



Blanky

Kealan Patrick Burke

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In the wake of his infant daughter's tragic death, Steve Brannigan is struggling to keep himself together. Estranged from his wife, who refuses to be inside the house where the unthinkable happened, and unable to work, he seeks solace in an endless parade of old sitcoms and a bottle of bourbon.

Until one night he hears a sound from his daughter's old room, a room now stripped bare of anything that identified it as hers...except for her security blanket, affectionately known as Blanky.

Blanky, old and frayed, with its antiquated patchwork of badly sewn rabbits with black button eyes, who appear to be staring at the viewer...

Blanky, purchased from a strange old man at an antique stall selling "BABY CLOSE" at a discount.

The presence of Blanky in his dead daughter's room heralds nothing short of an unspeakable nightmare that threatens to take away what little light remains in Steve's shattered world.

Because his daughter loved Blanky so much, he buried her with it.

Blanky Details

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Author : Kealan Patrick Burke

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Download and Read Free Online Blanky Kealan Patrick Burke

From Reader Review Blanky for online ebook

Ellen Gail says

4.5 stars! What a treat this was!

All these moments, even the less pleasant ones, are snapshots we can never replace once they're lost, and it leaves us wishing for just the slightest glimpse of them if it means we can feel whole again. If it means we can pretend just for an instant that we're still alive.

Kealan Patrick Burke continues to be one of my go to authors for really great, original, and (in this case) sad horror.

Steve Brannigan is grieving. The loss of his nine month old daughter Robin devastated him, and his marriage. How do you say goodbye when a loss that rips you apart like that? How do you grieve when your world is ending?

How do you handle it when your child's 'Blanky' shows up on their bedroom floor, a place VERY far from where you last saw it?

cue spooky music

Not...not that music.

Oh, whatever. Let's go with it.

Blanky was really good! A haunting exploration of grief and the horrifying ways it can manifest. I don't want to say much about the plot except HOLY SHIT. Way to channel horrific sorrow into a creepy tale full of death, baby teeth, and anger.

I may have lost my mind for a time, but grief makes everyone crazy.

Just read it, okay? Read and enjoy.

And beware the hollow eyes and baby fingers.

Original Pre-review

New KPB novella?

Oh I am so there.

Carol says

A **horror** story of grief and pain begin with the loss of a child in Kealan Patrick Burke's **wicked** little novella **BLANKY** and then.....

Intensify as **evil** thoughts and **dark** visions pervade the mind of a father....**haunting** him into a realm of **madness**....fueled by something always watching.....following.....and seeking him out.

CREEPY!

Bark says

Blanky is a grief saturated read that will ring true for anyone who has ever lost anyone prematurely. It nails those dark, hopeless feelings that envelop you in the early stages of grief. It's sad and it's scary and it packs an incredible punch in so few pages. This kind of writing, the kind that is able to creep into my heart and shatter it, is what keeps me coming back to books when there are always so many other things trying to pull me away from them.

"One rainy night I put her to bed and when I woke up, she was dead. That was the beginning of the end of my world. This is the rest of it."

Steve is drowning in grief and he is all alone. His wife, unable to deal with their loss, has left to live with her parents for a while and Steve's isolation and sadness is a living, breathing, soul sucking thing.

"We always said nothing would come between us, that there was nothing we couldn't conquer. I know at the time we never imagined in a million years it would be something this fucking apocalyptic, but still...I meant it then and I mean it now. We're stronger together than we'll ever be alone." "I know, but...I see her in you, Stephen. She had your eyes, and it got so that looking at you felt like looking at her, and all I could see was the accusation, the blame. I couldn't bear it. I still can't."

Ouch, right? Talk about raw emotion. The writing here is so strong that it almost physically hurts to read these thoughts and experience the sadness that engulfs both of them.

One day Steve ventures into his deceased baby's room and finds her blanky. The blanky that he could've sworn she was swaddled in when she was handed over to the paramedics. The blanky that should not be in her room . . . Finding the blanky stirs a series of events that become increasingly sinister. Is Steve experiencing something supernatural or is it something far worse? I'm not a jerk and am not going to be the one to tell you!

This story gets all the stars. It is bleak and it may haunt you but I think all of you horror people should read it.

Janie C. says

A gripping and expertly written horror novella, Blanky affects the reader on more than one level. The main character is struggling with overwhelming loss, and his grief is palpable. The unnerving dreams that occupy his nocturnal hours are ominous, threatening to emerge into his daily reality. This is a psychological study that asks us to suspend disbelief. Supernatural overtures, grief-driven actions and the looming reality of death combine to weave a not-so-cuddly blanket of suspense and uncertainty. Recommended.

Edward Lorn says

This dude makes this writing shit look easy. I've come to expect a certain level of quality from KPB and every year, without fail, he raises the bar. He is, simply put, one of the best in the business. His novellas are better than most big-named author's novels, and his writing is the closest thing to perfection I've found anywhere. Most of you motherfuckers are playing. This man's writing.

