



Becoming

Glenn Rolfe

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Something ancient has wormed its way up from the earth....

A change has come today.

After Michele Cote's best friend disappears, no one believes her story about the thing responsible for his abduction. Forced to figure out the mystery for herself, Michele encounters terror she has never known, and witnesses the impossible.

When other members of the community begin to change or vanish, Sheriff Shane Davis must look beyond reason in order to stop the evil seeping into this small town. With help from an unlikely source, Sheriff Davis will come face-to-face with the truth.

You can't destroy what you don't understand. For the town of Avalon, Maine, the future is about change...for better or worse.

Becoming is the next horrifying novel from author, Glenn Rolfe. Includes the bonus novella, Boom Town.

Becoming Details

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Author : Glenn Rolfe

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Genre : Horror

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From Reader Review Becoming for online ebook

11811 (Eleven) says

This was pretty straightforward horror. No ice, no water, just the way I like it. It had an 80's feel to it even though it takes place more recently. I guess I associate all small town horror with my favorites from the 80's. I do concur with the character who asks "Who's Veronica Mars and why do we care what she would do?"

What's a Veronica Mars? I seem to have some catching up to do on pop culture references.

Let's go with 80's type Lovecrafty sci-fi horror that should appeal to all fans of STRANGER THINGS. An easy four star read. This includes the bonus novella, Boom Town, which I haven't read yet and will review separately when I do.

I received a free review copy from the author. If he hears someone throwing pebbles at his window in the middle of the night, it's probably me trying to score an advanced copy of the next one. Either that or it's something with tentacles and he should stay away from the window.

Sheri says

I've just finished this story & I must say...it completely freaking rocked!!!

* I've been looking for a good horror adventure with an old-fashioned twist & I finally found it in 'Becoming'. This is not merely a scary story, it is an adventure ride that I wouldn't change at all. I was sad when it ended because not only was it a kick arse tale, but this story makes for a perfect shot of escapism. While reading 'Becoming', I felt as if I was right there with the other characters. After I began reading, it didn't take long at all for me to become totally invested in this creepy story. It was much like a long episode of The Zone that I couldn't wait to get back to.

I should have been asleep over an hour ago-but much like a scary monster, the story grabbed me & wouldn't let me go (but in a good way, without bloodshed).

Like all of Glenn Rolfe's stories, I became attached to the perfectly formed characters within. The story flowed effortlessly, becoming more intense with each handful of chapters.

* I must start my day in 6 hours, so I'm gonna try to fall asleep while going over what I've just read in my mind & I will return with a review that does this book better justice than merely stating my emotions upon completion. However in the meantime, I will say THIS IS A HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READ!!!

Jon Recluse says

A thoroughly enjoyable example of small town creature feature/monster mayhem that delivers everything from chills to gore.

Highly recommended.

Jeremy Hepler says

I read BECOMING, a small town, mysterious lake, sci-fi tale, in only one day last week. It was that engrossing. Glenn's pacing was spectacular as was the case with the first few books of his I've read, and the characters were well developed despite the length of the story, which I would've loved to have seen fleshed out a little more. I connected with and rooted for Michelle, Clint, and the others from the beginning, and thoroughly enjoyed the suspenseful way Glenn wove their individual POVs together as the plot thickened. This was my third book of Glenn Rolfe's to read, and I'm greatly looking forward to the many more I have to go.

John says

3.5 stars

I enjoyed this short novel. It was well written and the story was, shall we say - different. The horror was a little too low key, and I felt it could do with a bit more grue and darkness.

I was also surprised when the story ended abruptly at about 68% of the ebook (there is a "bonus" novella included), but the ending felt too short-storyish.

Mort says

Man, I wish I could give 4.5 stars!

I'll admit it, I wasn't too keen on reading this story, simply because I thought it would be a possession story. Well, Glenn Rolfe surprised me once again - even though this story is just straight horror, the writing style was really good and kept me interested. I have to give kudo's to the author, a lesser writer wouldn't have been able to do so with this story.

