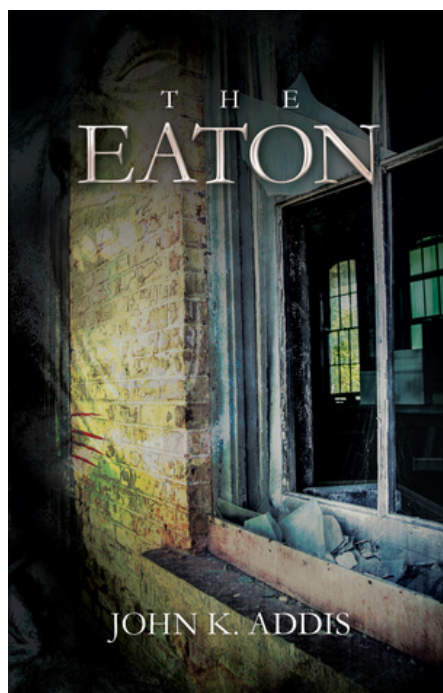




The Eaton

John K. Addis

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The Eaton is the debut novel of John K. Addis. Spanning more than 100 years of mid-Michigan history, but told in the gruesome style of '80s horror classics, The Eaton tells the story of Sam Spicer, who purchases the dilapidated Michigan Central Railroad Depot in Eaton Rapids with the dream of opening a hot new martini bar. But when he and his friends discover an abandoned underground hotel directly beneath the property, they must discover what happened to the original guests—before their own time runs out.

The Eaton Details

Date : Published 2015 by AE Press

ISBN : 9780692272732

Author : John K. Addis

Format : Paperback 414 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Audiobook, Contemporary

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From Reader Review The Eaton for online ebook

Caryn Coyle says

Being a big fan of Stephen King, Dean Koontz & Michael Patterson, I completely enjoyed this book.

I both could not put it down once picked up & avoided picking it up because I wanted to savor it & didn't want it to end.

There is always an air of mystery around old abandoned buildings...John has taken that sense of the ethereal, embraced the macabre & delivered an amazingly mature first novel.

Given the ending (nope-no spoilers here)-I'm wondering what the sequel will bring...

I look forward with glee to John's subsequent novels.

Quirkyreader says

This story was a major thrill ride. And the added bonus, it is set in a town near my home. I have been inside many 19th Century train stations and hotels so I had a visual picture playing in my head while reading this story.

I thoroughly enjoyed Addis's fast paced and in depth writing style. I hope to see and read more published works by him in the future.

Renny Barcelos says

It started pretty good but went down quickly. The whole concept of the creature was way tooooooo far fetched and lacking for me to suspend my disbelief enough to buy it or care about it. Also, I scare easily but couldn't be afraid all through the book which for a horror novel is a bad sign.

Catherine Putsche says

“Reading John K. Addis was like reading an eighties horror movie. It’s fast paced, macabre and full of gritty atmospheric settings, along with a relentlessly chilling plot from an author who’s mastered the genre!”

The story begins when Sam Spicer, the main protagonist, becomes the legal owner of the long-abandoned Michigan Central Railway Station in Eaton Rapids, with big dreams of turning it into a hot new martini bar. However, Sam’s plans come to a sudden halt when he and his friends discover a secret twelve-floor Victorian hotel that’s situated directly underneath the station. In their curious attempts to explore the hotel, they soon discover that it is free from dust and that the old Victorian elevator is fully functional. Upon further inspection, they soon realise that there were once guests over a century ago that showed signs of leaving in frenzied panic. After further unusual, mysterious and gruesome discoveries they decide to go in search for answers to find out what happened to the original guests and why the hotel became abandoned,

only to discover that they are all being pursued by a creature with incredible powers, who could trick them, make them see things from their deepest memories to try and prevent them from escaping his abandoned underground world.

The story does shift back in time to Jonathon Wesley, an Archaeologist who gets an exclusive invite to the grand opening of The Eaton, in exchange for his examination and opinion of the owner's underground discovery. Jonathon in turn goes on to study and document the petroglyphs with caution as some unforeseen and incredible events soon unfold, that he is convinced are connected to the petroglyphs that he feels depict a tangible threat. Jonathon's unique back story alone equips the reader with most of the knowledge and clues that Sam and his friends need to escape the relentless beast of another world that has clearly massacred dozens of people before them. The biggest question is will Sam and his friends be able to find the answers from the past before it's too late, and if so will it help them in conquering the beast? Or will their attempts fail and lead to their own demise?

What a fantastic book. It's not often I find myself so absorbed in a book that grabs my attention from the onset up until the last page. I literally couldn't put it down in fear I would miss something about these wonderfully, yet flawed characters' that may help them in their impossible mission to discover the truth. Congratulations' Mr John K. Addis you have just gained a life-long fan. I look forward to reading more of your work in the future.

