



## Those Who Went Remain There Still

*Cherie Priest*

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Heaster Wharton is dead, and his passing might mean an end to hostilities between the Manders and the Coys. If the elderly patriarch showed the kindness and foresight to split his land cleanly between his feuding descendants, then a truce could be arranged.

But his final request is a strange one, delivered across the country to the straggling remnants of his tribe. Representatives from both families must visit a cave at the edge of his property in the hills of Kentucky. There, he promised, they would find his last will and testament.

But there's more than paperwork waiting underground, as vindictive old Heaster was well aware.

In 1775, Daniel Boone and a band of axe-wielding frontiersmen struggled to clear a path through the Cumberland Gap into the heart of Bluegrass country, and they did not work unopposed. Hounded and harried by an astonishing monster, the axe-men overcame the beast by sheer numbers and steel. They threw its body into a nearby cave.

It was not dead.

And now, it is not alone.

Crippled and outraged, for 100 years something terrible has huddled underground, dreaming of meat and revenge. But its newest callers are heavily armed, skeptical of their instructions, and predisposed to violence.

With their guns and their savage instincts, Heaster's grandchildren will not make for easy pickings.

## Those Who Went Remain There Still Details

Date : Published December 1st 2008 by Subterranean Press

ISBN : 9781596061798

Author : Cherie Priest

Format : Hardcover 170 pages

Genre : Horror, Fantasy, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy, Historical Fantasy, Science Fiction, Alternate History, Paranormal, Ghosts, Gothic, Southern Gothic

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## From Reader Review Those Who Went Remain There Still for online ebook

### Brooke says

Cherie Priest seems to be able to do anything well. This novella is a creepy little monster story; it's sort of what the movie *Jeepers Creepers* would have been like if it was set in 1775 and 1899. The descriptions are vivid, the characters are interesting, and Priest does a good job creating a sense of foreboding and dread.

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### Neil says

first person narrator changing between chapters was very confusing, but it started off with an interesting premise (totally made me think of "The Upstream Tanbarks" from a recent session of my gaming group ;).

but one character "seeing dead people" felt a little played out, and the situation revealed at the end was pretty obvious halfway through. then it ended, without any resolution. just a mess of implausible action that felt like the spelunking horror film "Descent".

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### Claudette says

Stunning and terse. Nicely done ending.

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### MB Taylor says

I finished reading *Those Who Went Remain There Still* last night. It's a short horror novel (170 pages) set in Kentucky in 1899 with flashbacks to 1775. Beyond that it's a monster-in-the-dark romp.

The 1899 story concerns a feuding, somewhat inbred, Kentucky family, the Manders and the Coys, both descended from the recently deceased Heaster Wharton, Junior. Heaster is not only the local patriarch, but also the richest man in town (although that's not saying much given the local squalor). In an apparent effort to get his descendants to quit their fighting, Heaster has hidden his will in a local cave and selected 3 representatives from each side to bring it out.

Back in 1775, Daniel Boone is leading a team of men blazing the trail for the Wilderness Road. They've crossed the Cumberland Gap and are in central Kentucky near the trail's end. Unfortunately they are also being harried by some sort of near indestructible monster. One of the team members is "Little" Heaster...

For the first half of the novel, the 1899 sections move along nicely; but there's nothing of a horror novel there, just getting all the characters together and setting the stage as it were. The 1775 sections are quite different. Daniel and his men are fighting their half-seen monster nightly and losing. The contrast of the family tensions in 1899 and the monster fighting tensions in 1775 give a nice creepy feel to the family

gathering.

Few of the characters in this short novel are fully formed. Aside from Daniel, and to a lesser extent Little Heaster, the characters in 1775 are just nameless monster fodder. On the 1899 side the six cave explorers at least have names; but except for Meshack Coy (the book's main character) and John Coy (Meshack's uncle) they are essentially interchangeable. Even with names I had a hard time telling two of the Manders and third Coy apart.

About 100 pages in, Meshack and his relations finally enter the cave and all hell breaks loose shortly thereafter. From there to the end, the novel moves at a frantic pace, barely giving readers time to catch a breath.

Priest is a fairly prolific writer; with something like twelve novels published since 2003; but this is only the fourth book of hers that I've read. The other three are *Dreadful Skin* (2007), *Fathom* (2008) and *Boneshaker* (2009). Of the four I think I enjoyed *Boneshaker* the most, followed by *Fathom* and *Those Who Went Remain There Still* in a near tie.

I'm definitely going to read more of her work.

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### **Chris says**

Did you watch History Channel's ratings breaking Hatfields and McCoys mini-series? Did you read a book about the famous feud? Then you might like this book. Two feuding families must send members to get a will that will relieve who gets the valley.

Of course, there is something in the cave. Something nasty.

The book's weakness is the second half which doesn't feel as scary as the sections told by Boone, who was one of the men who first discovered the monster.

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### **Karl says**

Explore a cave that is known as the Witch's Pit in Cherie Priest's book "Those Who Went Remain There Still" . This a short fireside ghost story about a monster with big nasty teeth dripping with gore, arrives early in the book and scares you through out with this story based in central Kentucky.

