



# The Waiting

*Joe Hart*

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## **The Waiting** Joe Hart

Evan Tormer is haunted.

His life has been shattered by events beyond his control and regret is his constant companion. His wife is gone, lost to an unbeatable cancer. His son has been mentally and physically handicapped by a tragic accident. He's been fired for using company funds in a failed attempt to save his wife's life.

On a whim, Evan accepts an invitation to housesit on a picturesque island in northern Minnesota. At first it seems like the perfect second chance for he and his son to recover and rebuild their life together.

But there is something very, very wrong with the house and all that occupies it. And worst of all, Evan doesn't know if the house is haunted...

...Or if it's all in his mind.

## **The Waiting Details**

Date : Published November 19th 2013 by Black Spine Books

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Author : Joe Hart

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Genre : Horror, Fantasy, Supernatural, Thriller, Ghost Stories, Mystery, Suspense

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# From Reader Review The Waiting for online ebook

## RedemptionDenied says

This book is one hell of an emotional rollercoaster - and the ending was something I wasn't expecting.

Evan Torner is having a really bad day. He's about to get fired for stealing money (which he paid back in full), from the company where he works, as his wife, Elle, was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and he needed the money to pay for unorthodox treatments (medical insurance wouldn't cover it) - which were doing more good than the conventional drugs she was taking. A bit more good, anyway - though she succumbed to the disease in the end. He pleads to keep his job as a writer, to no avail. In the space of about thirty seconds, he manages to commit two offenses/misdemeanours; assault, because some ass-clown escorting him out says something nasty about his son, Shaun - who is mentally disabled; due to a truck crashing into Evans car at an intersection a few years back, when Shaun was three years old. So Colt gets the elbow in the face. Evan also commits blackmail, when the person who just fired him, Christy, reaches for the phone. Luckily, the year before, he caught her on her knees - and she wasn't doing penitence or evening prayers; she was looking for an early promotion, pay rise or employee of the month award. She probably got all three, though her mouth was full at the time, so she didn't notice Evan sneaking out of Tillman's (C E O's) office. He threatens to tell Tillman's wife.

He leaves the place where he's worked for the last eight years - and meets his friend, Jason, who has a solution to his woes. All he has to do is house-sit on an island, known as the Fin (because it looks like a sharks fin). The house belonged to Jason's grandparents, but is now technically his - and the previous caretaker, Bob, has disappeared. All Evan has to do is take care of the property; do a little light maintenance and he'll also get paid for it. At first he declines; mainly because of his sons medical needs - but Jason tells him there's everything he needs at Mill River, where the island is located.

Anyway, he's not on the island long before things start happening that can't be explained. And the one thing that is central to the story is down in the basement of the property. Mill River is a town with a dark history and a myriad of secrets.

I really liked the main character; he is devoted to caring for his son - who has speech, balance, motor and developmental disabilities. So his life has been an upward struggle since the death of his wife and the accident. He is almost flawless in character; except for a couple of instances where he loses his temper. There's also a bit of a romance going on - which I thought was going in one direction, but had a twist I didn't see coming, to say the least.

I really enjoyed the book. I'll have to check out the authors other novels, sometime.

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## Vicki Willis says

I really liked this book. If Evan didn't have bad luck, he would have no luck at all! There was a twist with the "romantic interest" that I didn't see coming and I loved it! The mystery of the clock kept my interest and it made me think of a clock at my parent's house. The ending was great! I would recommend this book.

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## **Mary says**

Immediately after reading Joe Hart's *The River Is Dark*, I read two of his supernatural thriller offerings, *The Waiting* and *Lineage*. Both are pretty well done and plot wise quite different from each other though some aspects are the same. *The Waiting* is actually quite creepy and I think Mr. Hart did an excellent job with his main character, Evan, the unhappy widower father of a profoundly disabled child. As in all 3 of the Joe Hart novels I've read thus far, the editing could be better, and Mr. Hart should probably consult a dictionary when using words like "abhor" and "statuesque". Truly, there is some good raw talent here; Mr. Hart knows scary and in time I could see him taking a seat next to such horror luminaries as the immortal Uncle Stephen and Peter Straub.

