



The Burning Time

J.G. Faherty

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Only one man knows the truth, a country mage whose family has fought The Stranger before. But can he defeat his ageless enemy before Hastings Mills is nothing but a smoking ruin and the townspeople become unwilling blood sacrifices to the Old Ones? With only the help of a young woman and her teenage son, he will have to use all of his arcane knowledge to thwart his adversary and prevent the final apocalypse.

In Hastings Mills, The Burning Time has arrived.

The Burning Time Details

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Author : J.G. Faherty

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From Reader Review The Burning Time for online ebook

Vontrice Lemell says

Chapter by chapter the book became annoying and cliché. I just had to do a big eye roll at one chapter in which the officers get a call that a new comer into town was seen taking a boy to his hotel room and coming out 20 mins later. What is their first thought of this? "Do you think he's the one who has been killing all those young ladies?" (not an actual quote). WTF? He wasn't even in town when the first murder happened! AND, why would you suspect him of killing girls (teens and older it seems) over the fact that he took a child to his hotel. Shouldn't your first thought be...child molestation? After the run in with the police, the next day our character finds that everyone in town thinks he's a child molester or the murderer of all those teen girls. So what does he do? When a beautiful teen girl comes in asking him out of 20 plus men from her small town, to help with her car he says yes. When she offer's him a ride he jumps on in with the whole world watching knowing that no one will be around when she drops him off. And when she comes up dead he's just shocked by it all. Ummm...they have already told you they suspect you of the killings of teenage girls...why are you driving around in the car of a teenage girl...*sigh*...and it continues...all for the sake of moving the plot along that is. This book is filled with little things of this sort.

The good part is that the general idea is really good and the writing style is not bad at all. Just so many eye rolls throughout the whole mess.

Robert Krone says

NOTE: This review is from the paperback ARC of this title won through LibraryThing.

I haven't read anything from Lovecraft yet, but I am familiar with some of the basics, such as Cthulhu and the Elder Gods (though not the names), so I suspected the links with the first mention of Gods, which was then confirmed with the mention of Elder Gods and Cthulhu. Since I am not very familiar with them I cannot attest to how faithful he was with these things, so that will not play into how I rate this title.

While this book was good, it was definitely not the best I've read lately. While I cannot blame the author for this as the publisher is responsible, there were several errors with spelling, consistency in referencing characters, and other issues I have never seen so much of in a title. I have read several ARCs in the past, mostly from Cemetery Dance Publications, and I've never seen these issues in them. Those are usually at about the state they are published in. I hope for both the author and publisher's sake that this ARC is not how it appears as published. I also saw inconsistent references to Reverend Cyrus Christian, including calling him Cyrus a few times, only to be followed by calling him Christian. There was even an instance of calling him Christian Cyrus! Maybe this is how the author had it, but it shouldn't have escaped the attention of editors. Since this is just an ARC it won't impact my final rating. If this were the final published edition and I paid money for it though it would make me nervous about purchasing from this publisher in the future. Even though those issues won't be included in the overall rating I'm giving this title, I did want to make readers aware of the issue with the hope that it isn't an issue in the edition people buy, but with making people aware of what to watch out for.

One other issue that I have that is caused by the publisher is the back of the book. The info about the book is in a red font, which is very difficult to read since it is on a red background.

One issue I had with this that do play into my final rating include being repetitive in the beginning when it

comes to the women jumping off bridges that is mentioned on the back of the book. The author describes the same thing (with some differences, of course) three times I think in the early stages. What I think would be a better idea is to mention it a couple times, providing more or different information each time until finally describing it in detail once. This could prevent that from being repetitive and even create more of a sense of mystery and dread.

The other big issue I had with this was with being realistic about the normal things. At one point the author has the good guy going for a 2 mile walk to the store to pick up some things that he can 'easily' accomplish in under an hour. The very next section of the book has the character arriving in 15 minutes. While I was in the Army I had back problems, so instead of running 2 miles for my fitness test I had to walk 2.5 miles. While the slowest time I ever had around 30 minutes, which means it is obviously possible to walk 2 miles in 15 minutes, I also know it is not just a stroll to the store. It is a work out, especially in the heat and extreme humidity described in the story. Add to that shopping for larger things in a store, walking around to look at and find the items, and then walking back another 2 miles in the heat and humidity, and you have a very unrealistic situation being described. The grand total is 4 miles in the heat and humidity, walking around a store, buying things and carrying them back halfway through those 4 miles, and having it described as something he could accomplish in under an hour jarred me out of the story. I did force myself to finish that paragraph before I stopped reading, but it did keep me from reading anywhere past that for the day. I likely could have read some more, but it wouldn't have been fair as I wouldn't have been able to concentrate on the story properly, especially not for something I was going to review.

