



Darkness Falls

Kyle Mills

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From the author of the award-winning The Second Horseman comes an all-too-plausible eco-thriller, in which a new bacteria with a voracious appetite for oil threatens the worlds energy supply.

Darkness Falls Details

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From Reader Review Darkness Falls for online ebook

Michael says

I recently read a good book, darkness falls, by Kyle Mills. I was shelving a bunch of new books at the library, where I work, and I saw this, brand new book, that looked pretty good (and the cover looked good to) I grabbed it, stashed it away for a bit, take a few quick peaks ahead and read a few pages and it seemed like it should be good, well I was right, it was.

Now without being a spoiler, here's the plot line.

Erin Neal is geologist of sorts, specializes in oil and bacteria. Well without giving away details, A oil eating bacteria appears, which finds it's away into 2 of the world's biggest oils fields. Now the FBI, lead by Mark Beaman, start the search for the culprit, and after a series of twist and turns, many of them the classic twists, but still interesting. I can't say much more without being spoiler, so I might make a page with the ending and a full review but I do not want to give it away hear, for any of you that may read this.

The book was very transparent thought, and Mr. Mills, I'm sure had it planned it that way, and he did a good job at getting his point across. To put it simply, this book was written to show how interdependent the world is, and how depended the world is on oil. In the end of the book oil prices settle at about a hundred dollars a gallon. Now think about that for a minute. What if you had to pay hundreds of dollars just to get to work.

Many people's first thoughts are, "oh, well I'll just ride by bike." Yeah, no.

Now, this is a disclaimer, none of the following is in the book, this is my own personal thoughts and theories, which explains some of the craziness.

Think of a bike, the seat is made out of plastics, plastics are oil based, and with crude at over 100\$ a gallon, the price of everything goes up, but plastics increase more than most things, because they're made form oil, and they you oil in the shipping of the bike. Also, many paints used are oil based.

So lets think about that. You can't drive your car unless your Bill Gates, who's probably losing money as well. You can't ride your bike, because, chances are many people don't have them, or they're in need of repair, and when you buy/repair them, it'll cost you a few years salary.

Now you say your gonna walk to work. again....yea...not happening. If you walk to work everyday you'll need sneakers more often, with the increase amount of walking and abuse on your sneakers. Sneakers have soles of rubber, rubber is oil bases. yea, you get the idea.

That's just some parts of my thoughts about a world without oil, just to get the small portion of the world, that read this, thinking. If your concerned about oil and gas prices and global warming and all that fun stuff, take a look at the website of this book, and read the chapter that's online, if not buy the book yourself, or visit your local library, which I would hope would have it.

You can read up on a chapter, and take a look at the book here, if you do read the chapter, or the whole book, please leave a comment of you thoughts. You also welcome to leave comments on this blog post, even if you don't read the book, and would like to comment on my thoughts and insane theories.

<http://www.darknessfallsbook.com/>

Sandy Kell says

If I had read this a few years ago I might have found the premise just a tad far-fetched, but with the current administration, it's terrifyingly believable!

Joshua says

This is the end? Meh.

Wynter says

This is a book about terrorists putting a bacteria into the water injectors of oil wells and affecting the world's oil supply. It was VERY interesting and I ended up increasing my food storage at home after reading this book! I also love FBI/CIA novels, so this fit the bill for me.

Pattianne says

DARKNESS FALLS - MARK BEAMON #6

Erin Neal has been living a secluded life in the Arizona desert since the death of his girlfriend and he isn't happy when an oil company executive comes calling. A number of important Saudi wells have stopped producing and Erin is the world's foremost expert in resolving just these kinds of complications. As far as he's concerned, though, he's left that world behind. Not his problem. Homeland Security sees things differently. Erin quickly finds himself stuck in the Saudi desert, studying a new bacteria with a voracious appetite for oil and an uncanny talent for destroying drilling equipment. But worst of all is its ability to spread. It soon becomes clear that if this contagion isn't stopped, it will infiltrate the world's petroleum reserves, cutting the industrial world off from the energy that provides the heat, food, and transportation necessary for survival. Erin realizes that there's something eerily familiar about this bacteria. And that it couldn't possibly have evolved on its own

Harvee says

An environmental thriller with a timely topic. See my full review: <https://bookdilettante.blogspot.com/2...>

Jovdb says

I really like Kyle Mills style of writing.