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## **Bill says**

\*Audio version\*

After his wife succumbs to cancer, Evan and his son Shaun take a sabbatical to recuperate while housesitting at a friend's place on a small island in Minnesota. Unfortunately, while the seclusion is good for Evan's writing and for getting some time with his son, they soon realize that they are not entirely alone. Ghosts of the past resurface and have set their sights on Evan and Shaun. With the help of a pretty psychiatrist they will need to track down the history of the place and solve its mysteries before all of them are lost forever.

The narration for this one was very good and the pacing was perfect for the story line and really added to the creepy, dark atmosphere. The characterization was well thought out and the relationship between father and son was spot on. There were also a few twists that I didn't see coming and I thought they were smartly done and not clichéd as they may have been with a lesser storyteller. A well done supernatural chiller. 3+ Stars

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## **Cathy says**

I've been reading a lot of horror novels available on Kindle Unlimited. It's been a gamble. Most are mildly entertaining and a few just feel like amateur creative writing exercises. Joe Hart's *The Waiting* was the first to really scare me in a long time. I judge a horror novel based on how it makes me feel at night when I turn the light off. Does it make me want to hide under the covers, avoid looking at dark corners, and invite my 90lb mastiff to sleep next to me? *The Waiting* certainly met all that criteria. Of course, creepy dolls always get me but Mr. Hart did a great job setting the mood of the story and being truly creepy and unsettling. The main characters were very easy to relate to and root for. The story wasn't predictable and I loved the ending. I look forward to reading more of his work.

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## **Alexandria says**

Wonderful book! Very scary, but extremely emotional, especially at the ending. Then, maybe, I am just too sentimental!

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## Robert Krone says

Disclaimer: I received this title through a Goodread first reads giveaways. This is my fair and unbiased review.

I was very impressed with *The Waiting*. Having never read anything from Joe Hart I wasn't sure exactly how it would be, just that it sounded like a promising book. What I got was a great read that made me think about how certain things might be behind the words written on the page.

The setting and atmosphere of this book were great and something I could properly imagine going on. My favorite part of the book was seeing the relationship between father and son and imaging how it might feel to be in a similar situation. I have some thoughts about the relationship beyond what is spelled out based on how the father communicates with his son, but I won't get into that as I want to avoid any spoilers or anything like that. I will say that it is a creepy read, one that may just give you the chills. I also enjoyed the ending of this one.

I will say that this book could have used more editing, but the editing issues did not take away from the story and were only a very minor distraction at times. There are also no page numbers printed in the copy I received, though that didn't really bother me most of the time as I was just into the story too much to really care about what page I was on.

Overall I give this one 4.25/5

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## Randy Evans says

"*The Waiting*" by Joe Hart is the third book I've read by this author. "*The River is Dark*" and "*Singularity*" both I rated as five star books but I can't do that with this one. The lead character "Evan Torner" for me was not a likable character. I couldn't even feel sorry for him. With all kinds of warning signs he time after time could not read the writing on the wall and left himself and his son and a few others in danger so clear that anyone else would have ran for the hills long before they met their fate. The "evil" in this story wasn't what one would call "first rate" either. It didn't come looking for it's victims they had to come to it like a fly to a spider web but with big bright warning signs saying "Don't go Here" or "Danger,Danger, Turn Back". Of course this is only my take on the book. I say if you like the author read it, if you haven't read anything by this author pick one of his other books.

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## Kimberly says

Great new author that Ive discovered!

A supernatural thriller/horror story that totally rocked. Beautifully descriptive and a real page turner.