Even though it is horror, there are a lot of similarities (the concept) to the movie BODY SNATCHERS - it is even mentioned in the story. But this book took me more toward another movie I loved - THE FACULTY. A young Josh Hartnett, a pre-LOTR Elijah Wood, Robert Patrick, and small roles for John Stewart and Usher (I think, please forgive me if I'm wrong on this), elevated this movie to something more than a simple teen movie. And let's not forget the cover of the Pink Floyd song "Another brick in the wall" by ?? Class of 1999. (Damn it, my pride won't allow me to Google that shit!)

Anyway, the main character in this story is Michele, and her best friend disappears in the lake. When she sees him outside her window again, his eyes are glowing green. And one-by-one, everyone in town is being taken over by the monster in the lake. How can a teenage girl stop them?

Well, Glenn, I have to tell you that your movie and music references makes me think that we could have some long, pointless conversations about a whole bunch of useless crap. And, for the first time, I can also see

that small influences of Stephen King in this story.
I enjoyed it and this is probably the best I've read from you so far.

Recommend to people who like straight horror.

Cats of Ulthar says

Review: BECOMING by Glenn Rolfe

Oh my...old-fashioned creature feature here, though not like this. BECOMING is raw horror, and I'm not here referring to the "monsters," I mean the human evil. I had just finished reviewing a novel of psychological horror "starring" a really evil human with certain predilections (and one of the most massive sense of entitlement I've ever seen) and then I jump into this. If I were subjected to the human evil here, I'd jump into the lake too--even though I can't swim. In many ways, I found cheering for the "creature."

In addition to the brand-new novella "Becoming," the wonderful horror novella "Boomtown" is also included.

Kimberly says

BECOMING, by Glenn Rolfe, is a "*creature-feature*" type of story, putting me in mind of favorite "B-horror movies", with a hint of Lovecraftian creations thrown in for good measure. It may seem strange to describe a horror tale as "*fun*", but that is exactly how it felt to me while reading this. The elements such as characters, location, weather, and most especially the small town with a population of 461, all combine to give the book a very *fluid* feeling. The scenes seemed to effortlessly flow from one to the next, without any jarring intrusions to snap you out of the momentum of the action taking place.

We have our initial impression of Jade Lake, in the town of Avalon, Maine, drawn as a beautiful, peaceful setting--in stark contrast to nineteen year old Clint Truman, whose physical and mental scars from years of abuse at the hands of his sadistic father, keep him apart as a character, and almost secluded from the rest of the town--mentally, if not physically. Clint is the first to notice the strange green glow from the lake, but as he is so fundamentally "*hurt*" inside from his daily torments, he simply returns back to his own seclusion. . .

NOT what this "*Lady of Jade Lake*" had in mind.

"You can't destroy what you don't understand."

Then we get to some of our main characters. Fourteen year old Michele Cote and her best friend, Greg Hickey, are looking around Jade Lake. What Michele witnesses next is something that nobody believes, and Greg is listed as a "missing person". However, Greg is just the messenger this entity had been looking for.

"One by one, we'll all become."

From this point on, Rolfe fills each page with non-stop action as the "*Green Lady*" sends out her tentacled reach in an effort to convert the entire populace. During this period, characters, their family dynamics, faults

and loves, are all gradually given to the reader, forming a solid connection with the inhabitants of this little community. Although you will grow to care about many, Rolfe doesn't hold back when it comes to gore and carnage. Several twists come out during the tale to further heighten the excitement, and bring forth an entirely new level of horror to contemplate.

"In all my years lived never have I witnessed such evil. The devil in the waters . . ."

When the final stage is set, even I was surprised at what ensued. An enjoyable read that left just enough ambiguity to give readers something further to ponder on their own.

"One-by-one, go to her. Become!"

Recommended!

Catherine Cavendish says

Glenn Rolfe keeps getting stronger and stronger with each new title. 'Becoming' is his latest and is packaged here with 'Boom Town' - which is great, because that is an excellent novella too! In Becoming we have a lady of the lake who bears no resemblance to the mythical figure who gave the sword Excalibur to King Arthur. This 'lady' is something else entirely - even though the town in which the lake is situated is called Avalon.

In Avalon, something is going horribly wrong. People are being transformed and an ancient evil is once again arising. Will anyone survive? Packed full of great characters and a strong storyline, with plenty of tension and scares, 'Becoming' takes an interesting twist on a familiar theme of classic horror. Original and entertaining.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

A straight-up B-flick type horror story. The writing style keeps it simple and focused on what's going on in the present, so it's also a speedy and easy read.