In this book, he looks at the possibility of the sabotage of the oil product in the Middle East and America, and the aftermath of such a plot.

Erin is mourning the loss of his girlfriend, Jenna, who is believed to have drowned at sea. He is suddenly, alarmingly, pulled into a problem in the Middle East. There seems to be a bacteria "eating" the oil. His special expertise as a biologist is needed to find out the extent of the damage and whether there could be an antidote to the spread of this disease.

As Erin researches the bacteria, he finds it strangely familiar to one he had proposed. The only person who

might know about this is his dead girlfriend, Jenna.

The book explores the effect on the world, mainly the USA, so dependent on oil, if the supply was to dwindle.

The characters in the book are well written and it seems a plausible description of what might happen should the USA suddenly find it is with out oil. Blame their neighbours, Canada, for not having the same problems (Canada doesn't use water injection to maintain the pressure) and try to find a way to keep the truth away from the population at large.

I like the end of the book and would hope that it might give people pause for thought.

One staggering statistic; 1% of the population has the knowledge and ability to grow food and keep animals!!

Makes me worry about my little back garden plot!

R. says

Some books are really well written, but are thin on plot. Some stories are compelling on their own, despite any infirmities in the writing. Mills' book "Darkness Falls" largely misses the mark on both counts. Early on, I was certain that I had discovered a hidden gem of a book as this vein of financial calamity caused by ingenious eco-terrorism held some appeal. As though someone flipped a switch, the weak and disappointing "boy meets girl, girl steals oil-eating bacteria, girl fakes own death and unwittingly starts the Apocalypse, girl reunites with boy and they fall madly back in love" story line runs immediately off the rails. Apparently captivated by his own train wreck, Mills was unable to get the story back on track, and the underlying premise isn't nearly enough to stop the ensuing disaster.

Halfway into the book, I realized from the cover material that this was one in a series of books based around one character. This is not evident from the story itself, since the series "hero" comes off throughout the entire book as a slightly irritated supporting player. While this story had great potential in its inception, darkness should indeed fall upon its cover, in search of something better to read.

Joseph says

Was a great book, great plot and eye-opening. Was a great look at our oil dependence and the cascading effect of losing our oil supply. Very similar to "One Second After" as far as fall out, but not as dark. I rated this five stars but in reality it's probably closer to four. Nonetheless another great book by Kyle Mills!

Barry Martin Vass says

4.5 stars. This has an interesting premise. Dr. Erin Neal is THE go-to guy in the field of bioremediation - basically the business of breeding bacteria to clean up toxic oil spills or radioactive waste. So when the Saudis start losing oil wells due to contamination and associated mechanical problems, Dr. Neal is the first person the powers-that-be call in. And what he finds shakes him to his core: this contaminant is one he developed years ago, one that has also appeared in the Alaskan oilfields. And as the problem gets steadily

worse, the world is faced with a future where 40% of the oil produced is suddenly, just, gone. Wyoming Author Kyle Mills does a good job of ratcheting up the tension as he hurtles toward a world very different from the one we know.

Annie says

This one was scary--it could happen if some twisted minds tried it. Read it in one day--couldn't put it down because I just had to find out what happened.

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Masterful thriller writer Mills returns to his series hero, former FBI agent Mark Beamon (last seen in 2002's *Sphere of Influence*), with a pulse-pounding apocalyptic scenario that is terrifying in its plausibility. Maverick environmentalist Erin Neal has become a pariah after his provocative book angered both conservationists and conservatives, and a recluse after the death of his ex-lover, eco-terrorist Jenna Kalin. His solitude is interrupted when Beamon, now the head of energy security for the U.S. government, tracks him down to stop a disaster: the destruction of the world's major oilfields by bioengineered bacteria remarkably similar to ones Neal himself considered designing. The bioweapons have already infected the major Saudi sources of oil, and the impact on the U.S. economy makes the identification of the terrorists and a plan to stem the spread of their microorganisms the national priority. While such plots are a dime a dozen, Mills's meticulous research, pacing and carefully developed characters make this variation particularly convincing.