The story begins with Daniel Boone cutting a road through the woods and wilderness. Something is stealing food and and spoiling the rest of their supplies.

This is not a part of the Clockwork Century series, it's better than those books.

Illustrations by Mark Geyer.

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### **Nikki says**

I didn't get on with the first Cherie Priest book I read (Boneshaker), but I enjoyed Bloodshot and Hellbent enough that I'm starting to try her other stuff. It seems like she can be a bit hit and miss, with me: I wasn't a big fan of Four and Twenty Blackbirds, either, but I enjoyed this short horror novella. It's mostly the atmosphere that works, the fact that she invokes her three narrators' voices well, brings to life the valley and the simmering resentment between the two halves of the family.

She doesn't over-explain or even over-describe her monster, letting it be more frightening because the characters have no idea, because we can't even really picture it. It's just a fear in the dark, huge and formless, and I think that stories that invoke that are really the horror stories that work. It ends abruptly, without any consolation or certainty, and I really like that -- I like that Cherie Priest knew when to stop the story and let the reader go on uncomfortably wondering, because it takes as much skill to know when to do that as to carry a story through right to the inevitable end, if not more.

Still, her narrators are still somewhat talkative, and I don't think this is one my partner will be enjoying anytime soon, since she didn't get into Bloodshot with its more engaging (to my mind, anyway) narrator and characters. It's not exactly creepy -- or maybe with my anxiety issues I just can't tell when I'm creeped out and when I'm just normally jumpy -- but it's intriguing and has that breathless, edge of the seat quality where it counts.

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### **Miriam says**

Having ordered this book three times and not received it, I decided to actually drive to the branch that owned it, since it was listed as on the shelf. It was not on the shelf. It has been missing since April, they just hadn't bothered to change the information in the catalog. Thanks a lot for the 30 minute drive, Valley Hi Library!

Moral of the story: if you can't get it from the Internet, don't bother.

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### **Elizabeth says**

A very strange tale of an inbred family and how their leader (Hester Jr) decided to choose his inheritor, combined with a tale of Daniel Boone and his men trying to clear a trail, 100 years before, through Kentucky, and the monster that brings them all together.

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### **Jennifer says**

Not a bad little story! I thought the pace was fine, and the mystery held well. The whole "seeing ghosts" for one character did feel forced, though, as not enough time was spent on developing that. In addition, one thing that truly irritated me was the breaks in between so many paragraphs. That little thing authors do to separate a scene in a chapter, where they put a break with a little image or a like or just multiple spaces? This book

has them EVERYWHERE. Mid scene all the time. She uses them to break apart the same scene and thought process instead of just when a scene changes, and it really pulled me out of the story often. So did how it switches POV in first person per chapter, which is fine, but she only labels one of the three characters, so a chapter can start and you have no idea who it is because it is in first person. Takes a few sentences or even half a page before she drops a clue as to who you're reading, which really messed with my concentration and focus on the story. It could have been in third person and still gotten the same effect while not throwing readers into confusion.

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### **Mike says**

I've been waiting quite a while to read *Those Who Went Remain There Still* which I ordered for the library earlier in 2008. It was on backorder with B&T for a while and we only received our copy a week or so ago. I'm glad we finally did as the story (novella?) was a brisk entertaining read that cast a straightforward monster story in a fascinating light. In a sparse 175 pages Priest manages to craft not only a cast of believable characters, including the historical Daniel Boone, but a surprisingly detailed setting drenched in a kind of wilderness gothic. Despite the paucity of words Priest manages to tell a tale that few writers could match with twice the word count.

Full review here/[/](#)

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### **Kat Hooper says**

Originally posted at FanLit <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/reviews/those-who-went-remain-there-still/>

*Those Who Went Remain There Still* is a short Southern Gothic horror novel by Cherie Priest which I listened to in audio format. The story follows two plotlines told in alternating chapters. One is excerpts from Daniel Boone's *Reflections Upon the Wilderness Road* which he wrote while leading a group of trailblazers across Kentucky. Every night, Boone and his men are being stalked, picked off, and eaten by a huge bird-like monster.

The second plotline follows the history of Daniel Boone's descendants in the rural Kentucky area where Boone met the monster. They're an inbred, ignorant and nasty lot that's been split into two feuding families. A couple of the family members from each side manage to "escape" by running away, eventually acquiring some education, and progressing to a new standard of living. Each is called home years later when the family patriarch dies and leaves a will which must be searched for in a nearby cave. Here the two plotlines converge.

Priest's story is unsettling from the start when we read the first entry in Daniel Boone's *Reflections Upon the Wilderness Road* as he describes his men's encounters with the bird monster. At first he reports only cursory images of the thing but as the story continues, we get more sensory details and it gets more frightening. At the end we meet the monster face to face and by this point Priest has complete control over our mental imagery so that everything it does, even the smallest bird-like movement of its head, is disturbing. When Boone's narrative is over, we assume we're done with monsters, but no, it only gets more horrifying.

