



## The Gate

*Jason Brant*

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## **The Gate** Jason Brant

Bryan Armstrong and Kyle Detwiler, two college students on the cusp of graduation, are the lucky winners of a contest to become interns on the paranormal television show *The Specter Slayers*.

Their excitement turns to jubilation when they discover that they'll be aiding in the investigation of *The Danver Church*, one of the most haunted places in America. Nestled in the remote mountains of Pennsylvania, the church is world renowned for the massacre that occurred there forty years earlier.

Accompanied by best-selling horror author Katie Upshaw, they attempt to survive a dream job that quickly turns into a nightmare. The church, adorned with satanic symbols and imagery, is the home of things far worse than any of them could have imagined.

## **The Gate Details**

Date : Published August 11th 2012 (first published August 10th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Jason Brant

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Horror, Fantasy, Paranormal, Fiction, Supernatural, Thriller

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## From Reader Review The Gate for online ebook

### Jannah says

Absolutely one of the best books I have read this year. If you haven't had a chance to read a book by Jason Brant, you are missing out. Fans of Stephen King and Charlie Huston will dig this one for sure. Quick witted humor, terror-inducing monsters, and whole lotta awesome. Read it, read it, read it.

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### Chris says

I'm not really certain where the author comes up with his ideas, but I think I'm glad I can only live in his brain through his books. Another great one from him. The book kept me glued wondering what would happen next.

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### Kascha says

Ummm...let me; okay. I am not a harpy. Can I start there? I feel that to a certain extent I have to disclaimer my reviews of my latest reads because as I mentioned in an earlier review of *The Mourning House*, I am struggling mightily with the novella format on Kindle, mostly due to the length of the books, and am still viewing them through eyes much more acclimated to the depth that comes with a hundred or more additional pages. Anyway others are reviewing as if they know Mr. Brant and I will feel guilty because I will come off as though I don't think we read the same book.

This book was entertaining and fast paced. Let me start with that. The characters were well described and fleshed out, and Mr. Brant's writing style was great. It is not a hard book to enjoy or get through. There was a lot of dark comedic banter between the characters, and I found myself smiling more than once at their interactions.

Here's where my guilt comes in. Much of why it is so easy to read is that it simply isn't that deep or innovative. While reading it I was reminded over and over of the formula from *The Blair Witch Project*, which was really cool and innovative when it came out (mostly because of marketing and the first person filming), but is dated now and doesn't translate to books in any profound way. I was also reminded at several points of *Quarantine*, the movie with Jennifer Carpenter.

What you're left with is a fairly generic concept that is difficult to make shine except through exceptional details, and although the author does a great job of establishing backstory through Katie's subject knowledge, and does a wonderful job of describing surroundings and creatures, he simply doesn't have enough space or real avenue to overcome the simplistic by-numbers overall theme and plot. I felt like I was reading something out of one of those Reader's Digest things they used to have at school book fairs, but with more blechy gooey descriptions like in *The Mist* or *Creepshow 2* than the rating system of those short stories would allow given the grade level of the audience.

Again. I may simply demand too much. But when I look at the innovation I've seen in some other novellas in the genre, and remember such stories as *Sun Dog*, *Rose Madder*, *The Regulators*...those are mind stretching. Intricate. Impeccably fleshed out and with supernatural twists that defy imagination because they are truly out there. *The Gate* is not on that level.

These stories also have far more room to stretch their legs, and in this author's defense? That is huge. Game changing. So again, do not take my review and three stars as an indicator that I didn't like this book or that it is not worth reading. I did and it is. I guess I am simply something of a snob, and the book's only real problem was its own spoiled reader in this case!

Recommended for light enjoyment, pacing, thrills and some freaky imagery. Not recommended for those looking for major depth, plot innovation, or old fashioned psychologically satisfying ghost or supernatural horror.

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### **Terri Baldwin says**

Bryan didn't want the intern job that his fun-loving football playing best friend, Kyle won, but he needed an internship to graduate. Ghost hunting seemed like such a crock to him, and he wanted no part of that show. He was going to spend the weekend before finals chasing ghosts in an abandoned church in the middle of nowhere instead of studying. The church they will be shooting the show in is shrouded in mystery... several people having gone there and never returned again. Once they find the church, they are thrown into a bizarre world of monsters and prophetic ancient texts. With a beautiful horror writer and three egotistical and beer-guzzling show hosts, this unlikely crew of five finds their worst nightmare wrapped in the stench of Hell.