Maik says

Unter den zuletzt gelesenen Büchern ist er ein Lichtblick, der schon 2008 erschienene Roman "Global Warning" von Kyle Mills. Obwohl es in ihm eigentlich zappenduster wird. Der Autor setzt mit ihm die nun 5-teilige Reihe, in deren Zentrum der ehemalige FBI-Agent Mark Beamon steht, fort. Abgeschoben zum Heimatschutz macht er sich diesmal auf die Jagd nach Bioterroristen, die genmanipulierte ölfressende Bakterien in die größten Erdölfelder der Welt eingebracht haben. Die Welt steht vor einer wirtschaftlichen Katastrophe, deren Auswirkungen auf das Leben aller Menschen logisch, anschaulich und nachvollziehbar beschrieben werden. Doch Mark Beamon steht diesmal nicht alleine: Der begnadete und seit dem angeblichen Tod seiner Freundin eremitenhaft lebende Biologe und ehemalige Umweltaktivist Erin Neal wird verdächtigt, Urheber der Verseuchung zu sein. Um seine Unschuld zu beweisen, macht er sich auf die Suche nach den Übeltätern und wird so zur eigentlichen Hauptfigur des Romans, neben der Mark Beamon eher blass erscheint, obwohl er im Gegensatz zu allen anderen Regierungsbeamten nicht von der Schuld Neals überzeugt ist.

Verkompliziert wird der Plot durch die Beteiligung von Neals scheinotter Exfreundin an den Attentaten, welche nun aber aufgrund mangelnder Verlässlichkeit um ihr Leben fürchten muss und deshalb beständig auf der Flucht vor dem Rest der dreiköpfigen Terroristengruppe ist.

Verständlicherweise wirft die Entdeckung, dass seine Exfreundin noch lebt, Erin Neal tüchtig aus der Bahn, aber da die Gefühle der beiden für einander noch längst nicht erloschen sind, heißt es nun: Drei gegen drei. Der Roman ist spannend geschrieben, die Handlung realistisch (wenn man die New-World-Order-Aspekte des amerikanischen Sicherheitsapparates und die Existenz der im Roman beschriebenen Bakterien akzeptiert), die Figuren keine Stereotypen, wobei ihre Handlungen zudem noch nachvollziehbar motiviert sind. Leider schmälert das filmreife - weil auch amouröse - Happy-End nach dem Untergang der Bösen in einem etwas schwachen Showdown die Lesefreude gegen Ende hin. Nichtsdestotrotz habe ich mir aufgrund dieses Romans vorgenommen, auch die anderen Werke aus der Reihe um Mark Beamon vorzunehmen.

Kara Jorge says

Erin Neal is a brilliant scientist and philosopher who wrote a groundbreaking book about the environmental movement, but he's been living in seclusion since his girlfriend Jenna left him and died in a boating accident. He's built a self-sufficient compound in the middle of nowhere and spends his days conducting experiments with bacteria while lamenting Jenna's loss. His extended brood is interrupted one day, though, when Mark Beamon from the US government shows up, wanting him to check out a bacterial infestation at an oil well in Alaska. When the government also coerces Erin to check out an infestation in Saudi Arabia, Erin finds something disturbing. Though located on opposite sides of the world, the bacteria infecting both wells appears to be identical, and it's an awful lot like an experimental strain Erin had been working on shortly before Jenna's disappearance and death.

Just as Erin realizes Jenna isn't really dead, the government happens upon an old e-mail implicating Erin in the oil infestations. Erin isn't behind the problem, though; it's the rich and popular environmentalist Jenna left him for, the execution of whose rabid beliefs could cause the downfall of the modern world. The villain hasn't just infected a few oil wells in Alaska and Saudi Arabia, he has developed a new strain of the bacteria that could destroy the entire world's oil supply. Erin and Jenna, along with the government, have to track him down and put a stop to his plans before society is thrown into complete chaos from the destruction of the world's utmost energy source.