I am not an expert on Gods as I have not used any in my own writing, but when I think of Trickster I do NOT think of something that is inherently evil. Something that represents Chaos perhaps, but not evil. Chaos is also not inherently evil, not is it inherently good. Chaos represents both sides of the coin and doesn't really favor one over the other. I would suggest the author do a lot of research of the Gods, such as a/the Trickster, as well as things like the nature of Chaos. I know if I delve into the Gods I will definitely do my research, and might actually do that with no intention of writing about that as I am a nerd and they interest me.

Overall an enjoyable and passable read, but one that could have definitely been better. Overall rating from me is 3 1/2 out of 5 stars, rounded up to 4 for Goodreads since there are no half star ratings here unfortunately.

Katy says

Book Info: Genre: Horror; Lovecraftian Fiction; Cthulhuian mythos

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: Fans of Lovecraft, horror, Cthulhu

Book Available: January 19, 2013

Trigger Warnings: Really? Lovecraftian fiction; do I really need to say any more? Okay, details: rape, murder, defilement of all that is right, dawning of the darkness, demons, creatures of the Elder Gods... Need I really go on? Not for the faint of heart.

Animal abuse: implied goat sacrifice, two single-sentence cat injuries with implication that they would probably end up dead. However, several dogs have their revenge, including a toe-chewing Chihuahua.

Disclosure: I was asked by the author to read and review this book prior to the publication date, and provided an ARC for my honest review. All opinions are my own.

Synopsis: An ancient evil has come to Hastings Mills, and only one man can stop it.

Wherever The Stranger goes, evil follows. Wild dogs roam the fields. Townspeople turn on each other in murderous fury. Innocent women throw themselves off bridges. Swimmers disappear, victims of a deadly beast that haunts their waters. And the worst is still yet to come. The Stranger plans to open a gateway to the nether realms and release the Elder Gods to bring forth Chaos on Earth.

Only one man knows the truth, a country mage whose family has fought The Stranger before. But can he defeat his ageless enemy before Hastings Mills is nothing but a smoking ruin and the townspeople become unwilling blood sacrifices to the Old Ones? With only the help of a young woman and her teenage son, he will have to use all of his arcane knowledge to thwart his adversary and prevent the final apocalypse.

In Hastings Mills, The Burning Time has arrived.

My Thoughts: I had meant to read and review this book last weekend, but I completely lost track of time and forgot. However, I am managing the review prior to publication, so all is still well... This is the second J.G. Faherty book I've read, following *Cemetery Club*, which I read and reviewed in December of 2011 after winning it through LibraryThing Early Reviewers (and you can see my review here if you're reading this review on one of the few sites that allows formatting with HTML).

This is a seriously creepy story, strongly Lovecraftian and directly referencing the Elder Gods on several occasions, R'lyeh, even Cthulhu and Shub-Niggurath. Which especially startled me during the Reverend's sermons, not to mention that fact that not a single townspeople thought it totally strange that their Reverend was talking about "Gods" and "the Ancients" and such. If a preacher, pastor or priest in *my* tiny, little hometown had started talking like that, he'd probably have been tarred, feathered, and run out on a rail. Just sayin', it seemed a little weird that only John Root (and Mitch) seemed to have noticed that...

There were a couple of other weird inconsistencies that were more than a little confusing. First of all, Christian was a "Reverend" and emphatically denied being a priest. Despite the name of the church, Our Lady of Perpetual Hope, that tells me this was not a Catholic church of which he was the head. Therefore, he could not have been officiating at a Mass. (**Note:** my husband has pointed out he believes that both Episcopalians and Anglicans do, indeed, celebrate Mass under a Reverend. So take my concerns with a grain of salt on this matter.) Then there was the situation with the snakes when John Root saves Mitch from a beating—they are described as green, but later Root says they were cottonmouth. Cottonmouths are emphatically *not* green; I've seen one up-close-and-personal like (I'm talking about from less than a foot away, when it was twined up on a road sign across the way, and I, being the person I am, said, "Cool!" and walked right up to take a good look at it), and from even a short distance they look black. When you're very close, however, you can see they have a very subtle pattern, which is really quite lovely, but they are not—I repeat—green.

As I mentioned, I'm originally from a small town, so to me the creepiest aspect of this book was how the normal exclusionary, us-versus-them attitude of a small town is exaggerated and perverted by the Stranger to create overt suspiciousness. I could so see that happening, and so easily, even in the larger area where I live now. People have a distressing tendency to believe the worst about other people in too many instances. At any rate, other than the supernatural aspects, the sheer, horrifying *plausibility* of the whole thing is what really freaked me out.

