



Sightings

Mark Lukens

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SIGHTINGS is in development to be a feature film.

In 1988, Lydia Conner was taken from her cabin near Specter Lake, Minnesota while her husband lay in bed, temporarily paralyzed. She screamed at him for help as she floated up to the ceiling in a blinding flash of light ... and then she was gone.

In 2009, four film school students journeyed to the Specter Lake cabin where the abduction of Lydia Conner took place. They hoped to capture proof of an alien visitation on film; they hoped to re-create events from the abduction; they hoped to use themselves as bait ...

... but they encountered much more than they ever could've imagined.

Sightings Details

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From Reader Review Sightings for online ebook

Mary DeMauro says

I'm a little torn about this review because there was a lot that I liked and a lot that I didn't like. I really loved the story, but I thought that the writing was very amateurish, and I wasn't completely satisfied with the ending.

First, the plot. Film student John is obsessed with ufology, and wants to make a documentary capturing evidence of alien visitation. He has for help his friends Veronica and Drew, and a girl named Fran, who's family has experienced alien abductions. Frank takes John and his friends to her family's cabin in the woods, the place where her mother was abducted. Once there, strange things start happening.

This was definitely a fun book. It was creepy, it was creative, and it kept you wondering what was going to happen next. It also had the feel of a "found footage" film due to the documentary element and the fact that John always kept the camera rolling. I'm a fan of found footage horror so I enjoyed this. I'd definitely recommend it for anyone who likes sci-fi horror.

My main issue is the writing. I feel a little mean calling it "amateurish," but that was the word that came to mind. It got better as the story went along, but the beginning especially felt a little off.

Then there was the ending. With a story like this, I expected that some things would go unexplained. It adds to the air of mystery. But some things didn't make sense within the context of the story. I can't explain without offering spoilers. Basically, I was thinking, "If the explanation is this, then why did this other thing happen in the story?" The ending was also kind of confusing, and not in an "air of mystery, there are still some things unanswered" confusing. I just wish that more things had been explained better.

All in all, a very enjoyable read and I'm glad I read it, but as far as quality goes, it's not a prize-winner. Still, fans of sci-fi/horror should check it out.

Patrick S. says

Well no need to write a script for a movie because this book reads like your standard straight to video movie. The main characters are your cookie cutter teens in an alien story - the geek, the jock, the skeptic, and the quite one. Except these characters don't follow a consistent adherence to their characters. One of the characters keep talking about how nervous she is to be back at a tragic site. Except she's willing to have a creepy, talking alien doll hanging outside; she pretty much gets pimped out to the jock, and she doesn't act too apprehensive.

The biggest flaw is that not much happens and the story is too short to add to an atmosphere. Again, it follows the simple movie tropes of alien abduction story's. No much happens then small, unknown things happen, then all heck brakes loose. The climax doesn't make much sense and characters break character even more. It's an ok story for being so derivative but you won't be missing anything that you can't find in the B section of sci-fi on Netflix. Final Grade - C

Diane L. Woodbury says

Eerie story

Mark Lukens has one killer imagination! I have read several of his books and been scared silly by each one. I don't usually care for alien abduction narratives but this one kept me glued to the page. The characters were not totally likable but they were so at the mercy of the unseen that you could not help feeling for them. Good scene in the woods and by the lake.

Calvin Pulizzi says

I had really high hopes for this one based off other books by this author, but I was let down. The book has some genuinely creepy moments in it, but other than that it's just a rehash of every Sci-fi movie involving alien abductions. The author doesn't explain anything about the aliens at all. Why are they there? what are they doing? Why experiment on people and animals? Instead it's just your typical found-footage alien movie, but in book form.

The Grim Reader says

Great sci-fi

This was a most enjoyable read from Mark Lukens about a group of friends who head off to film a documentary about a reported alien abduction. The story is well paced and builds nicely to a great and satisfying finish. I picked this up for a dollar and have no complaints. Well worth a read. 4 stars.

Kathy Taylor says

Great alien story which also mentions some great conspiracy theories for those of us that love them both.

It takes the author a while to get to the meat of the story. One of the character's story and why she is there rides on this. Once it gets going it's a great ride. This isn't your typical gray alien story. Oh no. Much creepier and much better.

