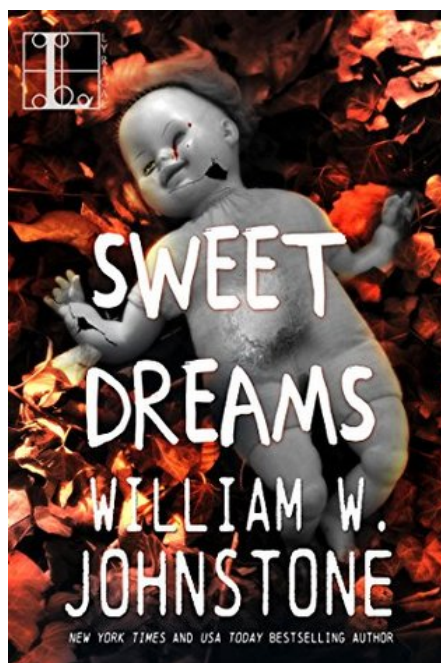




Sweet Dreams

William W. Johnstone

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Sweet Dreams

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Sweet Dreams William W. Johnstone Light

It could only be seen in the dead of night. The satanic glow swirled above the old railroad tracks, pulsating with evil, flickering with the light of hell itself. And it Drew the young people of Good Hope to its shimmering core like moths to a flame...

Dark

The eerie change in the slumbering Missouri town could only be seen by one child. Innocent ten-year-old Heather sensed the chill of darkness in her schoolmates' vacant stares, the evil festering in their hearts. But no one listened to her terrified screams. No one believed the nightmare was true. And now it was Heather's turn to feed the hungry spirit—with her very soul.

Sweet Dreams Details

Date : Published May 12th 2015 by Lyrical Press (first published March 1st 1985)

ISBN :

Author : William W. Johnstone

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Genre : Horror

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From Reader Review Sweet Dreams for online ebook

Nicki says

Fun trashy read that didn't ultimately hold my attention.

James Oxyer says

William W. Johnstone's handling of rape (particularly of the statutory variety) in the books I've read of his thus far (Sandman and now Sweet Dreams) brings to mind one of my favorite tweets:

"My 'Not involved in human trafficking' T-shirt has people asking a lot of questions already answered by my shirt."

All the good guys in Johnstone's books express revulsion at women and children being raped and are always quick to condemn it.....but there suuuure is a LOT of it in these books.....

Anyway, this one's a definite step down from Sandman, but it's not without merit either. Johnstone focuses less on over-the-top action and gore and doubles down on the erotica, and boy is it delightfully painful (read: "She opened her legs and pulled him to her, one hand gripping his hot stiffness and guiding him into her hot softness"). There's way more rape too, described in graphic (and awkward) detail. If you're a woman of any age and you wander into a Johnstone novel, God be with you.

Somewhere around page 200, the story actually becomes quite a bit of fun as the grotesque gore makes a grand appearance, there's some very silly and very fun time-warp stuff, plus a whole heaping of ridiculous haunted house shenanigans. Everything before page 200, however, is fairly middling and only recommended for those who don't mind quite a bit of sexual assault (and the constant, lingering threat of the 10-year-old protagonist being raped) in their horror novels.

I've only read two of his novels, but I'm fascinated with Johnstone. There's no structure to this story in the slightest, he reuses descriptions ad nauseum (take a swig every time someone's eyes are described as "dead"), and it's obvious he's making everything up as he goes along - adding new characters and new villains at the drop of hat, forgetting about the old story set-ups and antagonists, then ultimately bringing the story to a conclusion that's almost an anti-pay-off after everything that's been built up. He's extremely pro-police ("Bob Vanderhorn looked at Larry, sudden fear in his wise cop's eyes") and very religious (as far as I could tell, all the good guys are good Christians and the bad guys are not), but his books are filled with shamelessly lewd sexuality and depraved gore and violence that put most other horror authors to shame. He really is the literary equivalent to Lloyd Kaufman and late-eighties/early-nineties Roger Corman.

But you know what they say: writing a book is cheaper than therapy.

Ami says

I remember this book from when I was in Jr. High. Cheesy as all hell but a very scary and disturbing read for a 13-year-old girl! If I recall it had some pretty sickening material that goes far and beyond that what most people consider the horror genre: Ghosts raping people, random consensual and non-consensual sex,

violence, an evil spirit/god/satan that was making people see crap they feared that wasn't real. Also whenever this one character tried to leave town they'd forget what they were doing right after they crossed the border and head back into the nightmare. One of the scenes I recall most vividly is of a school-teacher being gang-raped by her students who were all worshipping some evil god/Satan who had control of the town, etc. It was really basically a mish-mash of all the stereotypical crap one finds in a horror novel/movie plus one thousand degrees with no real plot or character development and it should rightly be re-classified as a H.D.E.H. A "Highly Disturbing Erotic Horror".

Addy says

Ok. This book was completely gory, perverse, and disturbing. But, that's what I remember of him. It had a lot of characters, some that I liked more than others. The story line was confusing. He started with a light, to a manitou, to a house that had a disturbing history, yet we never completely understand the role of it and how it connected to the characters. The flesh wall was kinda neat. I wouldn't recommend this to ppl who are squeamish or can't handle a lot of rape (there was a lot and incest too). It was definitely left open for a sequel but I hear a lot of his novels were. I don't think one was ever written. It was entertaining and probably pulpy too, but that's why I like 80s horror. Overall, not too bad.

Dre Mosley says

I have a history with this book. I first read it years ago when I was barely a teenager. It was probably the first "mature" novel I had ever read and I remember enjoying it at the time. Truth be told, I should not have been reading it at the age that I did; I was too young for this material.

This book is loaded with sex and violence, a lot of of it is rape and a lot of the violence is gruesome stuff. The language is also very harsh.

The story isn't exactly original. Basically you have this small sleepy town in Missouri where everyone knows each other. There's this eerie light that's been seen by many for years and yet no one really knows what it is. There is also an archaeological dig site in the area. Long story short, the light houses a malevolent Native American figure that has been waiting to be reborn, and according to a character in the book is "insane" and "has been without women for a very long time." This creature, known as a Manitou basically takes over the people of the town. . .except for that special few that are not affected(of course). The Manitou puts everyone under its influence and turns them into shells of themselves. A nurturing mother suddenly becomes a sexual deviant who encourages her husband to rape another woman(in her words, "Hurt her, Jack.") while she watches(visibly aroused), for example.

The two main characters in the book are a gifted boy and girl who began to notice odd things going on. They begin to notice a change in their once wholesome parents; suddenly their parents become hostile towards them and say crude things and even go as far as to have orgies at night while they are in bed. The kids are special(well, of course they are!) They are surrounded by a small group of adults - one being an Indian who claims to be a witch doctor who just happens to know everything.

As stated, there is a fair amount of rape in this book, so you've been warned.

The book reads like a cheesy straight-to-video horror movie and as violent and explicit as it is, I found

myself laughing out loud; it's squarely in the so-bad-it's-good category. As a child reading this, I didn't find it funny, but years later, reading this with a more mature mind, I see just how amateurish this one is, and a lot of it came across as unintentional comedy.

I was both repulsed and entertained. . . .mostly entertained.
