbles before killing you. You might wander about in your undies and do such strange things like setting your house aflame or walking off a cliff before dropping dead. Yikes, I don't know about you but those images haunted me. It was horrifying and scary and seeing as I love these types of stories, I was in it from the very beginning.

David has blood on his sleeve and is trying to outrun the plague and keep his daughter Ellie safe from an evil doctor. That's all about all we know when the story begins. As things slowly unravel, we learn everything but it takes its sweet time getting there and I will not spoil the trip for you. The getting there is all the fun (well, fun isn't exactly the appropriate word for this emotional and grief laden story). The book is filled with scary people, frighteningly large bugs and lots of them, fatherly love and strange discoveries.

There is such pain and sorrow in both David and Ellie's past and nothing but fear in their future but they manage to keep going. I enjoyed reading about them both. It's a gripping and well-paced read that, unlike many of these types of stories, never forgets about its characters. The world may have gone to shit but humanity still survives. I recommend it highly and hope there is another book set in this world because there are a few plot points I'd like to see expanded upon. 4 ½ Stars

*I received an ARC from Netgalley in exchange for a review.

Melissa says

With so many authors and books on my radar, I've still somehow never come across a book by Ronald Malfi. I have to say, I'm pretty impressed with his style.

The categorization of this book as a horror novel is what initially piqued my interest. It's no secret, I occasionally like to dabble in books that creep me out and this one delivered.

Think *The Walking Dead*, but without the zombies. We're thrust into a story of a father and daughter on the run, in the middle of the night. They're in a stolen car headed somewhere, but where? And why? The author does a great job of alluding to what is going on, but he doesn't come right out and say it. Instead, you get to sit back and watch him piece the full story together with flashes between the past and present. The anticipation made it a fast-paced, but completely unnerving ride.

"Maybe we're all just ghosts floating about through the ether, occasionally bumping into one another."

There were so many things that set me on edge - the ice cream truck (I surely will never look at one the same), the eerie paper plate masks, the increase in creepy crawlers (a spider eating a rat? *skin crawling*) and the sheer desolation of some areas. Not to mention, the madness. That had to be the worst part. Just the thought of contracting this unknown virus that attacks your brain and brings on hallucinations was enough to scare me. I can only imagine how much I would be freaking out in David and Ellie's situation. And how

could you put your trust in anyone?

And the bird eggs? What gives? Why in the heck was she dragging those around? I'm not sure if I still even get it. So if you're reading this and you do, please tell me.

This story was so much more than just an apocalyptic meltdown. It's was also about the unwavering love a father has for his daughter. Amongst all the bleakness, David and Ellie were definitely the light. His determination to protect her at all costs and her drive to help people had me rooting for them to make it. **I could see what was coming, but I wanted to look the other way and pretend I didn't.** I wanted to be wrong.

I could go on and on, but suffice it to say, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The setting, the words, the ending. Color me impressed.

ARC kindly provided by Kensington Books and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Justine says

3.5 stars

This is a steadily paced book that is not quite horror, not quite literary fiction, but sort of somewhere in between.

The story takes place over a period of a week, with a father and his 8 year old daughter, Ellie, on the run from authorities who believe Ellie might hold the key to a cure for a disease running rampant across the globe.

It's not completely clear at the outset why the two are fleeing except that Ellie's mother died while in hospital under the care of those now pursuing them. However, more detail on that part of the story is slowly revealed as we find out what happened in the months leading up to her death. There are some of the usual tense scenes that accompany a story like this, but mostly it is about the father and daughter, their relationship, and their attempts to come to terms with a world that has completely changed.

While it wasn't exactly the plague apocalypse horror book I was expecting, I thought it was quite good.

Bill says

I like Ronald Malfi. The dude can write. This one is a slow burn, apocalyptic-ish type tale that follows a man and his daughter as they seek comfort and shelter from those who are hunting them for their own agenda. During their travels, their stories will be revealed, secrets unburied and hope reborn. Nicely done. Had a wee Firestarter vibe to it too.

