



## The Harvest

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AS THE SEASON TURNS...

Nestled deep in the Southern Appalachian Mountains is the town of Windshake. Living among the populace of good ol' boy moonshiners and God-fearing folk are psychologist Tamara Leon and her family. All her life Tamara has been plagued by dark dreams and visions. She calls them "Gloomies". They have an uncanny way of foreshadowing tragic events to come-- and her instincts tell her something unnatural is happening.

...SOMETHING WICKED GROWS

Because a new presence has taken up residence in Windshake. It feeds off everything in its path, consuming life to fuel its malevolent purpose. Its evil can be seen in the eyes of its converts as they spread its influence from neighbor to neighbor. And its hunger will not be sated until it has remade Windshake in its own image...

## The Harvest Details

Date : Published September 1st 2003 by Pinnacle (first published 2003)

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Author : Scott Nicholson

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## From Reader Review The Harvest for online ebook

### Mike (the Paladin) says

Original review March 16, 2011---update Oct. 4, 2012

I have mentioned that my wife passed away some time ago (almost 2 years now) and I have left most of her books on my shelves undisturbed. It was easier. But I also needed to move to a smaller place last year. A number of my book shelves couldn't make the trip, thus I had to sell, trade etc. many of my books. With the shelves I now have here loaded to bursting (double loaded front and back rows with books crammed into each possible available space, table top and unused spot) I am forced to the understanding that I need to do one of two things. I must either cease buying books or let some of the ones taking up shelf space go. Since the former is unthinkable (:-)) I must do the second.

BUT also I am always loathe to let books go that I haven't read or at least tried to read. Thus I set myself this week to move some of my wife's books to the head of my reading list. So other than the audio books I listen to when I take a break or am trying to slow down and go to sleep...the print books I'm reading are ones my wife had. The thing is I don't know if all of them are books she liked, or if they were simply books she hadn't gotten around to reading. I have finished with several and I sat down today to review them...just for you. Yeah, yeah I know, so bear with me I'm a little cracked from all the (sadly mostly mediocre) horror. I know the books my wife liked and I'm convinced most of these were simply ones she had been "meaning to get to" and never bothered. Most [with a couple of exceptions] haven't been that good.

From the rating I gave this one you can probably tell, I wasn't bowled over by it...unless you mean negatively. Since I couldn't get into The Red Church I wasn't holding out a lot of hope. Nicholson didn't disappoint me...or he disappointed me again, however you want to look at it.

Here we have a woman who lives in the southern Appalachian Mountains. She's obviously very intelligent because she goes off on rants about her psychological theories that are "the most controversial things" in the staid college here in "hicksville". She feels free to (it seemed to me) sneer at the "moonshining", tobacco raising, church going, knitting bee having "hillbillies" (yes we use the time honored word hillbilly and not in it's acceptable "positive way"). I was treated early on to her opinion that she had (another) bad husband (I don't mean another for her, I just mean that I've seen so many lately that some books I pick up remind me of a Lifetime Movie Network piece). Follow this up with ANOTHER alien that's fallen from the skies and wants to make everything and everyone on Earth food, and you've got the book.

Been there done that a hundred times (and often better, try The Tommyknockers) Not for me, can't really recommend it. if you like it good for you...I didn't.

I hope I didn't buy this for my wife as a gift or something, it's really not very good.

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### Nev Murray says

This is a story of an alien invasion/infestation in a small sleepy town in the Appalachian Mountains.

The story slowly builds, getting you totally involved in the lives of all the characters until the explosive finale as a band of unlikely heroes comes together to try to defeat the entity and save the town of Windshake.

I love the way the characters build throughout this book. You can love some and you can equally hate some. It's full of horror/terror as the entity takes over the town one person at a time. One of the things I most love about Mr Nicholson's books is the the dry humour involved and there is plenty of it in this book, having you scared one minute and smiling the next.

The way the atmosphere is built in this book is amazing. It reminded me a lot of the colour/atmosphere of the original War of the Worlds film (1953). Full of Technicolor.

5 stars again.

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### **Mickey Tompkins says**

I liked this book, it read like an 80's "creature feature" kind of film. I really enjoyed the characters. The whole synopsis is love conquers all, or "All you need is love."

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### **Jon Recluse says**

Reads like one of those classic science fiction/horror movies from the 50s. Fast paced and fun, filled with well rounded characters and authentic "jump out of your skin" moments.

Highly recommended.

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### **BookLoversLife says**

I wasn't sure what to expect from this because the synopsis doesn't give anything away, I didn't expect alien plant like zombie people!! Lol. It was definitely different but still really good.