However, it also horribly misrepresented the Trickster. While it is true the Trickster causes chaos, it is never *evil*; there is always a reason, a greater good, for the mischief the Trickster causes. This is often quite misunderstood by cultures in which a Trickster is not a normal part of the pantheon or culture, which probably explains the use of Trickster as a scapegoat in this story. John's musings that Chaos is an integral part of nature is absolutely true, and what the Stranger represents is not truly Chaos, but Evil, and despite

what this book would lead one to expect, there *is* a difference.

Taking into account that this is an ARC, I will assume that most of the typos will be fixed, especially the consistent misuse of the word “tomb” where, based on the context the word referring to a large book, the meaning is clearly “tome.” There are also several instances of “where” and “were” being mixed up, but this is fairly common and will hopefully have been caught before the book’s release.

The “undated Southern myth” that is quoted before each part of the book sounded eerily familiar to me. I finally figured it out: it is very similar to the song by Credence Clearwater Revival called “The Old Man Down the Road.” I imagine this song strongly influenced this book, but only the author can confirm that.

Despite any problems I may have mentioned, I enjoyed this book. This is top-notch horror, freakishly plausible and terrifying for that exact reason. If you enjoy horror, if you are a fan of Lovecraft, and have been looking for a new chapter in Cthulhuian mythos, don’t hesitate to grab this one as soon as it is available.

Lyle Hansen says

I am a huge fan of horror the Burning Time didn't disappoint. I loved the main character Billy Capshaw and how he wanders into town to save the day. The book was a quick read of just a few days and it was filled with plenty of plot twists and non stop horror action. The author does a good job with vivid descriptions and the horror scenes are very graphic! This author reminded me of some of my favorite authors including Brian Keene and the great late Richard Laymon. I love darker books that keep you entertained the entire time. I hope J.G. Faherty will continue the story with Billy Capshaw and write another novel! I have added J.G. Faherty to my list of authors to read!!!

Crystal says

My Rant:

Excitingly twisted. I was horrified, mortified and completely surprised by The Burning Time. I really did not expect this book to be as good as it was. The Burning Time kept me at the edge of my seat the whole way through. The plot was amazingly written. The Author took the time to draw out the vivid details of the story, which kept me, the reader constantly wanting to read more knowing that I would be up all night doing so and would have to go to work so tired I could barely keep my eyes open but that’s the price you pay for reading a story that draws you in completely.

You begin to feel attached to the story and the characters and as the book progresses the plot changes and things are spiraling out of control and your eager to want to know what is going on. On the other hand the book hits home because the plot reminds you of how evil and twisted people can be giving that they are influenced by negative spirits or beings.

When I began to read the book I thought I knew how the plot was going to play out. It seems from the beginning that the man you thought should have been the villain was not and the one that was good turned out to be the villain. (Shaking my head). I was so confused.

It pained me to see how the town’s people were brained wash so quickly. At first it seemed that the villain was out to get money from the church but it turned out to be something more sadistic. The villain was out to

cause discord in order to feed his own cause and the town's people never stopped to realize that things were not as they should have been. The Author takes you on this tormented ride that displayed the darkest events such as exploiting the weakness of people by showing that fear can turn us to be so wicked in the order of self-preservation. The author exposed how easy it was for the villain to manipulate the town's people and before anyone could stop what was happening the towns people fed off of the villain's words and began to adapt his behavior of influence. I was fascinated at the fact that even though the town's people actions were outrages, what was interesting was how they circumvented their own conscious to make the deed look like they were completely innocent.

The battle between good and evil is present throughout the story and the weight of the battle drains you because you want the good to succeed. I wanted John to succeed; it wasn't just because he was on the good side, John had struggles of weakness and the author displayed them and laid them bare to the audience. John (the hero) of the story was an amazing character because throughout the story he is constantly tested on what he believed in and should stand up for. But there were times just like anyone on else when you want to just give up and walk away and let someone else take on the burden of saving the world. But when you thought John was going to give up somehow he began to get the courage to keep pressing on even if it meant the cost of his own life. I completely fell in love with this character just because of his courage.

Danni and Mitchell added to flavor to the story because they had their own issues to deal with. I like Danni but Mitchel also stole my heart. He was so young and brave and amazingly smart for such a young character. Mitchell and John kept me wound so tight that my emotions were all over the place. John sadness ripped through me at times but Mitchell wittiness kept me grounded but I also felt fear. Yes through reading this story I felt fear because the things that were happening in this town completely caught me off guard.

My Recommendation:

I rated this book 5 out of 5 purple rant hearts. The burning time was one of the best horror and thrilling stories I have read. It was like watching a movie in your mind. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves a good horror story with an explosive plot.

FTC Disclaimer: I received this book for free from the author, editor, publisher, or Promo Host. This is my honest opinion about this book and I did not receive any monetary compensation for writing this review nor was I obligated to write a positive one.

