



Deep in the Darkness

Michael Laimo

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Michael Cayle, PhD, moves his family into their new home in Ashborough, NH. But Ashbourne has a deep, dark secret . . . and it's living in the woods behind his home. "One of the best and most refreshing horror novels you're likely to read this year."

Deep in the Darkness Details

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Author : Michael Laimo

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From Reader Review Deep in the Darkness for online ebook

Nick Watters says

DEEP IN THE DARKNESS by Michael Laimo was 369 pages of intensity. Fast paced, well thought out and begging to be read. I will not spoil anything in this novel, as I feel going in not knowing what to expect is crucial in horror reading. With 5 pages left in the book I was certain I was giving this book a 2 or MAYBE 3 star rating....then, I finished the book with a smile on my face, realizing that the author had completely sold me on a assumption that I knew what I was reading.

I highly recommend this book.

Georgiann Hennelly says

When DR Michael Cayle decided to move his wife and young daughter from Manhattan . He only wanted the best for them. That,s why he accepted a private practice position in the small New England town of Ashborough. At first everything seemed quaint and peaceful. But Ashborough has some unimaginable secrets. Many of the towns people are strangely nervous. Some speak quietly of legends that no sane person could believe. But what he discovers drenched in blood in the woods makes him wonder if the legends are possibly true after all. He will soon be forced to believe, when he learns the terrifying identity of the golden eyes that peer at him from deep in the darkness

Anthony says

I loved it! Very creepy. I heard there may be a sequel coming out.

John Bruni says

This is a wonderful, horrifying story of a family (and community) versus a group of golden-eyed monsters in a small New York town. Ordinarily, I can't stand stories in which a family moves into a new home and is suddenly up against some kind of supernatural force, but Laimo isn't messing around. Those stories usually have a slow build, but he turns up the heat right away. The conflict is almost immediate, and it continues to harrow the reader throughout the novel. Ultimately, this is a story about communication and how the lack of it can destroy a family and the town around them. So much could have been averted if these people just talked to one another . . . but the monsters are very watchful, and if anyone says anything, they get torn to pieces. This is much better than ATMOSPHERE. And that ending . . . wow. You won't be disappointed.

Chibineko says

This was my first brush with Laimo's work and I have to say that while I can see where he's liked as much as

he is, it's not entirely my thing. I would honestly say that you really have to be in the right mindset for Laimo's work and perhaps this is why I didn't enjoy this as much as I wanted to.

Part of me thinks that I may not have enjoyed this work as much because none of the characters are really all that likable. For example, Michael has a good reason to act the way he does, but he was also a jerk to people around him and I could never really forget that the move to the town was ultimately his choice: his wife agreed to it, but she never truly wanted to move out of Manhattan. It shows a callousness to his character that does make it easier to believe that he could alienate his family so much over the course of the novel while acting out of love for his daughter in other passages. But it is still hard to commiserate with him at times. I think that another thing that sort of irritated me was that there are long stretches where not a lot happens and I couldn't help but wonder if this would have been improved by it being about 20 pages shorter?

However when this book kicks into high gear, you can't help but race through the pages to find out what happens next. There's a wonderful sense of urgency and dread in the final portion of the book and I admit, I'm mildly curious to see how the sequel furthers the plot along.

Matt Garcia says

A reread for me and it was incredible once again. A fast paced, small town horror, creature novel at its best. Laimo did an amazing job with this one and I absolutely loved it.

Kasia says

Imagine being stalked by something dark and evil, hungry for your tender muscles and soft skin, something that lives deep in the darkest shadows of the forest outside of your cozy new home. Something that is part beast, part man, part myth and living folklore, deadly, conniving and consciously set on making your life a little piece of hell. Such is the tale of Dr. Michael Cayle and his family who unknowingly move to Ashborough to escape the gray city life but instead they walk right into the lion's den. From the start something is off about the quiet place, the neighbors act strange, Cayle's new patients seem to have bizarre problems that leave them disfigured and the absence of pets and animals is truly alarming. Terror starts to build when Michael stops feeling welcome and starts to feel like a prisoner in his own home. He feels trapped by something lurking in the shadows, something that has glowing gold eyes watching him from the darkness. And so the battle begins, to save his sanity and his family, Michael Cayle must do some unthinkable acts and dirty his soul in the process. With each chapter being more outlandish than the last, the reader is almost scared to see what awaits on the next page. The climax of the novel seems to flow without ceasing as more chills and thrills continue to build up.