BLANKY is a study of grief and madness marinated in a stew of dread and sorrow. I constantly found myself on the verge of tears or terror. I have an irrational fear of dolls. Kealan packed this fucker fulla those little assholes. I'm a parent. Kealan tore my heart out of my chest on numerous occasions with his delving into waters no parent ever wants to swim much less dip a toe in.

But the gleaming stone in this tale of bleakest loss is the feeling of everpresent doom. It lurks on every page, even during the brief moments of happiness our characters find respite in, you can sense Doom peeking over your shoulder and uttering a single word. Soon...

In summation: I knew this was gonna be good but holy Scooby Snacks was I impressed. Kealan never seems to fire on anything less than all cylinders. The dread machine is fully active in this one. If you prefer your horror on the cerebral side, pick up damn near anything by KPB, be it longform, novella, or short story, and he's sure to please.

Final Judgment: Novella of the year contender without a shred of competition...so far.

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

Long listed for my Top 17 Books of 2017!

Blanky is dark, creepy and delightfully disturbing. This brilliant novella creeps up on you as you turn the pages before revealing its plot whammy and leaving you gasping for air. I'll never look at a baby blanket the same way again.

Kealan is a talented and clever writer. His writing is smooth, impacting and engaging on every level. You don't get bored reading books from Mr Burke and Blanky is no exception.

This horror novella is unique in plot and I really liked the way the story built up word upon word. I was intrigued from page one to the very end. Plot reveals are chilling and visually impacting to say the least. This would make one heck of a good movie.

A great novella that packs a lot in. Highly recommended. I'm a big fan of Kealan's work and have the bug to read more. 5 stars!

Kimberly says

BLANKY, by Kealan Patrick Burke, is an emotional, literary work of art—nothing less than I'd expect from this veteran storyteller! While the title may seem innocent enough, the cover clearly shouts out an eerie malevolence, giving the reader a sense of unease just as they are about to turn to that first page.

“You say you can’t imagine what it must be like to lose a child. Let me make it easy for you. It’s the beginning of the end of your world.”

Stephen is struggling with the recent loss of his infant daughter, Robin. His wife, Lexi, has “temporarily” moved in with her parents in order to grieve alone.

“... everyone has lost someone, and nobody knows how to cope ...”

The sense of overwhelming loss immediately permeates the reader’s senses. We endure Stephen’s loss of his child, his wife, the normalcy and routine that his life once had, and even his own will and convictions.

“... Self-preservation is an amazing thing. It can make fighters of the fallen ... but it can’t last forever When you’re beaten, sometimes it’s best just to stop struggling and embrace the end ... “

The darkness of this novella was impossible to dispel—yet at the same time, I found myself perversely not wanting it to end. The words Burke uses evoke the feelings with such certainty and fluency that they are simply magical on a page.

“... Losing someone makes you lose yourself ... “

Stephen’s depression is compounded further by the physical distance between he and his wife. With Lexi choosing to grieve on her own, she is, in effect, blocking out her husband as well, citing the memories of their house—“... *The house where we became us* ... “—as too painful for her.

As usual, Burke nails overwhelmingly, not only the atmosphere and tension of this tale, but also that of the characterization of all of the individuals involved. The heartfelt meaning of this story is unequivocally natural human emotions and how some try to go on after a horrific loss. The prose is simply ... perfect ... at conveying the exact thoughts and feelings you would honestly find in a situation like this.

“... All these moments, even the less pleasant ones, are snapshots we can never replace once they’re lost, and it leaves us wishing for just the slightest glimpse of them if it means we can feel whole again. If it means we can pretend just for an instant that we’re still alive ... “

There are times, too, of optimism, of “maybe they will be able to move on”. Unquestionably, Burke is a master when it comes to the human psyche, and his words are able to effortlessly guide the reader along the paths he wishes to show us.

However, there is much more to this story than that.

Before little Robin’s birth, Lexi had procured for her a strange baby blanket at a vendor’s market. The seller,

an old man with a misspelled sign that read “Baby Close”. At first, nothing appeared “off” with Blanky, and Lexi even went as far as to say it was the infant’s favorite toy.

When Stephen later thinks he hears a noise coming from the now-empty nursery upstairs, he goes in to find Blanky now lying on the otherwise bare floor. A tangible part of his departed daughter’s life, he and Lexi are soon wrapped up in happy memories of their baby girl.

Slowly though, sinister thoughts and dreams begin to plague Stephen each day and night. He couldn’t voice the problem that nagged at him, but once accepted, he couldn’t “pretend” otherwise.

“ . . . We should never have seen Blanky again. Because we buried her with it . . . ”

With this, the story instantly crosses over into psychological horror. We’ve passed from the logical emotive side of things, and gone into a realm where anything is possible, where nothing can be predicted with any amount of certainty. Yet Burke is able to seamlessly weld these two worlds together, making them inseparable to both Stephen and the reader as the nightmarish journey continues.

“ . . . the edges of the world can cut you . . . ”

When the reality you count on can no longer be trusted, do you surrender your sanity, or fight back no matter how unlikely the result may be?