The characters don't come alive much since they are mainly cannon fodder for the tentacles of doom, so they sort of blend together with the exception of a few. The beginning with the abused Cliff, the conscientious sheriff, and the loyal teenage Girl Melissa are a few who stand out.

Gore fans will enjoy the descriptions of slime and gooey things. The death count is as high as you'd expect from this type of story. If you have a thing for big tentacled creatures taking over a backwater town, you're in the right place.

Sadie Hartmann Mother Horror says

Many thanks to the author for a copy of *Becoming* in exchange for an honest review.

I learned a new thing from my Twitter friends that love horror. Books that have a creature as the antagonist is called a "creature feature". Think *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, *Rats*, *Invasive*, *The Hatching*...you know:

CREATURES!!!

Yay! *cheering*

I like creature features. This book, *Becoming*, is part of this wonderful genre where we get lots and lots of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" style mayhem and gore.

This story reads like an old school horror story where the action get rolling right from the first few pages- think *X files* where you get to see some kind of unexplained drama unfolding for a few minutes before the credits. My only complaint is that Rolfe has an extensive cast of characters. I feel like we're introduced to the whole town. Clocking in at just under 300 pages, this book isn't quite a novella and not quite a novel so I do think a few of the character dramas could have fallen to the editing floor but other than that, a few characters rise to the surface *see what I did there* as our heroic, gritty protagonists. There's a father and son relationship that's pretty unsavory and uncomfortable but you, know--it's part of the genre. There's a girl character I liked very, very much and lastly, is this book scary? Yes. It's tense, it moves at a breakneck speed and it's scary. I enjoyed this one and I recommend it--a fun ride!

Frank Errington says

Review copy

If you're a fan of B-Movie monster madness as I am, don't even bother reading the rest of the review. Just get the book and toss it on top of your TBR pile or list depending on whether you read physical books or digital versions.

Greg Hickey and his girlfriend are spending time down by the water when Greg finds something unusual in the water. Next thing you know, Greg is gone. You see, there is something lurking beneath the waters of Jade Lake in the otherwise quiet town of Avalon, Maine. Something that's been dormant for many years, but isn't anymore.

The action starts right away in *Becoming*...

The thing was human-like, but yet far from it, and let its mesmerizing glowing eyes come back from their deep depths. Its slick tentacles slithered around his head, pried between his lips, and shoved their way deep inside.

I loved Michele's fascination with Veronica Mars and how she would repeatedly ask herself, "What would Veronica do?" I also enjoyed how the craziest man in town, Russ James, may have a better idea about what's going on than the authorities.

Rolfe is sharp with a turn of phrase...

She was light, maybe a couple of crackers over a hundred pounds.

It all combines to produce an imaginative story with a wonderfully high body count. Can anyone from Avalon survive what lies beneath Jade lake?

Highly recommended.

There's also a Bonus Novella included with *Becoming*. It happens to be the first piece I ever read by Glenn and it's called Boom Town. I gave this story 4 of 5 stars.

The fact that Boom Town is dedicated to Art Bell and George Noory should tell you all you need to know about this fun little romp into the world of the unknown.

Reminiscent of the great old-time creature features, Boom Town is quite inventive and at times disgusting as such a story should be.

It's the perfect companion piece to *Becoming*, so when you finish the title story catch your breath and then check out Boom Town.

Get both tales now for the Kindle. If you subscribe to Kindle Unlimited you can read it at no additional charge. Also, if you are an Amazon Prime member you can read it for FREE using the Kindle Owners Lending Library.

From the author's bio - Glenn Rolfe is an author, singer, songwriter and all around fun loving guy from the haunted woods of New England. He has studied Creative Writing at Southern New Hampshire University, and continues his education in the world of horror by devouring the novels of Stephen King, Jack Ketchum, Hunter Shea, Brian Moreland and many others. He and his wife, Meghan, have three children, Ruby, Ramona, and Axl. He is grateful to be loved despite his weirdness.