All in all a quick, great read that won't leave you disappointed.

BookLoversLife says

On reading the blurb, I initially thought that it would be one of those books, you know the ones that are done to death!! 4 friends head to a cabin miles from anywhere in the hopes of proof of what happened there, nothing new there, been there done that! But when I say that it was narrated by Teri Schnaubelt, I knew I had to listen. I always enjoy her narration and find that she can bring any story to life. Well, this is no different. She nails the performance, and I think helped me enjoy this a lot more than if I read it!

The plot doesn't really have anything new. Though I did love the "Alien" they had guarding the door of the cabin! ;) It's a fairly fast paced read and there is plenty tension throughout that will keep your attention. It was predictable at times, but it didn't really take away anything from the overall feel of the book. It's a solid abduction book, with a few small twists thrown in.

In all, a quick and exciting read. It wasn't ground breaking, but it did entertain me, and that's good enough for me.

I received a copy of this for review. This in no way affects my thoughts.

Jessica George says

Great story, very suspense-building!

Four kids from the University of Wisconsin travel to a young girl's inherited cabin in the woods by Specter Lake, hoping to create a film to prove the existence of aliens. The girl who inherited the cabin has a story to tell about her mom having been abducted years prior. The kids have a fun weekend planned, but creepy things begin happening from the first night on.....really creepy story with an even creepier ending!!!

Lisa Gregory says

A Page Turner...Thoroughly Enjoyed It

I really enjoyed this book and read it in one sitting. I thought the story flowed very well, and the creepiness factor kept me turning the pages. In fact, I found myself rushing through certain parts because I was so anxious to see what was going to happen next. I found a few things predictable but I never got bored and the story didn't drag (which kept it from landing in my graveyard of unfinished books). In many cases I found myself having vivid mental images of certain scenes and thought it would make a great movie. I recommend this book to anyone who likes creepy stories, but I don't think it's a good idea to read it while sitting outside under the stars.....you might be safer under a blanket on your living room sofa....then again.....maybe not.....lol.....

Tammie says

Sightings was an enjoyable creepy read that was a solid 4 stars for me. Four students from the University of Wisconsin travel to a cabin in Specter Lake-one of the guys (a film student) is hoping to find/film evidence of possible alien existence for his thesis project. This is no ordinary area though -Specter Lake is very remote and the land that surrounds the cabin is owned by the government. With no bases, military operations, or park services-it begs the question why the government would be interested in buying so much land and not even use it. It should be noted that one of the four students has a definite past with the cabin and its surrounding area (but no spoilers here). I would definitely recommend this to horror and sci-fi fans.

Dixie says

I loved this book. love this author. I thought it a little slow in places, but the book and ending made up for it. by the title I figured out what it was about, however, there were a few red herrings and I ended up changing my mind a couple times. A wonderful read. Put on my keeper shelf.
Do yourself a favor and read this book. You'll love it too.

Dayna Vanover says

Strange goings on in the Woods

I have not read a science fiction book in a long time. This book had me captivated from the beginning to the end. This is the second book I've read by Mark Luken s and I enjoyed both of them.Can't wait to read the rest of his books.

Amanda says

I love a good alien story, it's one of the things that scare me most. This story scared me! Although the storyline is fairly common,especially in film and tv, the author managed to keep the tension ramped up. Even the scenes set in daytime kept me wound tight, waiting! Would love there to be a sequel.

Kathy says

Four film students travel to a remote cabin in the woods to document an abduction that took place there years ago. They are filming a documentary about an alien abduction. At first, it was a typical college fun-filled outing, but then creepy occurrences begin to happen.

The idea of going to a remote, spooky place to investigate a mystery has been explored in a lot of books. However, this author managed to keep the tension escalated throughout the book. It s a real page turner. The only fault to the story is that it leaves unanswered questions. I haven't heard that there would be any other books, but it reads like the start of a series. This book is currently being made into a movie.

Joan A. Jazwinski says

Good science fiction. Believable

This book keeps your interest to the end to see what's coming next. It's believable because it could happen. It's scary for the same reason. Recommend to those who like alien science fiction that could occur on earth.
