



Widow's Point

Richard Chizmar, Billy Chizmar

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“This is a bad place. I don't think people are meant to live here.”

Longtime residents of Harper's Cove believe that something is wrong with the Widow's Point Lighthouse. Some say it's cursed. Others claim it's haunted.

Originally built in 1838, three workers were killed during the lighthouse's construction, including one who mysteriously plunged to his death from the catwalk. That tragic accident was never explained, and it was just the beginning of the terror. In the decades that followed, nearly two dozen additional deaths occurred in or around the lighthouse including cold-blooded murder, suicide, unexplained accidents and disappearances, the slaughter of an entire family, and the inexplicable death of a Hollywood starlet who was filming a movie on the grounds.

The lighthouse was finally shuttered tight in 1988 and a security fence was erected around the property. No one has been inside since.

Until tonight.

Thomas Livingston is the acclaimed author of thirteen books about the supernatural and this evening he will enter the Widow's Point Lighthouse, searching for material for his next bestseller. He will be locked inside for the weekend with no way of contacting the outside world. And although no human has stepped foot inside the structure in nearly three decades, Livingston will not be alone.

In this remarkable collaboration, father and son writing team, Richard and Billy Chizmar, combine forces to tell a chilling ghost story that will make you think twice about what is waiting for you in the dark. This novella is a much-expanded version of the short story of the same title.

Widow's Point Details

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Author : Richard Chizmar , Billy Chizmar

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From Reader Review Widow's Point for online ebook

samantha (books-are-my-life20) says

A creepy quick read, so first off i loved how it was set up like a documentary something i personality haven't seen much in Paranormal investigator books it was a good old-fashioned ghost story with a modern twist, it is very creepy not really scary, but it will leave you thinking.

John says

In a word, weak.

Ron says

"The Widow's Point Lighthouse, located at the northeastern tip of Nova Scotia, was originally built in 1838 and has been the scene of dozens of mysterious deaths and unexplained disappearances over the past two centuries..."

So many deaths and disappearances had occurred in and around the lighthouse over the years that eventually it would be closed and shuttered. Then after a particularly gruesome crime, a security fence was erected around the land-side of the property in 1988. But what's a fence to the initiated, and couldn't many of the occurrences be the stuff of legend? Thomas Livingston, author of supernatural phenomenons is about to find out, first hand no less, by spending three days and nights locked inside the old lighthouse. Armed with food and water, camera and voice recorder, Thomas says "see you on Monday" to the owner who in turn shuts the door. Thomas hears the sound of the heavy chain being rustled in place, and the click of a padlock. Yep, see you on Monday.

That chain moment freaked me out cause I really felt, in the moment, I was on the wrong side of that damn door. "Open sesame?" Nothing. But alas, although there would be tense and scary moments ahead (Delaney's diary for those who have or will read it), this first moment of claustrophobia would be near the top. This novella is a nod and thank you of sorts from the Chizmars to other writers whose characters have walked through the front door of a haunted house, pointedly Stephen King with a story like 1408. Walk out the door to tell the tale? Well, that'd be a spoiler, wouldn't it?

Cody | cody'sbookshelf says

As of late, I've become fascinated with video recordings of the explorations of abandoned places—psych hospitals, schools, shopping malls. There is a treasure trove of this type of thing on YouTube. (Dan Bell is my favorite, check him out!) Perhaps I am a little late to that particular party, but I have arrived all the same. Like most folks, I think the mystique of locations long forgotten is a powerful one, though I am too easily scared to explore such places in real life.

Widow's Point, the upcoming novella by Richard Chizmar and son Billy Chizmar, plays on this interest: what if an acclaimed author of thirteen books about the supernatural were to spend three nights locked in the aged, possibly haunted Widow's Point Lighthouse? And what if he were to record in real time his findings (or lack thereof)?

Due to an early camera malfunction, a good chunk of this story is told in first-person by author Thomas Livingston — he is using his trust audio recorder. Things are fine, uneventful . . . until they're not. In the pages leading up to dizzying, throat-clenching climax Livingston informs whoever happens to hear his recordings when all is said and done of the lighthouse's history: the murders that have happened there, the suicides, the vanishings, the possessions. The Chizmars do an excellent job of conveying the history of this lighthouse without getting bogged down in excessive detail or needless exposition. The weight and importance of this place, these possibly cursed grounds, are quite apparent from the first.

A rich and satisfying tale, *Widow's Point* is a haunted 'house' story that utilizes the conventions of the genre while turning them on their heads, making for a totally original, frightening, and unforgettable tale of macabre, intrigue. No doubt will I revisit this nasty little bugger in the future.

Thanks to Richard Chizmar for the ARC, which was provided in exchange for an honest review. This is it.

Diane S ? says

In 1838 a lighthouse is erected overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in Nova Scotia. During the construction three workers are killed. After that there are more deaths, unexplained disappearances and other strange occurrences. Eventually the lighthouse is closed, a fence is erected, and people are warned to stay away. Until Thomas Livingston, an author, paranormal investigator talks the current owner into letting him stay for a weekend, locked in from the outside and with no means of communication.