Synopsis:

Our main character, "Evan", has lost his wife to cancer and he is left to take care of their son who previously had been in a car accident causing the child brain damage. Things are really hard for this now single dad. He

is broke, has lost his job because he embezzled money during his wifes cancer treatments and though he did pay the employer back, he is nonetheless let go. Evan's best friend has a great idea and asks Evan to move with his son into a lake home on an island that has been in his family's care for a long time. He can take care of the home whilst being paid to do so and also allowing this withered man some time to try and hold on to some sanity and spend as much time with his son as possible. He desperately needs to get back on his feet.

Things go downhill very quickly as this perfect opportunity is quickly a terrible one. The home is haunted and many secrets remain to be uncovered. Written so well, I found it an addictive read.

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### **LaDawn Almanza says**

**Loved it!**

**Loved it!**

A beautiful end to a nightmare. I think I'll see what else this author has up his sleeve for me.

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### **Donna says**

Quite the satisfying read, this one.

The characters were well fleshed-out, and I especially loved the relationship between Evan and Shaun; it was beautiful. It made me hope that if - God forbid - one of my kids ended up in Shaun's situation, I'd be as wonderful and patient and steady a support for them as Evan is for his son.

The 'haunting' was done well, too. Subtle, different from the norm, and very effective.

I don't know if I've ever read anything by Joe Hart in the past, but I have a whole bunch of his stuff on my Kindle and I'm very much looking forward to reading all of it :) He has a new fan!

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### **Peter says**

Evan Torner lost his wife to cancer and his son Shaun was in a terrible car accident. The car accident left Shaun with brain damage and lost of his motor skills. Evan, could not afford to pay his wife's medical, so he embezzled money from the company that he work at. Although he paid all the money back, his employer had to let him go. Evan's best friend Jason, comes up with a fantastic idea to help his friend out. Jason tells Evan that he can live at his lakeside cabin, until he gets back on his feet. Jason will pay Evan to be the caretaker of the lakeside cabin. Evan inquired about the last caretaker and was told that one day he left and never came back. For Evan and Shaun, this is a chance to build a new life together. Evan promised his wife before she died, that he would never let anything happen to their son. Evan and Shaun moved in right away and everything goes downhill after that. Evan will find out that the house holds many dark and disturbing secrets. The characters were really well developed but most of all, I enjoyed the relationship between Evan and his son Shaun. Joe Hart is a good writer and a great storyteller. I highly recommend this book!

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### **Jon Recluse says**

I received this book through a GoodReads "First Reads" giveaway.

An atmospheric chiller that blends the contemporary haunted house story with the old school "weird tale" to create a powerfully creepy read. Written with pitch-perfect pacing and fully fleshed characters, this novel had the hair on the back of my neck standing up, along with some sleepless nights brought on by the ticking of a clock. It doesn't get much better than that, folks!

Highly recommended!

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### **Anthony Hains says**

I had the opportunity to read *The Waiting*, one of Joe Hart's earlier novels. This supernatural tale involves a young widower and his disabled son residing on an island in one of the countless lakes of northern Minnesota. There are ghosts aplenty, scary incidents, a creepy backstory and a haunted grandfather clock to propel the story. The early setup is nicely done. Our protagonist, Evan Tormer, is nicely drawn and the geographical setting is an interesting character in its own right. The second quarter of the book meanders a bit with a couple of torpid scare scenes. The action picks up the pace and the storyline gels at around the half-way point. The puzzle pieces start falling into place and momentum builds. There were two or three genuine freaky passages that chilled me and I honestly didn't see where the plot was going. The ending was nicely handled, too, although the subplot involving a potential love interest didn't quite achieve the author's intentions – at least for me. On the other hand, I found the subplot of a single dad raising a disabled child to be a unique addition. The child is portrayed with dignity, so kudos to Mr. Hart on that score.

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### **Sam Stephens says**

It's not often I get chills from reading books - but with this one, I did. Three times.

Loved it!

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