Ken McKinley says

Becoming is the mother of all homages. If you've ever been a fan of 70's and 80's horror (and if you're not, what the hell are you doing reading this review??), you'll recognize and love all of the nuggets mixed together in this little beauty. You have *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *Eaten Alive*, *Night of the Creeps*, *Invaders From Mars*, *Tommyknockers*, *The Raft*, just to name a few. And the great thing about *Becoming* is that Rolfe makes it his own. I love that he chose to play the story straight up, too. Nothing schlocky or campy here. That, along with Rolfe's strong ability to create realistic dialogue, makes for a suspenseful page turner.

Michele's friend Greg was dragged right off the dock and into the lake by...well, by she didn't know what. But, she did know that it certainly wasn't human. The problem is that no one believes a fifteen year old, especially when they're hysterical and babbling about monsters coming from out of the lake. Other disappearances cause the town to boil with worry and paranoia, but that gets directed towards and unknown kidnapper, not the boogeyman. Finally, the unthinkable truth is revealed to Sheriff Shane Davis and he can no longer ignore what seemed impossible. The question is - Is he too late?

Becoming was a thrilling roller coaster ride from cover to cover and, in my opinion, Rolfe's best yet. Considering his quality body of work, that says a lot. If I could find anything to be critical of, I'd say the ending feels a bit rushed to me and I would of liked it fleshed out a bit more. But, it's a minor thing and I'm

happy to report that this is a wonderful...

4 1/2 Glowing Green Eyes out of 5

This ARC was provided in exchange for an honest review.

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<https://kenmckinley.wordpress.com>

<http://intothemacabre.booklikes.com>

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

Vicki Willis says

This was a great book. It started out fast and never let up. It was creepy and dark and the reader didn't know what was in the lake. It had the feel of old school horror, but took place in the present and had some fun pop culture references. I liked how the characters were interconnected. There were definitely some I was rooting for and others that were deplorable. There were a few scenes that literally raised the hair on the back of my neck for both a fear factor and disgust! I also like the ending, though I did not predict what was going to happen.

My version of the book also had a novella included. It also had a creature feel to it. The mystery in it hooked me and I read it in one sitting.

I recommend this for anyone who likes creature type horror. You won't be disappointed.

Michael Hicks says

There's something in the water, deep within the lake, at ol' Avalon, ME. Children are disappearing, and people are acting funny - and by acting funny, I mean their eyes are glowing with a green bio luminescence bright enough to light up a room. Friends and neighbors are not just changing...they are becoming.

In this novel's opening pages, before the story even begins, in the Praise for the Author section, a few of the blurbs struck me for what is certainly an apt description of Glenn Rolfe's talents and of this book in particular. Both Richard Chizmar and Adam Cesare make use of the word "throwback" in describing Rolfe's werewolf novel, *Blood and Rain*, with both likening Rolfe's writings to the horror stylings of paperback originals from 20 or 30 years ago.

It's an apt assessment, I think, and *Becoming* certainly has an old-school flavor to it. This is a work that wears its influences proudly, and you can tell Rolfe consumed a steady diet of horror works like Stephen King's *Tommyknockers* (a work that Rolfe cheekily gives a meta nod toward with a character reading the book on her Kindle while the plot unfolds) and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

While clearly influenced, *Becoming* never struck me as being overly reverential to either of those works.

Rolfe hits a comfortable stride early on in this book, and while the supernatural goings-on are a nifty device, it's the characters that are really worthwhile. He hits some important notes with the decidedly less than idyllic relationship between Clint Truman and his father, as well as the father-daughter relationship between Bret and teenage Michelle Cote. Family plays a vital role in underpinning *Becoming*'s thematic nature and the character's longing for stability in their interpersonal relationships. It's good stuff!

Michelle, one of the central leads with a few personal stakes in the story, makes for a solid, youthful heroine. She's got some real grit, and it's impossible not to root for her, particularly as she asks herself *What Would Veronica Mars Do?*.

Becoming is a swift read, and has a few good scares and gore. I would have liked to know more about Jade Lake and the evil lurking there, but Rolfe opts to keep things mysterious and that's OK, too, because he succeeds in delivering a really good, small-town creature feature.

[Also included in *Becoming* is Rolfe's previously-published novella, [book:Boom Town|23715851], which I've read and reviewed previously.]