Villains these days are no longer megalomaniacs trying to take over the world, they're rabid environmentalists bent on destroying it. This isn't the first book with this type of villain, but it stands out because of its unique protagonist. It was impossible not to like Erin Neal and his sarcastic outlook on life, and I'm certainly a believer in his philosophies. The author shines a light on some of the hypocrisies inherent in the environmental movement without siding with the opposition, making me wish I could read Erin Neal's controversial book for real. Other characters, like Jenna and Mark Beamon, created a nice foil for Erin and made the book a whole lot of fun. This is an adventure that scores high on all counts, and I will read more books by Kyle Mills.

Harry Thompson says

First Mark Beaman book I read and don't think it mattered.

The was easy to follow and I liked the idea of a bug destroying the world by damaging oil. I read previously a book called Black Monday and it shared that plot. Both books really got me thinking about quitting my job, selling my house, and moving to middle of no where on a self sufficient farm! Just don't know whether or not to tell the family? I am sure there won't be Internet or cell service there! :)

I liked Black Monday more as it was a bit more suspenseful, but this book had enough to keep me reading through.

Francis Gahren says

Erin Neal has been living a secluded life in the Arizona desert since the death of his girlfriend when an oil company executive makes a surprise visit. A number of important Saudi oil wells have stopped producing and Erin is the world's foremost expert in analyzing and preventing oil field disasters. As far as he is concerned, though, he has left that world behind— not his problem. Homeland Security, however, sees things differently. Erin quickly finds himself stuck in the Saudi desert studying a new bacteria with a voracious appetite for oil and an uncanny ability to destroy drilling equipment. Worst of all is its ability to spread.

It soon becomes clear that if this contagion isn't stopped, it will infiltrate the world's petroleum reserves, cutting the industrial world off from the energy that provides the heat, food, and transportation necessary for survival. As the threat escalates, Erin realizes that there's something eerily familiar about this bacteria. And that it couldn't possibly have evolved on its own...

Main character (Erin Neal) loosely based on Bjorn Lomburg who wrote "The Skeptical Environmentalist"; may want to check this out...

Book excerpts:

"The average distance food travels from farm to plate is 1,300 miles. It takes 100 calories of energy to produce and deliver 1 calorie of broccoli." (p. 110)

"cascade effect" – without oil, or with a significant reduction in its manufacture, our society would be forced to go back 200 years, but with a complete loss of survival skills.

"Why I Wrote Darkness Falls" by Kyle Mills

The concept for this book—the destruction of the world's oil supply—actually started out as a component of my previous book, *The Second Horseman*. The more I researched the subject, though, the more it seemed like an idea that deserved a book of its own.

The ramifications of America's dependence on oil are so much direr than you'd realize from casual thought. When I first considered the scenario, I figured a serious drop in oil availability would be a nightmare, but a more or less manageable one. Digging deeper uncovered some disturbing questions. How would I feed myself? I'm not a farmer—I rely entirely on the trucks that stock our local grocery store. What if the shelves were suddenly empty? The obvious answer is that I'd drive to a more distant store. But what if there was no gas to fill my tank? The more I thought about it, the easier it became to picture a cascade effect that would descend the country into violence and anarchy.

Initially, the problem with the idea was that I didn't think there was anything that could cause this kind of a sudden, catastrophic shortage. Oil is pretty resilient and the supply is reasonably well diversified. Enter bacterial contamination. I had never really heard of hydrocarbon-eating bacteria before I started this project, but not only do they exist, they're actually quite common and pose a constant threat to drilling operations. Quickly the scenario went from ridiculously implausible to frighteningly realistic.

As an added bonus, this book gave me an excuse to look into the growing environmental movement. I've always considered myself to be a conservation-minded guy, but the direction environmentalism has taken lately seems symbolic at best and completely nuts at worst. Is there really anything that can be done, or are we doomed to follow the path that all animals do: destroying our ecosystem until Mother Nature finally pushes back?

My favorite novels have always been ones that deal with serious issues in a way that feels current and real,

while keeping the pace high and the characters fun. Hopefully, that's what I accomplished with Darkness Falls.