My Ranking: 5 Stars

My Review Sites:

<http://walkerputsche.wordpress.com/>
<http://catherineroseputsche.webs.com/>
<http://t.co/G0ExZgmlwc>
<https://twitter.com/Putsche73>
<https://www.goodreads.com/author/show...>
[Amazon.com/UK](https://www.amazon.com/UK)

Bill Mackela says

Mr. Addis has gotten it right. He shows what self-publishing can be. He has written an exciting first novel, edited it well, designed the cover and done the leg-work to get it published. It will be available for purchase soon.

The Eaton is the best kind of horror. Chapter One starts off feeling like a normal, contemporary novel. Sam and Sarah and a few friends are getting together to see Sam's new purchase. He bought an old train depot in Eaton Rapids and plans on turning it into a new hot spot. They discover a trap door, and decide to explore. They find an underground hotel that nobody had ever heard about.

From this point on, Mr. Addis weaves the threads of the present with the past. He changes the point of view to the weekend of the top secret, preview, opening of The Eaton, the fancy hotel built under the train depot in the early 1900s. The past and present twist together as Sam, Sarah and the rest of their crew discover what has been hidden underground, as well as what they have hidden inside of their own minds. The secrets that they have buried deep, that they never want to have to face, become real, and they have to deal with them, or die.

Some of the images from their pasts are so vivid that I had to put *The Eaton* down for a few minutes, and let myself relax, take a few breaths, and then I could continue. This book is so well plotted, and the characters feel so real, that you will be as terrorized as they are. You will have to keep reading to see what happens next, even if you are afraid to find out.

I give *The Eaton* 5 Stars out of 5, and Two Big Thumbs Up! If you like to read Scott Sigler, early Stephen King, or Peter Clines, then this will be perfect. I hope that you can order it soon.

I received a Digital Review Copy from the author.

Alec Drachman says

Amazing debut by a really talented author. As the action unfolds, and we start jumping back and forth in time, the narrative becomes irresistible. I couldn't put it down. There are some very unique horror elements and a few grizzly scenes unlike any I've ever encountered. Without giving too much away, let's just say that cutting edge electric technology of a hundred years ago might not be well suited to people in the present day. This is one of those books that will stick with you after you read it - Addis does a great job of putting you in the action. Bravo, John Addis. I look forward to your next novel.

David says

(Mild spoilers below, though nothing that will surprise anyone who is even a little bit familiar with the genre.)

The Eaton is basically a classic monster tale, written for a generation that didn't grow up with classic monster tales like those that dominated the horror genre in the 80s. A young guy named Sam buys an old abandoned railroad depot in Michigan with plans to turn it into a trendy hipster bar, but as he and his friends check the place out, they find an ancient elevator going *down*. It turns out that there is an entire underground hotel, apparently built at the turn of the previous century, beneath the depot. Naturally, Sam and his friends have to go exploring, and naturally they discover something Very Bad.

So what you have is a gang of Millennial hipsters with all the piercings and relation drama one would expect descending into a death trap, from which only the Final Girl makes it back out. This really is a classic monster tale (the author cites horror novels of the 80s as his inspiration, but I'd go further back and suggest it is reminiscent of John Campbell's *Who Goes There?*), and if you like those, you will find *The Eaton* to be very satisfying in the manner of all popcorn entertainment. There is of course sex and violence, but the monster was my favorite part, as the author goes to more effort than usual to flesh it out and give it a personality even as it's racking up a body count. There is also some history as the story skips back and forth between the present day and the first discovery of the creature, back when the hotel was built.

Of course, the premise itself requires some major suspensions of disbelief even aside from the monster. A wealthy entrepreneur built a *thirteen story* hotel in the early 1900s, entirely *underground*, in *secret*? And this is all set up in such a way as to conveniently allow the monster to slaughter everyone who knew about it the first time around, so this giant secret underground hotel then remains undiscovered for another century. I'll give the story a plausibility pass, but it is not tightly constructed in its believability.

The writing is a step above schlocky — John Addis is no Stephen King, but I've read worse from more

veteran authors.

One of the comments the author made in his afterword struck me — that many of his initial readers were surprised to discover that the monster was genuinely, unambiguously evil. His mostly 20-something audience is used to good and evil all being relative, and they expected the monster to be some sort of "response" to human evil. In fact, the monster does have its own rationale for doing things — it's not just a mindless bloodthirsty killer — but it's clearly evil.

A very entertaining debut novel that does not elevate the genre, but is certainly a worthy entry.

Melanie Marsh says

The Eaton is a super creepy book. It reminded me a lot of The Shining by Stephen King, but not immensely. It has that same creepy hotel feel where you don't know what's real and what's not. I actually think The Eaton would make a pretty cool movie if it were done right.

I like how the author has the past and present stories alternating to some degree. It's not as confusing as it probably sounds, but it really does help the reader get a better understanding of what's going on. The hotel seems like a super cool place, but that feeling quickly wears off once the action starts.

