



Dark Memories

Jeffrey S. Savage

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There are things in the darkness—things much worse than the tracks and abandoned pieces of equipment that trip the children up and gash at their feet and legs—things that brush silently past them, touching their faces before disappearing again.

1977—In the sleepy Town of Twin falls, Colorado, what starts as a carefree school picnic ends in tragedy when six children disappear into an abandoned gold mine. Six enter the dark void—and days later, only five emerge. After an arduous search, the hunt for the last child is called off and the mine entrance is blasted. Little Frankie is left behind, alone in the darkness.

He is coming.

2011—Police Chief Cal Hunt’s investigation into the recent string of bizarre murders in Twin Falls takes a chilling turn when he learns that each of the victims was a survivor of the Seven Stars mine incident. Cal realizes that they share a dark secret—the truth about what happened to Frankie.

To drag them deeper.

With time running out for the remaining survivors, Cal must face a killer that defies all logical explanation. Because no matter how Cal analyzes the facts, there is only one conclusion: A supernatural force is reaching out from the depths to reclaim those who escaped more than thirty years before. And it will not rest until it takes them all . . .

Into the darkness.

Dark Memories Details

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From Reader Review Dark Memories for online ebook

Taffy says

First line:

"What do you mean you can't find the children?"

And that is how you start out a horror novel.

Three things I liked about this book:

1. Jeff is a good, clean writer
2. He develops his characters well
3. He had a few red herrings in this story to throw off guessing who was the killer

This is a darker book of Jeff's. It wasn't so scary that I couldn't sleep at night but I did tense, once or twice, when I heard a mysterious noise outside.

In the 1970's, six children were lost in an abandoned mine; only five were found alive. The story that unfold in 2011 is sad, horrible and scary. Cal, the local police chief, has to solve one mystery after another and is chilled by the clues tracing back to the tragic mine accident.

Who is cold enough to kill? All signs point to the poor, dead boy who was buried forever in the mine when the authorities blew up the entrance. Has he come back from the dead to exact revenge on those who left him behind?

Or is there something deeper, more evil happening?

I recommend this book if you enjoy a good, clean, scary book.

I don't recommend this book if you don't like the supernatural and demons.

Rated: PG 15

V: Scary, tense moments. People murdered (but not graphic)

L: No

S: No

Liked:

Cal

Touch of romance

Disliked:

Couldn't guess the real killer

Demons

(I'm rating this lower only because it is dark).

Rosalyn Eves says

Jeff Savage is a master of writing creepy, as his middle-grade novel, *Casefile 13: Zombie Kid*, demonstrates. But where that was delightfully, kid-friendly, creepy, this novel is definitely meant for adults. And while I am not a huge fan of horror, this book kept me riveted (and up way later than I planned).

In 1977 six children were lost in a mine. Five days later, five of the children were recovered. Some thirty-four years later, those children, now grown, begin to die mysterious deaths. Local police chief Cal Hunt takes up the search for the killer, but the more he probes into the mystery, the more he begins to wonder if the improbable--that the vengeful spirit of the boy left behind might be seeking revenge--is actually probable. Being, however, largely agnostic following the death of his wife, Cal is convinced that there's a logical explanation behind all of this. But what he discovers will shock everyone connected to the case . . .

Surprisingly, I enjoyed this book. I loved the characterization of Cal, and the mystery unfolded in intriguing, if suspenseful, fashion. The horror (in the old-fashioned terror sense, not the more modern gore-fest sense) was also very present, and if, like me, you're susceptible to horror I wouldn't recommend reading when it's dark outside. The only downside for me was that, like many scary stories, once the big secret is revealed things no longer seem quite as scary . . .

Evelyn says

What a wonderful book. This is the kind of book I love to read but usually can't because of the language. I love the Savage books, whichever genre he is writing in. It is easy for me to say, but HURRY, let's have some more.

Susan says

The dreams were creepy for me and made the story difficult to follow.

Shauna says

To be honest I wasn't too sure I wanted to read this book...