The story is told in voice recordings, a very effective means of telling this somewhat chilling story. There are a few black and white illustrations for an added chill. Always attracted to stories set in lighthouses, a haunted one an easy sell. Love the gorgeous cover too. This was just scary enough, the tension rises as the story progresses, and let's just say some things just do not go well for Livingston.

Glen Krisch says

Excellent, one-sitting roller coaster of a ghost story.

Bill says

I thought the found footage narrative of this one would throw me off, (and it did at first), but as the story progressed, the more I became acclimated to it and the more it fit the story. As a matter of fact, I think it added a lot to the steadily building tension and overall creepy factor of this one.

An author gets locked in a haunted lighthouse to record events and write a book about his experiences over a

period of three days. Easy peazy. Well, maybe not. If it was, I guess it would have made a crappy story.

A fast and entertaining read from the Chizmars. The execution was nearly flawless and the growing dread that our protagonist felt in the lighthouse was palpable. Nicely done.

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Jeremy Hepler says

Fun, quick, and entertaining haunted house/ghost story novella told in a found-footage format. Great for a rainy weekend day.

J.D. Barker says

A delicious spoon of pure, undiluted haunted housery to delight the horror purist.

Mindi says

I'm a fan of found footage stories. Yes, I know the movies have been done to death, but I always enjoy them, and I'll probably continue to shell out money for them. I know what I like, and I don't care if it's derivative as long as I enjoy it.

I'm trying to remember if I've actually read a story or novel that was written in the found footage style, and I honestly don't think I have. I think it seems familiar because I've seen so many films, but this was my first time reading a story told in this format, and it worked for me. Instead of chapters the story is told in camera and voice recording time stamps, and it really does make you feel as if you are there witnessing things through the lens of a camera or listening to a recording of the protagonist's voice.

Thomas Livingston is a bestselling paranormal writer who decides to spend the weekend locked inside a haunted lighthouse called Widow's Point. Thomas starts his weekend getting acclimated to the inside of the lighthouse which has been sealed shut for decades, and he describes for the viewer what supplies he has for his stay and how he intends to spend his time while locked inside. We get a tour of the lighthouse, an inventory of his pack and food supply, and then Livingston starts to recount the sinister history of the Widow's Point.

All of this immediately brought to mind the 2013 film *Oculus*. The setup is basically the same. A woman acquires a haunted antique mirror that was the cause of her parent's murders when she was a child. She wants to destroy the mirror so that no one else can ever be harmed by it, so she buys the mirror, returns to the house where her parent's were killed, and sets up an elaborate camera system with failsafes to prevent the mirror from taking hold of her mind. She then explains her plans to the viewer, including the entire setup and the failsafes, and then she goes into the history of the mirror.

I love that film, it's really well done, and so I was hopeful about this story since the execution was so close to the movie, at least up to that point. If you have seen *Oculus* or any other found footage movie then you probably can guess where Widow's Point is going. Small things happen initially. Livingston thinks he hears footsteps and voices, and then as the hours pass the weird occurrences increase. By Sunday things are looking very bad for the writer, and we as the reader can pretty much see where this is going.

You could argue that the style of found footage storytelling pretty much gives away the outcome. If anyone was left to answer questions or explain things, there wouldn't be any need for the "found footage". Still, even knowing that the outcome isn't going to go well for whoever left the tapes behind, I'm still intrigued by this form of storytelling, especially in written form. It's been done so much in film, but at least for me it was a new experience to read a story in that style. Widow's Point is an enjoyable, if not somewhat predictable story.

Michael Hicks says

I suspect I'm going to be the odd-man out on this one for a bit...

I'd been looking forward to *Widow's Point* for a while, having ordered the limited edition hardcover (which is beautiful, by the way), and then bought the Kindle edition for reading. I'm not disappointed in these purchases, mind you, but I also think I may have had my hopes raised a bit too high by all the advance praise. This particular book has a lot of love from so many other readers that I know, interact with, and trust, so this is probably just a case of 'it's not you, it's me.'

Richard Chizmar, co-writing here with his son Billy, can most certainly write, there's no doubt about that. Everything I've read of Richard's work leaves me content knowing that he has talent and style to spare. His success in the wake of *Gwendy's Button Box*, where he shared a co-writing credit with the one and only Stephen King, is well-deserved and much-earned, make no mistake about it.

Widow's Point is certainly very well written, but it also treads a heck of a lot of well-worn ground.

Thomas Livingston is a famous author who's made his bread writing nonfiction accounts of encounters with the supernatural. His latest endeavor sees him spending a weekend in solitary confinement within the mysterious lighthouse Widow's Point, named such due to the number of lives and ship's lost off the rocky Nova Scotia coast it's situated upon. The lighthouse has enough history to make it an urban legend, and more than its fair share of dead families and curious visitors lying in its shadows.