The author does a great job of building up the chill factor, I felt the terror, the cold iron grip on Cayle's throat and chest, the suffocating feeling of hopelessness and isolation, the feeling that end is near and there is no way out but to surrender to the hunger that waits in the deep dark woods. The scenes in the quiet, eerie woods were marvelous, I had the pleasure to spend many hours in various forests in my native country and they can be scary even in daylight with no monsters running around. The best part of the book, other than how damn creepy it was, must have been the writing. The words melt of the pages and sink right in, reading this book almost didn't feel like reading at all, everything felt as if it was happening before my very own eyes. Of course this is horror, so things go from dandy to rotten in a matter of moments and the book flows

fast, it's a real luxury to enjoy a good book and breeze though it at the same time.

With so many books out there and so little time to actually read any of them I find myself being more picky and critical. After reading "Deep in the Darkness" my cynicism for finding good writers out there melted and my list of favorite authors opened its cob webbed door, and trust me, it's hard to get into my tightly woven list of favorites. Michael Laimo writes with passion and heart, humor and wit, not overshadowing his talent for gruesome and creative ways to raise the hairs on the readers flesh. Each page was skillfully woven with words that send electricity though my system, I can't remember the last time I had such an incredible time with a book. Another great thing about his writing is how real the characters are; I couldn't help but side with Michael Cayle, I could feel his humanity though the pages, his sorrows and slow crumble were achingly realistic. When things hot hairy between him and the once loving wife, I felt tormented that he was being stalked by a deadly force out in the wild and an angry wife at home, they both matched up pretty well drilling through the main character form both sides, taking him apart. Once I love a character his suffering becomes my suffering, and man, this book packs a punch, so watch out!

There is something for everyone in this book and I'm really looking forward to the sequel; it's set up to be a hell of a ride.

- Kasia S.

Peter says

Dr. Michael Cayle and his family are moving to a small town in New Hampshire. They left Manhattan for some peace and quiet of the country. Michael will become the local doctor in the town of Ashborough. There is some unknown force that has a hold on this city. The surrounding towns want nothing to do with Ashborough. The town has a legend about some evil force that dwell in the woods. It seems that once you move here, there is no turning around. If you try to leave, you are attacked by these savage creatures who live in the woods. Cayle neighbor, Phillip Deighton takes Michael on the trip into the deep dark woods. He leads Michael to this strange rock formation that reminds him a little of Stonehenge. The center stone in this formation appears to be some type of altar. Deighton starts to spin a tale about ancient evil that lurks in the woods. Michael is starting to feel like a prisoner in his own home. Little does Michael know that his nightmare has just begun. Can Michael and family escape this cursed town in New Hampshire? Unfortunately the climax of this novel does not tell you the outcome. There is a sequel to this book, Return To Darkness. You will have to read the sequel to see if Michael and his family can escape Ashborough.

Paula says

Dr. Michael Cayle moves from the city with his wife and young daughter to set up a private practice in the small town of Ashborough, New Hampshire. His new home is a half mile away from his nearest neighbor and the woods beyond his house seem to stretch on forever. He thinks his biggest problem will be trying to adjust to a new, quieter, slower pace of life, after always living in the city. Little does he know that he has bigger problems awaiting him beyond in those deep woods, where glowing golden eyes seem to be looking out at him and his family from the darkness of the woods.

This was a very enjoyable horror story that would make almost anyone afraid to live near the woods. I liked the main character Michael, and the story is written in his 1st person POV. It was interesting getting into his head and living out his terror and worst nightmares with him. The Isolates that lived out in the woods were horrifying little creatures. Very entertaining, disturbing, creepy, bloody and gruesome story. I never knew what to expect next.