KSL stated: "'Dark Memories' is the first horror novel published by Covenant or any mainstream LDS publisher."

While I am a lover of suspense. I am NOT a horror-liking person. So I was a little worried!

THEN I did a little research...

Jeffrey S. Savage said this about the book: "the book is not "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" blood and guts. "It's more like the scary movies I watched growing up ... when the most terrifying parts of the story took place in your own head."

I read the first chapter on Amazon...You can also find it [HERE](#)

I finally said to my husband..."It's put out by Covenant...so it can't be too bad can it?" And then I jumped right in to reading it...

SO GLAD I DID!

I couldn't put it down! The story is so good and so real and yes, the most terrifying parts take place in your own head AND beware they really do!

In the story mysterious murders are taking place...the only connection between the victims is that they were all lost in a mine during a school picnic when they were younger. One boy of the group did not make it back out of the mine.

And now it seems he is calling revenge on those who did!

It is SCARY..

It is THRILLING...

It is packed with SUSPENSE...

It is FAST-PACED...

It is MIND-BOGGLING..

It is AMAZING...

It is SO GOOD...

A DEFINITE MUST READ :)

Kale Snyder says

This was an intense book that twisted and turned from the very beginning to the last pages.

Kelsie says

This book started out very creepy but in the end it just was weird. Not how I thought it would end.

Jeanette Dummer says

Oh man. This book was way creepy. Usually, I can read a 350 page book in a couple of days, but this one took me more than a week because I had to keep putting it down. I had to finish it though! Really a fantastic book, even though I may not sleep for a few days. :)

Cathy says

I have to admit that I was kind of scared of reading this book after reading the beginning. I knew that it was going to be a ghost story, and I'm not overly fond of being scared. But once I got into the book a little ways I realized that I was really enjoying it. For me it became less of a ghost story and more of a mystery, because I don't really believe in ghosts. I really liked Cal Hunt in this book, his is the character you really get to "know" the most, most of the book is in his point of view. I can't say that I really liked all of the survivors because some of them were just plain selfish, rude or mean, but their characters were well planned and written. I liked the plot, there was always some action happening either to the survivors or to Cal. I really liked the ending, even though it was pretty creepy. Jeffry Savage is a master at writing with just the right amount of mystery, and creepiness!

Karlene Browning says

What a way to start off 2013! This is the perfect read for those who like twisty, turning horror (yes, there is full-on evil personified in this book) but who don't like the all the explicit grossness or hopelessness that is rampant in a lot of current horror.

Very well written. Strong characterization. Twisty, creepy prose. Intriguing plot that kept me in the story. Ghosts. Demons. Totally FREAKY awesomeness!

Cassie Cox says

I started this book about a year ago, and then students kept handing me books they wanted to read and it got pushed to the side. It's been sitting behind my school desk, calling out to me since then. I am so glad I was finally able to return to this book. This was truly one creepy mystery that I enjoyed from beginning to end. Tomorrow I will pass this on to a student who is itching to start it. Thanks, Jeff, for keeping me company over the past few days.

Roy Nash says

The main character in this book is named Cal. He is a police officer who just went through the death of his wife. He has moved to a small town in Colorado. This town is a very religious sleepy town. But when a group of kids who were trapped in a mine in 1977 begin to be murdered things get crazy. He struggles as he works to find the motive for the murders and then the connection between the victims. When the clues start to point towards something supernatural Cal, who doesn't believe anything that he can't see, is left scrambling to catch whatever is killing the people who were trapped in the mine before someone else dies. And when Cal finds out that one of the children trapped in the mine was never found and everyone else who was in the mine seems to have something to hide the mystery becomes even more complex.

I have read books from this author before and I really enjoyed them. He is a great author. I am always captivated when I read his books. When I seen that he had a new book on the shelves on the bookstore I had to pick it up to read it. And I was definitely not disappointed.