Framed as a found footage narrative (I swear, I've read at least three found footage stories over the last year in various anthologies...), the Chizmar's recount Livingston's weekend by way of audio transcriptions and video description. This gives us an intimate point-of-view and we experience Widow's Peak directly through the eyes and words of Livingston himself as he's physically and psychologically put through his paces over the course of a July weekend.

If any of this sounds even the least bit familiar, well, that's because it is. *Widow's Point* is a capable story with a strong in-your-face narration, but it lacks any shred of originality. If you've read any previous haunted house story, you've pretty well read *Widow's Point*. You know the beats and you know the encounters, and it all occurs according to spec, each segment coming in right on time like a well-engineered train schedule. This sucker is one trope-heavy novella, and each one gets trotted out with unsurprising regularity in machine-like fashion. There's no surprises to be had, no shocks to the system. By the time I hit the end of the book, it was with a shrug and a mental, "That's it, huh?"

At the end of the day, this is a well written ghost story, but it's made hollow by its familiarity. On the other hand, the limited edition hardcover sporting Francois Vaillancourt nearly-monochromatic artwork of skulls in the sky surrounding Widow's Peak is gorgeous and a nice addition to my bookshelf. I certainly cannot complain about that.

Vignesh Ashok Kumar says

Rating - 9.5/10 (Excellent) - Spooky night to remember

Yesterday night was eerie marathon night for me. I wanted to watch an horror movie(probably Pet Cemetery) yesterday but thought the better of it and chose to read this one. I completed this novella within 5 hours and was completely flabbergasted and petrified by this piece of work. I could also feel the influence of Stephen King at works here. This takes the cake for the other-worldly exposition of the historical events and the events that were about to unfold, story telling and the POV(which was different level) of the narration. Overall, I wish there is more to the Widow's Point than what meets the eye ie., need the second book man!!!!

Kimberly says

4.5 stars!

WIDOW'S POINT, co-written by Richard Chizmar and Billy Chizmar, is a supernatural story that centers on The Widow's Point Lighthouse, located in Harper's Cove, Nova Scotia. An author of books featuring allegedly "*haunted locations*", Thomas Livingston, has gotten permission to stay at this fenced-off, isolated

area for the duration of a weekend. The area has a reputation for suicides, murders, and missing people--so much so that the owner eventually decided to close the lighthouse down and deny access to its grounds in order to avoid further . . . issues. Livingston's first impression of the place when he is approaching is alarmingly apt.

". . . It's not a pretty sight--like a skeletal corpse grinning from inside a moldy coffin."

Met by the current owner, Ronald Parker--an elderly man who was very reluctant to give admittance to the infamous structure--Livingston enters, bringing only the essentials he'll need for the weekend. His hope is to accumulate enough data regarding supernatural phenomenon to write a new chart-topping book.

". . . Legends and literally centuries of first-hand accounts seem to reinforce the belief that The Widow's Point Lighthouse is cursed . . . haunted."

In large, the characterization is based solely on Livingston, as he is the primary one present. He gives the history of the deaths attributed to the lighthouse, along with all the known details of each occurrence throughout his seclusion. Through this, we get an idea of what some people "may" have encountered--although the information is second-hand at best, and Livingston's motives make him an unreliable narrator.

". . . It's always been about the money."

The atmosphere at Widow's Point is decidedly its best selling point. The deteriorating conditions, piles of formerly used furniture, eerie winding staircase, and sounds that echo in the enclosed area, are the type of things that scream *"Get out of there!"* to the reader.

"I am not alone."

The more time spent there in what amounts to solitary confinement, with nothing except remembrances of the murders and madness attributed to that exact location to keep one occupied, the more one's mind begins to wander and jump at the slightest noise.

". . . This is a bad place . . . I don't think people are meant to live here."

Personally, I was enthralled by the atmosphere and the history recounted of this place. Each death or disappearance had its own unique attributes and conditions leading up to it. The *"haunted"* feeling was present virtually throughout the entire book.

"Widow's Point . . . a zero minute drive from the depths of Hell."

The only thing I wished had gone in a slightly different direction were some events near the very end. Otherwise, a very solid read overall.

". . . There is no death in Widow's Point . . . "

Recommended!

Sadie Hartmann Mother Horror says

I was given an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

This is my second time reading a Chizmar novella, the first being his partnership with Stephen King on *Gwendy's Button Box* and I loved that as well. This story is a partnership Richard did with his son, Billy. At first I thought the format was going to bother me, done in the style of say, *Blair Witch Project*, told in transcribed video/audio recordings but then I realized that this was quite an effective way to tell a ghost/haunting story like this; it made everything seem very believable.

I also must note that the illustrations were an added bonus. Let this serve as a suggestion to all authors of horror: WE LOVE ILLUSTRATIONS!

I think my favorite part of the story telling here was all the historical narrative. It gave me this feeling of being around the campfire, listening to Chizmar tell gruesome story after grisly story about this seemingly sinister lighthouse.

I could easily see this as a movie! It would be fantastic!

Fans of classic ghost stories/haunted houses will love this tale and it should be in every avid horror reader's collection. Very well done, Richard & Billy!