Jeff O'Brien says

Michael Laimo is a master of horror. This is the only book of his that I have read, and I'm fully willing to label him as a master because this book is 100% mastery of the genre. The author does not rely on gore and easy scares. Not that there's anything wrong with that, and not that you won't find some of these things in the book. Oh there's some gore, don't worry. But Laimo has mastered the genre by building a story that is genuinely scary as fuck and creeps into your brain and sends chills down your spine so deep in the marrow you might fear permanent emotional scars. I'm not joking when I say that on a couple of nights while reading this book I stayed up extra late and fell asleep on the couch with the lights on because I wasn't exactly keen on turning the lights off and going to bed.

It takes a lot to scare me. And Laimo achieved that. And aside from the scares, we have a very well written and expertly crafted tale that was fun from page one to the end.

I will be seeking out as many Michael Laimo books as I possibly can.

Rebecca McNutt says

This novel is a step above most horror books; it's very original and eerie story with no end to its surprises.

a_tiffyfit says

I couldn't finish reading this book. It is not because it is not well written...in fact, quite the opposite. My family and I are going to be moving to a remote, small town in New Hampshire, and I just could NOT finish reading this book after the first few chapters of the awful (in the sense that it fills you with such foreboding) beginning. I was seriously creeped out and just could not bring myself to finish reading the book. So I know NOTHING about what is going on in this book.

When we were considering Maine, I read Ketchum's "Off Season" and that creeped me out some, too. I should really learn to stay away from the horror novels.

If I could judge this book by the first few chapters, I would recommend it. I was creeped out in the first few chapters. I'll read it in full when I'm in a warm tropical isle and not looking at coming back home for at least a week. LOL

Daniel says

I was thinking about this after finishing it, and it occurred to me that Laimo has written a book that unfolds a lot like an Italian horror movie. You've got a normal family and a nice new house in a small town. Some weird things happen, then some bad things, then some terrible things, and in between it all people follow a logic that fits the story more than it does reality. Thrown in some creepy monsters and pagan rites and bizarre sex and you're in for a treat. Laimo is definitely on my watch list.

Kelly says

I wanted to like it. I tried, people. Okay? I tried. No matter what happened I knew what was coming. The descriptions, the ending and each twist and turn I foresaw from the second page of the damn book. The man has talent. You can see it in his writing. The stories are in there - somewhere.

As much as I hate comparing novels, I could not read this book without thinking of Pet Semetary, The Howling and Salem's Lot. It's apparent that new territory has not been found in the writing world. This plot is overdone and shows a half-assed attempt on Laimo's part for being creative. Even a blind man could see where he was going!

Now to the good part. I love Laimo's style of writing. This is the usual spot where I give you three adjectives to breakdown his M.O.. Well, I flat out refuse to! There aren't enough descriptions in the world – you have to see it for yourself. He writes with an edge, oblivious to any set formula or pattern, penning his work with a need to bare his soul and give his nightmares life.

The atmosphere is reminiscent of a forest fire that is closing in on you, and fast. The smoke peaks in slowly at first, then before you know it, you're knee deep in heat and smothering. The air reeks of danger and you find yourself dreading the outcome, but thrilled with the adrenaline rush. Throughout the book, the pace is constantly moving and shifting. The moment you think you've reached the climax, Laimo pulls a fast one and alters the speed.

The characters are the true stars of this book. Each player is significantly unique, yet absolutely common. Creating three-dimensional characters, Laimo fleshes them out with intelligence and emotion. The brilliance of this cast is that not one is memorable, yet they'll haunt you for nights to come.

My rating? I give it a 3. Even though the storyline was less than par, grab this book used, simply to marvel at a new up-and-coming author! Would I read him again? Hell yes, in a heartbeat! Would I read this story again? Not for all the tea in china!

-As reviewed for Horror-Web.com

William M. says

This is a book I couldn't stop reading. Believe me, no one was more surprised than me at how great this book is. It has everything great horror should have... characters you care about placed in insurmountable danger, creepy atmosphere that continues to build and raise the stakes, and a solid story that keeps you hooked. This

story reminded me of a lot of Rick Hautala's books from the eighties (especially "Little Brothers"), but I enjoyed the twists and turns and very tight plotting. Everything is done for a reason in Laimo's new book and the pieces of his puzzle connect very naturally from beginnning to end.
