



Beast in the Basement

Jason Arnopp

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"You can only live in a world of make-believe for so long, before reality comes calling. It always does."

In a big house in the English countryside, a reclusive and increasingly unstable author toils over a book which will close the best-selling trilogy of Jade Nexus fantasy novels.

Speculation and rumour are rife among hardcore Jade Nexus fans that their heroine will die at the hotly-anticipated novel's conclusion - a possibility against which they have begun to loudly protest via social media as the release date nears.

How do you deal with such intense pressure? How do you cope with distractions to your work such as a violent intruder, panicked messages from your agent and a potential love interest moving into the cottage across the field? And far worse than any of those problems... what do you do about the Beast in your basement?

BEAST IN THE BASEMENT is a contemporary horror novella about obsession, revenge, censorship, blame culture and parental responsibility. A dark tale with a real kick.

Read it fast before someone spoilers you!

Author Jason Arnopp's previous credits include the feature film STORMHOUSE, DOCTOR WHO: THE GEMINI CONTAGION, THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES: DEADLY DOWNLOAD and the New Line Cinema novel FRIDAY THE 13TH: HATE-KILL-REPEAT. He is also the author of the non-fiction Kindle book HOW TO INTERVIEW DOCTOR WHO, OZZY OSBOURNE AND EVERYONE ELSE.

Parental advice: this novella features strong bloody violence, profanity and some sexual scenes. Not recommended for minors.

Beast in the Basement Details

Date : Published September 13th 2012 by Retribution Books

ISBN :

Author : Jason Arnopp

Format : ebook 138 pages

Genre : Horror, Short Stories, Fiction

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From Reader Review Beast in the Basement for online ebook

Adam says

Expertly woven tale that keeps you guessing. I'm normally well aware of the twists and turns that writers think they've hidden, but this took me by surprise, so hats off.

I can't really add more without spoiling it, but it's a cracking read and you really ought to give it a try.

John Milburn says

Twisty thriller

Ha a lovely little meal. This novella is tense from the word go with some great twists on the ride. It didn't end the way I had hoped BUT everything fit together well. I is hard to write more without giving things away. Not horror, but a old fashioned thriller.

Jenny says

I guessed the ending too soon

This was a good idea for a story, but I found the "big twist" predictable. I hoped I'd be wrong and end up being surprised after all, but unfortunately not.

Charmaine Moore says

Interesting. A rollercoaster ride of twists and turns.

Theresa Lewis says

Everything I could say about this book would be a spoiler, so I'm just going to say that there is pretty much no way you could see the twists and turns coming. At least I didn't. It was a real pleasure to read this short story, I couldn't put it down. Totally worth it.

Marissa says

Thought I had figured out the twist before it happened, but I had not. Again, *really* looking forward to another novel from Arnopp!

John Higgs says

This is a suspense story with immaculately paced twists and reveals, and as such is tricky to review without spoiling the whole damn thing. I can say, though, that while I understand where the Stephen King comparisons come from, I think it's probably more accurate to describe it as a cross between Stephen King and Tales Of The Unexpected-era Roald Dahl.

In the interests of full disclosure, I should say that although I didn't know Jason Arnopp when I first read this novella, I have got to know him since and indeed gave him a quote for the blurb. As such, a five star review from me may be seen as a bit sus. I'll point out, though, that I very rarely write blurbs and am generally wary of putting my name to things. Sticking my name to this is an easy choice because, well, just read it and see.

Brian says

good little read. expected the twist to be a lot bigger but enjoyed it none the less

Roz Morris says

Jason Arnopp has an unflinchingly odd imagination. He is also extremely good at plotting and anticipating what the reader is thinking. The central character of this tightly paced novella is holed up in a remote country cottage, trying to finish writing a book while battling with demons from the past. But all is not what it seems. To say any more would spoil the surprise, and Arnopp has concocted a delightful rollercoaster of twists and turns that you will not see even if you're trying to spot them (which you of course are). You'll feel after a while as though you've been blindfolded and spun in circles, while all the same being guided by an expert hand. And, like all slick storymongers, when Arnopp misleads he also plays fair. Very accomplished. Great fun. Recommended.