This reminded me of the old style horror movies my parents used to watch. It had everything you expect from that type of horror, remote small town, alien/monster causing havoc, band of people fighting against it, add in the Appalachian mountains and you have a winner. I have always been fascinated with the Appalachian mountains because it contains a lot of lore and a lot of land, so for me the setting was immediately a winner.

Basically what happens is an alien plantesque like presence invades the small town of Windshake. It spreads first to a man and from there it seems to quickly take over. The person becomes zombie like, with glowing green eyes and anyone it touches with it's goop becomes one of them. All it wants to do is harvest as many people as possible and wait for the rest of it's kind to come, but a group of the townsfolk are intent in stopping it.

There are plenty of characters in this and each has it's own story but they all interconnect. Each character is well written and I loved how different they all are, I mean we have a moonshiner, a psychology professor

who hears and sees things, a mayor intent on having the festivals no matter what and a devout man. All completely different but all likable in their own way.

Anyway, this was a really good read. If you take it with a pinch of salt then I think you will enjoy it. It's not the hard hitting alien sci-fi nor the type of horror horror fans like, it's a good old, old style, horror movie kind of read and quite fun in a way. The author tells the story through the eyes of his characters and while it looks like they are separate stories, he brings them all together in an explosive finale.

Steven Roy Grimsley was down right amazing reading this. His tone for the alien life was creepy, he brought across each characters emotions perfectly and really got into the performance, because that's what it was for him, a performance!! He brought the story across like a movie and I adored listening to it.

\*I received a copy of this for review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.\*

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### **Kim (Wistfulskimmies Book Reviews) says**

This is the story of an alien entity crash landing in the Appalachian mountains. It starts to take over the residents of the town and things can only get worse with a special festival being held in a few days. Visitors are due in town and it's up to a psychology teacher and two old 'codgers' to save the town from disaster.

I really enjoyed this. It started off quite slowly but it soon picked up and became extremely difficult to put down! It was the love child of 'The Tommyknockers' and 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' but on speed. The characters were solid and well rounded and there were the usual uber bad guys and also a couple that made me think were they or weren't they? it was sad in places, Scott managed to extract a lot of pathos - not easy given the subject matter. The ending was good and wrapped everything up nicely.

I recommend this for scifi/horror fans and for fans of Scott Nicholson. A great book with a great storyline.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in order to review it.

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### **kent says**

Scott Nicholson is growing on me. This book is on par with some of King's works. Adding real life southern mountain touches to graphic word images. You can almost smell the funk and feel the fervor with which the characters pray. The author winds the story lines and characters together with a plot and just enough of a sense of humor that the horrible tragedy of the story isn't wasted on doom.

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### **Steve Vernon says**

As a gardener I can tell you that there is nothing more contagious than a weed - and this book - THE HARVEST - is crammed FULL of an invading species that is basically a virulent weed.

So right off the bat THE HARVEST creeps me out.

THE HARVEST is old-school novel of space invasions - not the "OH MY GOLLY THEY ARE SHOOTING DOWN THE AIR FORCE" Independence Day style military space invasions - but more along the lines of the creeping paranoia of John Carpenter's THE THING - or better yet, John W. Campbell's "Who Goes There".

Think THE TOMMYKNOCKERS with a little bit more sense of continuity.

In fact, that last comparison is maybe the best of all. THE HARVEST reads like an old-school Stephen King novel - the kind of book where you KNOW that there is something go on in the woods just outside of town - something that is creeping like a case of galloping fungi into town - and only a handful of determined and stalwart redneck heroes stand in the way of the complete and total subjugation of the human race.

I've got to tell you that I really enjoy that whole scenario and I really enjoyed the heck out of Scott Nicholson's THE HARVEST.

You will too.

yours in storytelling,

Steve Vernon

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### **Nate says**

This was incredible sci-fi horror fun. I really enjoyed Nicholson's writing as the story didn't take itself too seriously yet still packed an emotional punch. The tone struck a perfect balance to me, the alien kicked ass, and the results of the infestation were vividly described. If I had actually had time to read, I would have devoured this in a couple of days.

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### **AudioBookReviewer says**

**ABR's full The Harvest audiobook review can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.**

The town of Windshake, located in the Appalachian Mountains, has a visitor. It is alien and very hungry! It will consume the people of Windshake one person at a time until its army of dead people become plant like with glowing green eyes. Anyone who ingests the alien plant like creature - whether it's through a kiss or a swig of homemade moonshine with polluted water, they will become one with the alien and one another moving towards the same purpose - consuming everything in its path.