The Characters were great in this story. I loved the friendship between Bryan and Kyle, and their banter had me laughing aloud several times while reading. The beautiful, bad ass writer, Katie Upshaw, eerily reminded me of myself in ways. The show crew members were characters I loved to hate. Not far into the book, I was hoping to see them be the first to go if anyone had to die, and the karma that hit them was quite fitting. The story was one that I couldn't easily figure out, which is usually the case with books. I was surprised more than once at a particular turn the story had taken. His monsters are unlike any of the monsters in recent books I've read. They were vividly etched into my memory and thus have now entered my nightmares (thanks, Jason!). This was Jason Brant's longest book so far, but I was still yearning for more at the end. Sequel, please! (that's just me being greedy)

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### **Cindy Boepple says**

Really enjoyed this book. I love something different and this was it. Started as a the regular haunted investigation and packed an awesome twist.

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### **Rosemary says**

I really, really enjoyed this book.

It was scary, as expected, but not soul destroyingly so. The thought of the existence of a gateway to hell, or even another dimension inhabited by the creatures depicted in this book is enough to send shivers down my spine.

The story was well written, and the description of the church and the surrounding area was so well described, it felt as if I had actually seen it myself. It was also fast paced and kept me interested right through to the

surprising end. The characters were great too – the good and the bad, so much so that I wanted to give the ‘Ghost busters’ a slap, on more than one occasion.

What I really enjoy about Jason Brant’s writing is that I end up thinking about the story long after I have put the book down. I always walk away with the feeling of ‘what if’ .....nah too scary to go down that route.

A really good read, highly recommended.

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## **Liz says**

### **Decent spooker....**

At first I Was a little disappointed that what I thought was going to be a book with a kind of supernatural experience , turned out to be a sea monster and other strange creature kind of book. But, I stuck with it and read to the end and, I have to say I enjoyed it. I liked the characters They were very real and vibrant for me, as were the writers descriptions of scenery and surroundings.

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## **Editing Services by Cynthia Shepp says**

Jason Brant outdid himself this time! The Gate is twice the length of his other books, and though I liked them all, this one is my favorite.

The Gate starts off with two college boys, Bryan and Kyle, being accepted as interns on a television show called The Specter Slayers. Bryan is the studious one and his fiancé just broke off their engagement, leaving him depressed. Kyle is the hot football player that scores all the chicks. The Specter Slayers is a show about paranormal investigators that go into supposedly haunted churches and prove that there is paranormal activity in them.

Bryan is not thrilled about this opportunity, but Kyle talks him into it with the enticement of what airtime will do to his resume. This starts their journey to the Danver church, a church that an eccentric old man bought, and then supposedly killed a whole group of his friends in.

They get to the church after a long drive, and not being able to find it, through woods that seem to get mysteriously darker and creepier the farther they drive into them. Once there, they meet the Specter Slayers, two creeps that do not believe in the paranormal, they just like to cash in, plus their nerdy tech guy. Bryan and Kyle are told that famous horror author, Katie Upshaw, will be joining them for their night in the Danver church.

But Katie has secrets that she is hesitant to share. Secrets about the church...secrets that might get them all killed...

I really cannot tell you more because if I do, it will ruin the surprise. And believe me, I never knew what was coming! It is not at all what you will expect, I will tell you that. It is about as far from normal as you could ever imagine.

This book is full of humor, at least in the first half. I laughed my way through it, never knowing what was waiting for me right around the corner. When I did get passed the humor, I spent the rest of the book with my jaw hanging open, not knowing what to expect next. I will admit to my heart jumping up in my throat a time or two as well. Delving into Satanic rituals and biblical theories (NOT in a boring way!), The Gate will have you holding your breath, and pulling the covers up to your eyes at night, fearfully hoping you are not the next to get sucked in.

Quotes from the book:

“First, I never want to see you swivel your hips like that again. Second, you stepped in my mashed potatoes.”

“Jesus jumped up Christ, look at the size of that crack!”