“ . . . Blanky had come home . . . ”

BLANKY is another spectacular tale from Kealan Patrick Burke. This is a story that is rich with “*real*” characters, poignant emotions, and that darker side which can truly take your imagination . . . anywhere. Few authors can make a story work as well as this one.

Highest recommendation!

Jon Recluse says

They say there are seven stages of grief.

They are wrong.

There are eight.

The final stage is....**BLANKY**.

This review is a bit more personal than is my norm, as this novella hit me harder and deeper than pretty much anything I’ve read in living memory. Having recently lost a loved one, and still in the grip of grief, reading **BLANKY** was a cathartic experience, for good horror brings the fear....great horror goes to the emotions that underlie the fear. And no one writing today knows that territory like Kealan Patrick Burke. He knows what grief is, and the fine line between despair and insanity. He knows it and shares it with his readers on an empathic level. This novella brought me more than a few sleepless nights.....and more than a few of tears.

Burke raises the bar on horror every time he sets pen to paper.

Highest possible recommendation.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Lord have mercy! This was good and creepy! It's a very short novella on Kindle Unlimited for those that have it ?

Stephen and Lexi had a baby girl named Robin who died.

You say you can't imagine what it must be like to lose a child.

Let me make it easy for you.

It's the beginning of the end of your world

Stephen is left in their home alone as Lexi is staying with her parents. I mean I would have sold that house. Just sayin'

The author does a brilliant job of setting up the creepy atmosphere and the grief in this book.

The creaking of timbers settling, of joints tightening, that was familiar. A dragging sound was not. Up there, through that ceiling, was the floor of an empty room. But once upon a time, not very long ago, it had been Robin's room.

Blanky comes home. . .

You would not believe the things Stephen sees through-out this book!

Obviously things take a turn for the worse and there is a surprise scenario and ending. There were some things I didn't understand at first but when the pieces started to click, my light bulb went off!

I enjoyed this little novella

Mel ♥?

Kimberly says

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Highest recommendation!

****Re-read 3/17/18: Review stands as is. This is one of those powerful novellas that can't help but affect the reader no matter how often you read it...****

Char says

BLANKY is a powerful novella, full of grief, pain, and horrors previously unknown-those both real and imagined.

You can't let Kealan deceive you with that innocent looking cover. Any of you already familiar with his work wouldn't fall for that anyway. This is a tale that touches on everything it is to be human, both good and bad.

The time we spend with our families, even the irritating or angry times, are all something special. We may only want to focus on the fun, good memories, but that's not reality. BLANKY makes you think about, made ME think about- exactly what reality is.

With this story, be prepared to bring a piece of yourself and leave it upon the altar of Kealan Patrick Burke.

My highest recommendation. Period.

I bought this novella with my hard earned money and reading it cost a small piece of my soul.

Richard says

Kealan Patrick Burke has rocked it again with his latest novella and lands an effective balance of sadness and terror in this story about a man who loses his infant daughter to crib death and struggles to move on. But things take a darker turn when his daughter's blanky reappears, the blanky that was buried with her.

Burke takes one of the most horrific things that can happen to a parent and punches it up even more with the idea that there might be something much darker behind it all. And like most of the writers I love, his writing is deceptively simple, where you believe for a while that you're reading a simple horror tale because it has all the regular trappings, but then Burke sneaks up and punches you in the nose with genuine emotion and you realize that you're reading something else entirely. It also works in the reverse as well, where you think you're comfortably reading simply a well-written melancholy novella about the loss of a child, but then Burke turns your head and shows you something that creeps the crap out of you.

Can't wait to read even more of his work.

Ron says

I buy into this one because the writing is just that good. You may guess where the story goes, but maybe you're the one being led. Tragedy and heartbreak turn to paranormal with an baby's blanket at the center of these parent's nightmare. Thought I had it all figured out...and then the last page.

Sadie Hartmann Mother Horror says

What a perfect book to read on the last day of October, Halloween. I had been hearing about Kealan Patrick Burke for quite some time now but this book, Blanky was recommended to me specifically by several people who read a lot of horror and who typically enjoy the same books I do.

So I bought it and of course I read it in one sitting (the day I got it) because it's a short story.

Read the plot summary if you want those kind of details but I suggest you just go into it blind.

My review, my non-spoilery thoughts on this read go like this:

Burke managed to pull a few fast ones over on me with the art of distraction. He kept me looking over *here* while he was working on something insidious over *there*.

And then after an emotional ride, I found myself in the middle of a nightmare--the bowels of a horror story.

What clever storytelling. I enjoyed it very much. I'll tell you what Kealan told me:

"For the ultimate immersion: (a) Pour yourself a Scotch (or apple juice), (b) have M*A*S*H on low in the background, (c) Be alone."

This is a must read for horror fans but be warned, if you read this--you're going to need all of Burke's books. *here, take my money*

Zoeytron says

[and the baby teeth worked into the hem. A grim r