The alien begins to learn from the souls of the folks it has absorbed into its army thus igniting the connection between a psychic psychology professor who is well aware of the gloomies (her psychic gift), a moonshine drinking old man and one businessman. They each have their own demons to deal with during their trek to destroy the "gloomies" who have materialized into this alien plant being.

Not your typical zombie book, but one could easily identify it as such - instead of eating flesh, they consume the life thus spreading the infection or disease that converts the receiver into a green eyed zombie.

Throw in a mayor who wants their festival to go well exposing thousands of vendors and visitors to the alien and it's army - you have a major event that could enable the infected and further world consumption easily.

Scott Nicholson writes in a clear concise manner. His plot development as is his character development excel. You can visualize his characters and follow his thoughts from the beginning to the end. There are no "huh?" moments in his books. Everything connects. He makes the town real and the people just as real.

Nicholson ranks right up there with Koontz, King, and Tufo

Audiobook provided for review by the author.

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### **Elaine says**

his is Scot Nicholson doing what he does best, taking a sleepy little small town in the middle of nowhere and terrorising the hell out of them! In this case an alien being has landed on the mountaintop and needs to feed to survive by "harvesting" the inhabitants, both animal and vegetable, turning them into zombie like hybrid beings. The heroes are three old men, Chester, Emerland, De Walt and local "psychic psychologist" Tamara who join forces for the ultimate Good vs Evil battle. As usual, the authors' narrative is spot on; you can picture this little town almost as if you had been there and dialogue is first rate. The characters are certainly believeable; you get to know their likes, dislikes and fears which really makes you empathise with them and start rooting for them against the zombies. What is great, is the way that not all the characters focussed on are necessarily "good", the author certainly doesn't forget to include the local "trailer trash" in his story notably Peggy, the broke mother in the trailer park who is offered a way out of poverty by doing the one thing she is really good at and, of course, Emerland is the archetypal "evil property developer who just wants to buy it and bulldoze it". There are a lot of characters to keep track of, but it gets easier as the book goes on because most of them come to a very gruesome end anyway. The plot does start off slowly, setting the scene and getting you into the feel of small town snail pace life but pretty soon builds up pace and, especially by the time you get to the second half of the book, has become unputdownable. Highly recommended.

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### **Jeanine says**

I'm a huge fan of this author and this book is an example of why.. Incredibly descriptive writing, good story.

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### **Nanette says**

Once again, Scott Nicholson does not fail to delight! I couldn't put this book down.

Again, we find unimaginable horror in the Appalachian Mountains. (Where most of his stories take place).

Telepathy, an other-worldly evil malevolence that meticulously infects one human after another , infidelity, moon shiners , a greedy real estate developer, but most importantly, non-stop gore, just the way that I like it!

Mr. Nicholson has an amazing command of the English language and is one of the most descriptive writers out there today. He reminds me a bit of Peter Straub, who I also adore.

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I HIGHLY recommend this book!

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### **Adam Wilson says**

Forever Never Ends is the author's preferred version of his 2003 novel The Harvest and it seems that Nicholson is moving away from his Bentley Little style of simple

titles. The Harvest Never Ends was a "what?" book for me. This does not mean that I didn't enjoy it because I did like it enough to finish, but I found it very

confusing. It made me question my own intelligence at times because I honestly do not know if I am to blame for not getting it or if it is the book's fault. If you have

ever read a Terry Pratchett novel, Nicholson's Forever Never Harvests reminded me of his work if he wrote crazy horror instead of ridiculous fantasy. I have read

several books by Nicholson and know his style well enough now to say with confidence that he writes like this famous author you might know named No One. This style is

present here too and it has a complexity that I don't usually see in horror with its insane metaphors and usage of words containing more than three syllables. Whether

or not this is a good thing for a basic alien invasion novel (if you can call this one that) is up to you to decide. I honestly did not think it was but I usually

dislike books about this sort of thing. The Tommyknockers was a struggle for me as an example. All in all though, despite this being my least favorite Nicholson novel

so far, I am still impressed and in no way discouraged. All of my favorite authors have work that doesn't interest me so I will move on and find one of Nicholson's

books that does. As he says "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger," and Never Ends The Harvest Forever most likely won't kill you.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

*The Harvest* is an excellent horror novel, a lot like Stephen King's work in many ways, daring to push the boundaries of "scary" and combining horror with a quaint rural setting to create a very original story.

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