I would like to have had more details of what happened with the original set of guests, but that is just my usual curiosity wanting to know every tiny bit of the story and each character's experiences.

The Eaton is a great book that will keep you engrossed until you finish reading, simply because you want to know what will happen next and why everything is happening how it is. The Author strings us along, giving us little juicy tidbits of the history along the way. He draws us down the creepy old hallway of The Eaton and shoves us into the Victorian (I think?) era elevator, hoping against hope that the elevator will take us to the surface and freedom instead of plunging us further into the depths of horror.

I would recommend The Eaton to anyone who loves a good horror story with rich, well-developed characters who all have their secrets they would like to keep hidden, but are faced with a horror they've never met. If you ever hoped to find secret tunnels under the floorboards of an old house or imagined you were on some sort of expedition to discover secrets that have been buried for years, you might want to try The Eaton.

Ryan says

Beautiful throwback to 80's horror

Alisi ? wants to read too many books ? says

rating: 3.5 rounded down ?

Throughout reading this, I couldn't get this out of my mind:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olEbw...>

This was a good first book. The biggest issue I had with it was, well, two things. The lesser of the two was the location. I thought it was all very convenient for the story while also being something that would never happen IRL. It didn't even have a brush of what could possibly happen. From the creation to the secret nature of it all, even after 100 years, I just call BS on that. It seemed built to make the plot more convenient.

It really made it hard for me to get into this simply because it was so simple to see where it was going. It, you know, in the Shinning, they get snowed in, but the location of the hotel isn't convenient. It helps but the story doesn't revolve around that location, per say. This hotel was just stupidly convenient from the one elevator to everything else. It was just stupid. Who'd build a 20 floor hotel with one elevator, then make the guests travel all the way up to the top in that one elevator before they could check in and get their key? No one would.

The other was the NON-STOP FLASHBACKS. It was ridiculous. Someone, dear god, give this author a red pen and just start X-ing through them. It got so frustrating. The monster in the novel can apparently read minds and so it would take the shape of people from the past. This would then lead to having a long ass, drawn out flash back to tell the reader why this was, indeed, a scary thing. This happened with nearly every single contact. There felt like there was 50 flashbacks just with the present day cast, and these flashbacks were nearly chapter/half-chapter in length a piece. We'd get to something somewhat scary and then we'd be hit with a flashback.

This was done incredibly bad and this alone will ensure I never reread this book again. Once was way too much.

Mel says

Debut that hints this author has chops. If I was this budding author's editor, I'd encourage him to keep writing; not only because of the possibilities that seem to shimmer beneath this first effort, but also because of his obvious enthusiasm and creativity. The *method* he uses here reminded me of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None," but don't take that as a spoiler! I bring up that exact point because as I read, I began to feel a little like the emphasis of the book switched from the premise introduced to the belabored reduction of characters.

5 little stars if a story can stay strong,
One taken off for too many death scenes (and too long)
4 little stars still left for me to ponder,
one had to go when the plot began to wander
3 stars left that I could still offer,
I think I'll give these remaining to encourage this young author.

Kirk says

"The Eaton" is an astonishing debut by John K. Addis. A tense and suspenseful thriller set in Mid Michigan, filled with historical information. I could not put this down! The characters, the setting, the story is nerve racking, spine tingling and ultimately horrifying! Self published, this novel needs to be picked up by a major publisher ASAP with a forward written by Stephen King and immediately optioned for a Major Motion Picture. Fresh, original, and truly terrifying.

Kirk Montgomery
WILX-TV

Donna Backshall says

What fun! I read The Eaton, and was reminded of the pure exhilaration I felt as a kid when I discovered Stephen King. Don't get me wrong with the obvious comparison -- The Eaton was unique and wholly entertaining, and incomparable to anything I've read in a long time. But when you think back to the delight of discovering those classic and exquisitely creepy novels like Pet Sematary and 'Salem's Lot, you've got what I felt about The Eaton.

The Eaton was gory and scary and had some sweet twists. It combined great horror themes and a Scooby Doo-worthy cast of characters into one cool story. I plan to read every single novel, short, whatever that John K. Addis produces.

Darlene says

I don't know if i can continue on with this one...just listened to a pretty gruesome minute, and by the sound of some reviews, there's more in store.

Warning: disturbing animal cruelty.

I should've stop listening a long time ago.

?Susan? says

This started out as a good, spooky story. A group of people follow their friend into the basement of an old building he has just recently procured. He secretly has discovered floors of a whole other underground hotel that was built many years ago. The deeper they go the more beautiful and interesting the hotel gets. The owner sees dollar signs and how this attraction would draw many eclectic, deep pocketed adventures. It is when they are on their way back up when the spookfest begins. Strange creatures that can shapeshift and delve into each person's psyche keep them second guessing themselves and causing each other injuries. It was really pretty good until it lost me completely. Maybe not for those that have a problem with animal torture. I did finish it but only to find out who, if any, make it out alive. (view spoiler)