Ken McKinley says

There are writers and then there is Ronald Malfi. From the first chapter of *The Night Parade*, it was evident that Malfi's caliber of writing was a notch above what I'm used to seeing from the genre. The verbiage and imagery raised the writing into something majestic. It makes me want to throw away my laptop and quit pretending that I could ever write something of this quality. OK, maybe that's a bit harsh, but you get where I'm going with this.

The Night Parade starts out with David and his daughter Ellie on the run from the government. There's an illness going around called Wanderer's Folly and it makes people hallucinate and bleed out of their noses before they either drop dead, kill themselves or kill someone else. The CDC doesn't know if it's spread by air or contact or if it's somehow imbedded in our DNA and something has caused it to turn on in some people. All they know is David's wife, Kathy, was immune before they killed her off testing her to death and that Ellie is also immune...and they want her.

The story has a nice slow build up that ratchets the tension to the breaking point. Malfi also uses a series of flashbacks that slowly unravel the past slowly before our eyes. It's extremely effective in teasing the reader with just enough information that only leads to a whole slew of more questions that need answering. The characters are vivid and masterfully three-dimensional where you can literally feel the tension and exhaustion that David is going through in your bones. *The Night Parade* has shades of *Firestarter*, *Swan Song*, and *The Dead Zone* all mixed within, yet at no time does it feel derivative. It has everything that I look for in a great story - strong characters, realistic dialogue, a slow build up of tension that leads to a climactic ending, and a lasting impact that keeps you thinking about the story long after you've closed the cover.

5 Oriole Eggs out of 5

* I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

You can also read my other reviews and author interviews at:

<https://kenmckinley.wordpress.com>

<http://intothemacabre.booklikes.com>

<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/5...>

Hunter Shea says

Another homerun for Malfi. *The Night Parade* is both touching and chilling, a new look at a post apocalyptic world that will break your heart and give you shivers. There are scenes in here that will last with me for years and years (I'll never look at the ice cream man the same way again, that's for sure). This is the second

year in a row that Ron Malfi has crafted my favorite read.

Carrie says

First the birds disappeared.

Then the insects took over.

Then the madness began . . .

They call it Wanderer's Folly--a disease of delusions, of daydreams and nightmares. A plague threatening to wipe out the human race.

It's been two years since the disease started claiming lives and now David Arlen has gone on the run trying to protect his young daughter. In the beginning no one knew what was happening but once scientists developed a test for the Wanderer's Folly it was discovered David's wife was immune. She then volunteered to try to help cure the disease but now she's died and David is worried they will come after their daughter and he can't let that happen.

The Night Parade is a dystopian type of horror read that takes turns telling the story from what is happening in the present with the characters and alternating with flashing back to the beginning of the disease coming about. It's very easy to follow along with what is happening and get the story of how David and his daughter have come to be on the run.

I have to say this one reminded me a lot of The Fireman by Joe Hill while I was reading it. A disease slowly killing off the population and the characters hiding from those in charge so I knew getting started with this one I'd probably end up really enjoying it.

There are some pretty creepy moments all throughout this book. Early on an ice cream truck appears and as innocent as that sounds it just gave me the creeps. There's spiders big enough to eat mice.... yes, I'd be high tailing it out of there. And all along with the creepiness we have some great characters to follow along. David and his love for his family was incredibly touching and little Ellie was wise beyond what her years should allow.

Overall, great dystopian horror that I'd definitely recommend.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

Alexandra says

* Review copy provided by NetGalley *

For some books part of the enjoyment is going in blind, and letting the story unfold as the author has written it.

This makes such books difficult to review, at least if your goal is to try to help others decide if they might enjoy a story and do it without spoilers. As a reader I know the frustration of trying to figure out if a book will be for me, when reviewers WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING, but also understanding and appreciating the desire not to spoil the book for others.

That is my dilemma with "The Night Parade". The blurb reveals the world has fallen victim to a terrifying plague. That Ellie is "special", "who may be the key to a cure". And that her father David has taken her on the run. And I'm not going to reveal more of the plot in my review, because trust me, trust the author, learning what is going on in the way it's revealed as written is an enjoyable ride. And I wouldn't want to spoil that for anyone.