“We saw something that she couldn’t handle...”

“We don’t need it coming back because it heard you.”

For more reviews of Great books, please visit <http://cynthiashepp.wordpress.com>

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### **Kelly says**

Just a super fun monster tale with some fun characters.

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### **Heidi says**

Some freaky sh\*t with Brant's own dash of humor thrown in. I thought about 2/3 through that I was reading a Sephen King novel.

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### **Heidi says**

I would actually rate The Gate at 4.5 to 4.75 Stars. Since Goodreads doesn't allow for a partial star, I rounded up.

Everything I have come to expect from Jason came through in The Gate. The characters are 100% believable. He uses a mix of real life personalities, Smart to Stupid, and the characters feel like you would meet this group in real life, and their interactions would play out as written. I especially enjoyed his 'Specter Slayers' group, and fully approve of how their story line evolves through out the book.

Jason has an extremely vivid imagination, and makes the setting not only believable, but made it feel like real history. He leaves just enough to the imagination that you feel that you want to find the church on Wikipedia or Google to see if what he describes matches what you imagined.

This book had more of a horror feel to it than others he's written, and to be honest, if it was ever made into a movie, I would not go to see it. The book was a little more than I think I could handle. I'm sure my sister and husband would be lining up to see it. It was a perfect pre-halloween book.

My main complaint in the book was the homosexual humor. I think it would have been just as good without the few paragraphs devoted to it, but that's just me.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed The Gate, and would recommend it to those who enjoy both Thrillers & Horror.

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### **Jayce Grayson says**

Check out my blog for my review! Jayce Grayson

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### **Heather says**

I don't know what I was expecting, but this wasn't it. The premise was interesting - two college students end up getting an internship on an episode of "Specter Slayers" (a Ghost Hunters type show). Their destination - an old church in the backwoods of Pennsylvania. Apparently the church has a history of a group of hypothesized devil worshipers disappearing. The church is thought to be a gate to the supernatural. They arrive at the church meeting up with the "Specter Slayers" and a famous horror author - who is there for her own mysterious reasons. They investigate the location, filming for the show, and supernatural occurrences start happening.

My issues -

1. The writing is very basic and not fully developed. I kept thinking of the R.L. Stein "Fear Street" books I read in 5th grade.
2. The characters were poorly developed and exaggerated caricatures of real life people. It's fine to pull from real life to build your characters - but the two "Specter Slayers" were an obvious parody of the Ghost Hunters on SyFy. At one point one of the college students even says "No wonder South Park made fun of them." Poor taste when the two "Specter Slayers" are portrayed as inept, creepy, and beer swilling.
3. The story has been done before. (spoiler alert) The characters end up going through the gate, entering a Lovecraftian world. The world is not very well developed by the author.

Overall, very disappointed. I stuck through with the book until the end - hoping for it to be better...but it just wasn't. Much better suited for young adult readers - just take the swearing out. The author has great potential, just needs more work at the craft.

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### **Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says**

I have been intrigued by The Gate since I first saw it pop-up in my recommended books on Amazon way back in January. Great cover work, it reminds me of The Haunted Mansion at Walt Disney World. I've always loved the contrast of a house of horrors in the happiest place on earth...I digress, back to The Gate.

Imagine if you will, that you've been dumped, and you're dumb as best friend has signed you up to "volunteer" on the worst reality show on television with two drunken hosts. The "job" - to spend the night recording ghosts at the site of a grisly mass murder; oh yeah, it's the fortieth anniversary of the murder, the only suspect just killed himself the night before and you only find out at the last minute. This is Bryan's reality.

The Gate has all of the hallmarks that I look for in a book: an escape from reality, one reasonable, rational character (I can identify with this guy compared to all of the fools I deal with on a daily basis), great fast paced action, and some tongue in cheek douchebaggery (Can I say douchebaggery? It's my review...so I can).

This book had some great buildup and I could not wait to get back to the action and witty dialogue. I have decided that the Leviathan is like cowbell...I want some more.

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### **Nicki says**

This book gave me goose bumps it creeped me out that bad. Solid writing/story telling. Loved the characters. Jason Brant even gave a nod to the Flying Spaghetti Monster, which in my opinion, instantly made this book awesome! Well done. Loved it!

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