It's not just the monster that's unsettling. The two families who descended from Daniel Boone could

populate the cast of *Deliverance*. They are vividly portrayed and utterly odious. Besides Daniel Boone, who we only know through his journal entries and later as a ghost, the only characters who are remotely likable are the two who left Kentucky and even they're hard to fully endorse since they abandoned their families and wouldn't have come back if it hadn't been for the will.

*Those Who Went Remain There Still* was my first exposure to Cherie Priest's work and I was impressed. Her writing is vivid, well-paced, and she has a great ear. She has spent most of her life in the Southeast and attended college and graduate school in Tennessee, which probably explains her authentic voice.

*Those Who Went Remain There Still* is an excellent example of Southern Gothic. I highly recommend the audio version produced by Audible Frontiers and read by Marc Vietor and Eric Michael Summerer. The narrators are both spot-on with their Southern Gothic voices and this is one of those cases where I felt that the audio version might be even better than print. It's a brilliant performance. You can listen to a sample at Amazon or Audible.

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## MG says

In 1775, Daniel Boone and a cast of hearty axe-men are busy chopping their way through the Cumberland Gap to clear the land for a road. These frontiersmen encounter a predator more powerful and cunning than any you might expect in the deep woods. Night after night, they encircle the campfire as members of their band are picked off one by one. Finally they overpower the monster, leaving the beast for dead in a nearby cave.

More than a hundred years have passed. In that same area a different fight for survival exists between the descendants of one such axe-man. The Manders and the Coys are the divided factions that struggle against each other to possess what little resources this valley has to offer. The patriarch of this land has died. He could have ended the feuding with his last will and testament.

What he leaves them with instead is a set of instructions. Members from each side of the family have returned from great distances. A representative group of men from each faction to include the travelers must now face the cave for the will lies within, but that isn't all.

I love the way Cherie Priest layered the story between the Daniel Boone scenes and the return of the descendants and their descent into the cave. She builds the atmosphere to the point you are at the blazing campfire, in the desolate valley, or sinking down into the dank cave.

The monster was just plain creepy. I wanted to cower with the men. I felt the despair grow and the resolve to survive was so convincing. Every part of the action had me on the edge. I was biting my nails in places. I think the dark and the creepy factor had quite a bit to do with it. I think the pacing was perfect. It isn't a long book. Yet, you feel the slow build to the climax in each case. I think that is where the layering is masterfully employed.

The tension between the Manders and the Coys as well as those that left and those that stayed in the valley further escalate that sense of peril. The reader is never really sure where the next bit of danger will come from.

The illustrations were a nice touch. I have to tell you my mind's eye was doing a number on the monster all

by itself.

I was satisfied with the ending. That sounds like such a simple sentence. It isn't underselling it. Often I watch movies that for whatever reason, fail to satisfy me with their endings. I want more. I wanted this or that aspect of the story developed. I felt like a loose end was left here or there. I closed this book with a "Yes" exclaimed out loud. I know because I got THE LOOK from my husband which set me to explaining my joy immediately. This book was scary in all of the right ways. We had the dark environment, the chase scenes, the layered tension, the unknown. It would be a perfect October read. I love a good ghost story and while this wasn't really one of those, it had a story telling quality about it and a heavy atmosphere. I do recommend it. I absolutely do.

Amazon's Product Description goes into the plot a little deeper. I wanted to leave a little more mystery here in my review. If you want to check out other things by Ms. Priest, I would like to recommend her steampunk novel, *Boneshaker*, which was released this week.

*Boneshaker*

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### **Chris says**

1775. Daniel Boone and a team of lumberjacks cut the Wilderness Trail through the wilds of Central Kentucky, finding themselves harried every night by a nefarious winged beast... 1899. The feud between the Coys and the Manders may well be over, as the progenitor of their lines (and their town) has passed. He's left in his wake instructions for six men -- three from each family -- to head into the local cave, the Witch's Pit, to collect his last will and testimony. But inside they find nothing but death and horror, the burial and breeding ground of something Boone thought he put to rest a century before...

Priest weaves a tapestry of early-American folklore and Southern Gothic horror that's bound to impress—if you want to start with Cherie Priest, get started with this one. The characterization is superb, the atmosphere is palpable, and the plotting top-notch. I'm also very much a fan of the setting—the kind of "rustic Americana" horror that Manly Wade Wellman did so well with his Silver John stories, to name one example. I can't even complain that the story is too short, since it's exactly the right length—I just wish there was more like it. Priest wrote several other short horror novels, and I have a couple of them, so I may investigate further and see if they are as well-crafted as this one.

Full review found [here](#).

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### **Lyn says**

"A creepy little monster story" -- that's how author Cherie Priest describes this delightful 170-page tidbit of a novel.

Set in 1775 and 1899, the story alternates between Daniel Boone's adventure in building the Wilderness Road and two feuding families brought together over a patriarch's last will.

Although I felt the story started slowly, ponderously heavy with the baggage of exposition, once the assembled party got underway, the action developed with the crackle of an oil-fed wildfire. With the

monsters' relentlessness and the desperate panic of the survivors trying to escape, I found myself galloping towards the ending in the middle of the night.

And I loved the ending...

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