



## The Watcher

*Lael Littke*

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Carina keek om zich heen en luisterde scherp. Er was niemand. Geen ontvoerder in een lange, donkere jas. Geen donkere stem die haar naam uitsprak. Geen deken die plotseling over haar hoofd werd gegooid. Ze haalde opgelucht adem. Het lot van haar dubbelganger op tv werd haar bespaard. Het zou niet haar laatste aflevering zijn. Langzaam draaide ze zich om om weer naar binnen te gaan. Op dat moment viel haar blik op de voordeur. In het hout stak een groot mes, waaraan een briefje en een rode roos zaten gespiest. Carina begon te gillen. "Dat heeft geen zin, Carina." fluisterde een stem in haar oor. "Niemand hoort je."

## The Watcher Details

Date : Published November 17th 1994 by Scholastic Point (first published 1994)

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Author : Lael Littke

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Genre : Young Adult, Horror, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Mystery, Crime

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## From Reader Review The Watcher for online ebook

### **Bex says**

This was a tense thriller where life imitated a TV obsession and creates some genuine scares with a good twist at the end. It was the first of my retreads to feel dated with references to VCR and running home to watch tv. A 21st century update would not lose any of the tension in this novel.

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### **Alana says**

Not a bad read, but still very cliché. As a young adult novel, I expected a certain level of writing from it but I feel it didn't meet that standard. I, personally, thought it tried a little too hard to be an easy read, to the point where nothing in particular stood out to me. However, it did have its moments; the book was an entertaining read, at least.

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### **Kirsty says**

Point Horror books are my guilty pleasure, and I loved this one. Sure, the characters are simplistic and the writing is clunky, but the plot has some lovely twists and turns, and I think that if I wanted I could write a whole dissertation on how the dual story lines play with notions of reality and playing a role. Metafiction in a young adult horror novel? Yes indeed.

(I read this entire book on the beach at Culzen Castle with my family. It was a good day.)

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### **Sam says**

Not the most thrilling of the point horror series but still worth a bit of a read, the ending is quite surprising but personally I didn't find the story that scary...probably because I couldn't put myself in that kind of situation.

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### **Abbi ?§???▲??? says**

I used to go back to the library and borrow and re-borrow and re-borrow this book over and over again. The plot in this book just riveted me. I never got tired of reading it, and I don't think you will either.

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### **Robyn Drummond says**

Wow, such a good idea and so many twists and turns! Excellent.

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### **Michelle Toy says**

3 out of 5 Point Horror Book Stars!

(I rate these books compared to other Point Horror Books Only)

I read this as part of the #pointhorrorbookclub that I run monthly!

Want to know more about #pointhorrorbookclub - check this out <http://talesofyesterday.co.uk/tales-p...>

All in all I personally liked this book - classic retro point horror!

For more reviews and book chat please visit [www.talesofyesterday.co.uk](http://www.talesofyesterday.co.uk)

Please be aware that the discussion will contain spoilers!

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### **Nattie says**

This one kept me entertained, and even though I felt the soap opera angel was a bit stupid; I loved it. I thought Catherine was a bit daft and did dumb stuff, but hey.

The reasoning for the things happening to Catherine were very far-fetched, but still enjoyable.

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### **Siobhán O'Brien Holmes says**

I am so relieved I enjoyed this! I was a humungous Point Horror fan as a kid; I still remember buying *The Invitation* with my two best friends, putting in £1 each and vowing to share it fairly. No idea where it's gone now. Somebody owes me a quid.

My mum bought me a Point Horror collection for Christmas and this is the first one I've finished, and it was excellent. I'm slightly embarrassed to say that I didn't see the ending coming. I mean, there were half a dozen suspects so the killer didn't come as a massive surprise, but there were several moments near the end when I thought 'Oh COME ON, this is so OBVIOUS. That's what I get for rereading children's horror as a grown-up' but then I was completely wrong.

Obviously Point Horror isn't literary fiction and it doesn't need to be, but there were a few things that tripped me up, like the overuse of fidgets and adverbs in dialogue tags, and lines that made me laugh out loud, like when Little felt it necessary to tell us that a completely inconsequential, random character with about three lines had 'worried brown eyes'. Not every character needs a physical description!

The characters were fairly flat (although pretty realistic and relatable for a teenage reader, I think) and I didn't massively care what happened to the protagonist, but the book wasn't really about characterisation, it was about plot and tension, and it handled those really well. Overall, THUMBS UP!

**First line: The hooded figure watched.**

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**Jessica says**

I was honestly surprised as to how much I liked this novel. For the first half I rolled my eyes quite often and found the protagonist to be too gullible and over reactive. Then I found the more I read the more engrossed I became. It honestly pulled the wool over my eyes.

The Watcher, fluctuates between being cheesy, overly obvious, and suspenseful. You'd think combination would spell disaster, but it makes for a good drama. I'd definitely recommend this to anyone who loves soap operas or drama filled program.

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**erin buchanan says**

Great take on a soap opera. :) Good job for a YA novel switching back and forth who you think the bad guy is.

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**Johnny Bennett says**

Not a bad book. It was a little bit whiney for my taste. Decent plot twists. And no sci-fi in the end. Just good old fashioned murder.

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**Sati Marie Frost says**

I liked the idea of this, although the actuality of it could have been improved upon.

Catherine cares about one thing only: her soap opera. Everything in life revolves around watching the soap and being like Cassandra, one of the lead characters. When a cute new boy at school mentions that he enjoys the show and thinks that she looks just like Cassandra, she's even more determined to turn into a Cassandra-clone, cutting her hair the same way and wearing the same clothes.

But Cassandra is being stalked by someone intent on terrorising her, and soon someone starts stalking Catherine in identical ways.

As I said, I liked the premise of this book, but I felt that the execution could have been improved upon. Catherine is kind of a non-entity; the only standout personality feature is her obsession with this soap opera. I'm not even sure that she HAS a personality other than that which is copied from Cassandra. The book feels choppy to me, and inconsistent with disparate elements. Catherine appears to be this shy, slightly odd girl with few friends - and then we find out she's also a cheerleader. (What?) Travis, the new guy and Catherine's love interest, seems to have a dark past that is alluded to and then basically ignored. The motivations for the villain seem to come out of nowhere. There are some interesting threads here, but they never quite weave together in any kind of regular pattern, and I feel that they should either have been developed or cut loose.

Verdict: Interesting plot, fell down a bit on the writing side.

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