What would you do, how far would you go, to keep your kids safe?

David and Ellie, running through a world turned into a nightmare. All they have is each other. One man and his little girl.

We start off with David on the run with his 8 year old daughter Ellie. We don't know why, we don't know what from. But it is compelling and intriguing. I was hooked from the first page.

Then we start to get a glimmer of preceding events, which are told in occasional flashback chapters so that as we go along we're given more and more information as to what is going on and what has lead up to where we are now.

In my opinion this technique is used effectively, keeping the action going and pulling us along, allowing us to learn more of the backstory without stopping the action too much. Both the present story and the events of the recent past are interesting and this book never drags.

And if you think clowns are creepy? (Yes, yes they are!) Forget clowns. This is creepy:

"The music grew louder, louder, until it was right outside the house in the street. In the summertime, that jocular little melody would send the neighborhood kids flooding into Columbus Court, anxious for a Rocket Pop or an Italian Ice. But now, in the dead of winter and in the middle of the night - David glanced at the alarm clock on the nightstand and saw that it was well after midnight - the sound of that tune unnerved him."

But the real power of this story are the characters, particularly of David and Ellie, and their relationship.

David isn't all that special, just a regular man with a regular life. He's not the Terminator, he's not unusually strong, or brave. He's a college professor. But he'll do whatever he needs to do, whatever it takes, to protect his daughter and keep her safe.

Ellie is a strong kid, unusually insightful, but still a kid. She gets upset and scared. She gets angry at her dad even though she loves him. It takes talented writing to make a character feel so real and believable when they're also given unique abilities.

But what really gives this story its heart is their relationship. And that I think is the subtle power of this story. Over the course of the story the love between father and daughter becomes almost tangible.

Although this story does have a creepy factor it seems more Suspense/Thriller than Horror to me. It reminds me a bit of "Firestarter" (one of my favorite Stephen King books). A man and his daughter on the run, the

young girl special in a way that makes her valuable to powerful people.

I haven't read anything by this author before, and I am now wondering why.

I received a free (expiring) copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kirstin says

Suspenseful story of a father and his young daughter on the run after a plague outbreak. I loved the supernatural elements, the writing was great but the ending was a bit melodramatic for a horror novel.

Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says

Now, this! This is exactly what I want to read! Ronald Malfi covered just about every human emotion possible: fear, apprehension, hope and hatred. He made me laugh, and Goddamn it, he made me cry. When I finished reading *The Night Parade* I gave myself a good swift kick in the buttocks for not having read Malfi until now.

The Night Parade follows David Arlen and his daughter, Ellie, as they run from the threat to his daughter's future. Ronald Malfi spends a lot of time slowly revealing the lives of David and his precious little girl. As a father, I felt a connection with David. Nothing and no one is more important than your child. David was a noble character with the best of intentions and a few dark secrets that he tries to hide.

What really pulled me into the story from the start was the manner by which the author presented his story. It starts out with David and Ellie on the run, then I was smacked with one of those "What? What? What?" moments. This was followed by a flashback revealing the events that lead to David running. The story continues like this, back and forth. I loved the slow striptease of what had happened, there was a slow, deliberate revealing of what had happened to create this gripping adventure.

The Night Parade is an apocalypse like no other. It is a story that pulled me in, shocked me and really made me question "What if?" I became at one with David, what happened to him, happened to me. There are a lot of really good authors out there, but when one can make you feel that way, they are one of the greats.

*7 Stars

* I received a copy of the book from the publisher (via NetGalley) in exchange for an honest review.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

So this week I found myself in the path of Hurricane Irma. I will say I hate that bitch. We've been without power for almost five days now. I have discovered something about myself. Yes, I'm grateful that we didn't

suffer more damage than we did and I feel heartbroken for all the people that did. Including my close neighbors. But what I discovered was...I'm not cut out for this shit. If the zombie apocalypse happens tomorrow..just look for me.