The Reluctant Geek says

Beast in the Basement is a wonderful creepy tale that winds the tension extremely tight culminating in an explosive ending that will certainly make your jaw drop. Jason Arnopp builds the suspense slowly and effectively into his intricate and clever plot to create a spine-tingling story that is well-written and truly entertaining.

The novella is written from the point of view of the main character - the reclusive writer. As I read the book I was completely drawn into his world. The words on the page seem to come straight from the character's mouth/mind. They are written in a convincing natural style that makes the reader feel they have access to his very thoughts. I could feel the frustration he had when he read through the novel, the stress with the constant messages from his agent and the terrible struggle to repress the nightmare of his past. But there in the background the Beast lurked and I jumped at every shadow, noise and bang- "Three storeys down, in the depths of the house, I could have sworn I heard The Beast gnash its teeth."

The mystery of the Beast will keep you guessing till the end. Jason Arnopp teasingly feeds the reader titbits of information but never enough to reveal the whole story. It is definitely addictive and I dare you to put this book down before you get to the end - I certainly could not.

Mayreen says

Read this in around an hour. Well written novella which unfolds with an original twist. Untaxing and easily read. Can't say much about the plot without spoilers so will leave it at that. If you have a little time to kill (which I don't- was just avoiding the housework!), it's worth a squint at this. Back to the Hoovering, less of the escapism!

Michael D. Kanner says

Hard to write a review without spoilers, but will attempt to do so.

At first, I thought the story was rather low key. Not quite MISERY, but enough tension to keep you going and then in the last third of the novella you realize how wrong you were. Definitely, recommend keep reading til you get to the end.

Thomas says

Before starting this book, I knew there was going to be a twist in it. I hadn't heard of the author before, so when I saw something suggesting this was a good, tight read, I checked a few reviews to see what they had to say, and nearly all of them talked about the shocking twist. So, yes, I was predisposed to expect it, but I think even if I had gone into the story blind, I would have been expecting some kind of twist. It was evident the way Arnopp wrote the story that something wasn't all that it seemed.

To his credit, Arnopp did surprise me. Despite expecting the twist, I didn't figure it out before its reveal. It wasn't even a cheat, either, since the story as he wrote it supports the direction it takes. It reminded me of the twist in Shyamalan's *The Visit*, not that it's similar in any way, but in the way it takes you by surprise, and in the way it doesn't conclude with that twist, but instead takes you a little further into the story once it's revealed.

For all that, though, the twist seemed a little ridiculous. I'm not saying it's implausible, or unsupportable, but it didn't have the kind of impact I expected, given how well Arnott sets up the tension of the story. It was a kind of "That's it?" moment, and then a shake of my head as it concluded. Like Stephen King's reveal of Pennywise's true form, the truth of this story didn't live up to the setup.

There's really just one main character in the story, though Arnopp brings in a potential love interest for him. She's barely defined, and not much of a character, despite being necessary for the main character's development. It would have been different if he had realized her character more, but as it is, she's there simply as a means to motivate the main character, and winds up being window dressing.

Arnopp's previous credits include several screenplays, which shows in this novella. He tells more than he shows, and the pacing is a bit clunky, as it seems to progress too slowly at first, though it does pick up near

the end. In fact, I think this story would work well as a short movie, since plot-wise, the story succeeds fairly well.

Ultimately, the story is all plot, without sufficient character development. In some cases, this is OK (Dean Koontz's Icebound is one of those stories, and I remember tearing through that book in one sleepless night), but here, it feels like a detriment. It's not a bad story (judging by the number of four- and five-star reviews, it certainly isn't), but maybe I'm not the right audience for it. Still, it was only 99 cents, and I've read a lot worse than this for more money than that.

Robert says

A nice smooth one sitting read.

The plot is engaging (if not somewhat predictable). The resolution is satisfying. The pace is good. Arguably it goes from quite mysterious to something quite bland if you anticipate a particular genre.

I enjoyed it. Lots of short sentences made this a quick, punchy read. A couple of false endings kept the twists going for a little longer.

Lauren Hopkins says

This is why Harry Potter was banned for invoking Satan.