The plot of this book was really what worked in this book. I was captivated and curious at every turn of the plot. I had plenty of guesses as to what was going to happen next but I never did have it figured out. I liked the main character too. I could relate to him with a quite a few things. His zap reference about forgetting that his wife wasn't around any more hit home. He is also of very high character, and always willing to do what's right no matter what.

There wasn't much that I didn't like with this book. Cal's negative outlook on religion wasn't my favorite but his opinions did change as the book progressed. And that is just more of personal feeling. Other than that I don't really have any complaints.

My overall impression was that this book was amazing. I felt just as perplexed as Cal did trying to figure out what would happen. I also felt the nerves and emotions that the characters felt as they were in the high stress situations. The author descriptions were also phenomenal. I always had a great picture in my head of the scene at all times.

Anyone who enjoys mystery should read this. I wasn't much of a science fiction guy and this book borders on it but it will still appeal to those who don't like science fiction. There are some scenes such as when the murders are being described and when they are lost in the cave that may be a little intense for younger readers, but the vocabulary would probably be above their heads anyways.

I don't believe that there is anything offensive in this book.

Angela says

In 1977, six Colorado children were lost in an abandoned mine for several days. Five are found, and the search for the lost sixth, a boy named Frankie, is eventually called off. Over 30 years later, in 2011, a murderer is targeting the survivors, and Police Chief Cal Hunt suspects that they have been hiding details about their time in the mine. Even more puzzling are the impossibilities that the crime scenes present, strongly suggesting a supernatural force. For Hunt, who does not believe in an afterlife, his determination to prevent more murders forces him to confront his own beliefs and what all of this might mean for his deceased wife.

This is a horror story with dark corners and strong suspense. It does not rely on disturbing imagery or gore to scare the reader. I have a lot of respect for this approach, as it's a more difficult and challenging way to get readers' adrenaline pumping. Its scare level for me was on par with X-Files and Supernatural—not enough to linger with me, but more than enough to keep me turning pages, especially the scenes involving the attacks on the survivors-turned-victims.

I was especially interested in Chief Hunt. In a lot of horror stories, we have the regular-Joe guy who doesn't

believe in monsters and ghosts, but is forced to acknowledge them over the course of the story. For Hunt, however, the disbelief is amped up. He doesn't ever declare as much, but he seems to lean toward an atheistic, existential view of the world, believing that death is the ultimate end. The possibility of an afterlife raises the stakes for him especially because of his wife's recent death. Even in the darkness of the story, a glimmer of hope rises in this character, which he fights, of course. I thought this was a cool spin on the I-don't-believe storyline.

I didn't feel like I got an opportunity to solve the murders along with the characters. It's fairly obvious early on who is behind the killing, so the driving question through the story is one of motive. What happened in the mine that the survivors aren't talking about? Why does the murderer want them dead? The answers to these questions are laid out nicely in the ending chapters. It's a good ending—probably the most intense moments of the book are found there—but I felt left out of the solving part. And since the motive encompasses a pretty complex story (much of which is brand new to the reader), I got overwhelmed when it was all put out there at once.

This is a good read for those who like a suspenseful supernatural story without the gore. It has a strong main character whose life changes dramatically during his journey through the story. It's also good for the reader who likes a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Even though the story takes readers to dark places, a strong theme of redemption weaves through the storyline.

- No strong language or sexual situations
 - Violence includes several murders, which the reader witnesses
 - Some adult characters drink, the book addresses alcoholism
-

Heather says

Overall fabulous! A debut horror novel from suspense master, Jeffrey S. Savage, that you'll find deliciously creepy. Certain phrases still echo in my head like, "Amaaaaanda" and "lift, swing, thunk"... So really, I advise not reading if you're home alone and it's after midnight and you have an early meeting the next morning.

Susan says

Six children were trapped in an abandoned gold mine. Only five were rescued. Now thirty years later, the survivors are being murdered. Police Chief Cal Hunt is immersed into finding the killer before all five are gone. It's a bizarre chain of events, especially as the truth is revealed.