Anyways, enough of my boring TMI stuff. I was in need of book entertainment and since I snoozed and missed out on requesting the super popular Bone White I realized that I had another Malfi book that I was a total slacker and hadn't read yet. And of course with my luck the one I choose was an end of the world one. Perfect timing Shelby, you dumb ass.

Eight year old Ellie used to stand her toys up at attention at her door when she was younger, forming a "Night Parade" of protection in her sleep.

But what happens when the intruder is hidden? People have realized that the birds have disappeared and bugs are running rampant. (I hate birds and bugs both so I'm already shuddering)

Then people start displaying weird symptoms-such as delusions, weird bleeding and then death.

It's not the Zika, calm down. It's called Wanderer's Folly. I don't want to catch that stuff either.

Ellie's dad David is on the run with her. Her mom has died and David thinks that the 'government' is going to take Ellie to test on next.

This dang book. Get ready to eat all your fingernails off if you read it. You can't stop though. Something might happen! Or at least that's how I felt. I love when an author makes it so that you can't put the book down because your heart is beating faster and you HAVE to know what happens next.

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review

Char says

Wanderer's Folly-that's the name of the contagion at the center of **The Night Parade**. As far as plagues go, it does its own thing, but it usually involves bleeding copiously from the nose and intense hallucinations. It's not restricted to just humans either, some animals have also been infected. This is the background in which we find David and his 8, (almost 9!), year old daughter Ellie; both trying to avoid the plague and survive while on the run. If you want to know more than that, you'll have to read this excellent book.

What I liked most about this story was the building dread-the reader never had the chance to fully relax, because just when you thought everything was cool, it was NOT, and then you were right back where you started- which in my case was nibbling my nails and turning the pages. And that's another thing-the pacing. The chapters were mostly short and because there was a lot of action happening, or on the verge of happening, I just kept on going like the literary version of Nemo. Just keep reading...

The characters were good and memorable, but there isn't a big cast here which was fine with me. I think that contributed to the quick pacing as well.

So there you have it: a cool, scary plague, characters you can root for, fast pacing, and what I thought was an

interesting plot, even if not altogether original. I recommend this book for all these reasons and not just to fans of horror, but to fans of thrillers and apocalyptic fiction as well. Pick up *The Night Parade* and see what it's all about. I think you'll dig it!

Available July 26th, you can get your copy here: <https://www.amazon.com/Night-Parade-R...>

*Thanks to NetGalley and Kensington for the e-ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review. This is it. *

Kimberly says

THE NIGHT PARADE, by Ronald Malfi, is a book I've been looking forward to ever since I saw that it was scheduled to be released. As you can see by my rating, I was not at all disappointed.

Malfi is truly gifted when it comes to storytelling in general, and characterization. As soon as I began THE NIGHT PARADE, I fell completely into the lives of David Arlen and his daughter, Ellie. Their emotions, reactions, and conversations were all so vivid that they could have been happening--in the real world--right before you. These characters showed a true parent/child relationship that was *real*; something readers could identify with.

The "sickness" became known as "The Folly"--a disease of the brain that the afflicted could never be cured of. The method of how it was spread remained a mystery. The only thing David Arlen was certain of was that his daughter was . . . *special* . . .

"They're not looking for me, baby . . . They're looking for you . . . "

How far will a Father go to protect his only child?

There are no limits.

There are other characters in this novel that Malfi brings to life with the same expertise. David's wife, Kathy--who's emotional turmoil and sense of duty are so sadly poignant, that I felt I was *with* her, and able to understand her internal trauma. David's step-brother, Tim, who lived "off the grid" long before the world's latest problem began--his thoughts and motivations were just as plausible as were those who remained behind, in denial that the world as they knew it had changed.

". . . What changed your plans so drastically that you decided this horrible madness was the better option? . . . "

As this evocative journey continued, every little aspect brought to our attention--the sorrow, isolation, occasional chaos and madness--all combined to bring this tale alive. THE NIGHT PARADE is an emotional, suspenseful story that very often strayed from the path I was expecting, keeping my undivided attention throughout the entire novel.

Highest recommendation!

*I received an advance e-copy of this book through NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest

review.*