Elizabeth Biasotti says

I got this book for free from LibraryThings Early Reviewer Program

This book is sorta similar to a modern day version of summoning Cthulhu, and only one man can stop it, but honestly I think that description makes the book sound way more awesome than the book actually is. The plot line was interesting, but extremely confusing, I didn't even understand what was the plot till almost half way through the book. For the fist have of the book, the writing is confusing because it switches POV to multiple people multiple time per chapter. The second half seems to do it less often, and is more understandable. Sometimes it switches POV to a random person in town, and at first i found it confusing, but further in it started to give a really nice view of the happenings in town. Two characters that had alot of POV spotlights was almost completely forgotten about for a long time. The writing is extremely detailed and graphic, there are alot of graphic details of random murders in the town. The story did not leave on a cliffhanger, but did leave room for another book to come.

*****SLIGHT SPOILERS*****

I hated the love story that appeared on later in the book, it seemed to come out from no where, and all of the sudden they are both in love with each other

Shirley says

Won this from the Library Thing Early Reviewers and I was not disappointed. A great start to finish supernatural horror story with such life like characters. It was difficult to put the book down.

Frank Errington says

Review Copy

Exceptional storytelling from J G. Faherty.

There's an unbearable heat wave embracing Hastings Mills in upstate New York. As if the heat wasn't enough stress on this small town of 15,000 there seems to be a spat of strange suicides, as well. All young women, all jumping from a bridge into the Allegheny below.

Faherty has filled this tale with a number of memorable characters. The new preacher in town, Reverend Cyrus Christian. Billy Ray Capshaw who returns to the town of his youth looking for a quick score. Harry Showalter, the rather crooked Chief of police. Young Mitch Anderson and his sister/guardian Danni. And then there's John Root the stranger in town. Each one with a pivotal role to play as the lives of those who live in Hastings Mills and the future of the town itself hang in the balance.

There's a good deal of action, right from the beginning, as the story pulls you in and continues to intensify right to the chaotic final scenes.

It's no great secret that this story involves the Lovecratian mythos. Something I've never been a big fan of, but I must say, in the hands of J. G. Faherty, I very much enjoyed every bit of that aspect of the book.

"The time approaches, my friends. The Old Ones prepare to wake. For eons they have waited, waited for the stars to align themselves in the heavens. They are those who cannot die, who always have been and always will be. From beyond space and time they will come, from below the seas they will rise, from beneath the Mountains of Madness they will emerge. Invulnerable and unstoppable." And this just scratches the surface.

It's been a while since I've gotten so caught up in a story. I wanted to scream one minute and cheer the next, but there were other family members in the house, so I did my best to keep myself under control.

This is the first book I've read, by J. G. Faherty and it won't be the last. Although for adults only, I can strongly recommend The Burning Time. Look for it, January 18th, from the great folks at Journalstone Publishing.

Shaun says

A story of good versus evil set against a small town backdrop, *The Burning Time* flows well with characters that you can root for and those you can despise with equal measure. For me the only negative was the spattering of Cthulhu mythos as there wasn't enough of it to actually justify its inclusion. That aside, this is a fast paced read and Faherty excels at bringing his characters to life (in the case of Cyrus you'll find yourself thankful he's only make believe because he's not someone you would want to meet in person, not if you valued your life) and he paints an excellent picture of a small town besieged by madness as a far larger battle looms on the horizon. As for the gore that some people mention, I guess it depends where your level is set, because I didn't find it too gory at all, but perhaps that says more about me than the story. A good read that horror fans won't want to miss.

Ravencrantz says

Not really what I expected, but still very entertaining. The only issue I had was why Billy Capshaw was immune to the Stranger's influence while so many others were not. Considering all that could have gone wrong with this book, that's really nothing to hold a grudge for.

I was entertained from beginning to end, with only slight confusion when all characters were being introduced. After you got to know who everyone was, the story started moving. I think what I really liked was all the gore. At first, I was wondering why some of these characters were hurting others. The police do a lot of murdering random townspeople and beating the crap out of suspects. I wondered how they got away with it and then once I realized it was just the influence of the Stranger, I more readily accepted it. The general gore level was very high and very graphic and I loved it. The average reader probably won't be okay with it, but I have always loved gory stories and movies. If I had to compare the gore level to a movie, I'd say *The Departed* because of all the seemingly senseless violence and murder that goes on.

Really, that's what kept me going. I read it for the review, but continued reading it for the gore. Had it not been present, I don't think I would have enjoyed it nearly as much. The magical fight scenes were fun, but since this is really just a Good versus Evil story line, we all knew who would win. The Stranger's attacks were so much more interesting visual wise than John's were because John used mainly words and defensive spells whereas the Stranger focused on physical attacks and making the town fearful and hateful. It was interesting that he brainwashed most of the town into killing each other and believing in ancient Gods of Chaos while they assumed they would be going to a normal church sermon.

I still can't get my mind off of Billy Capshaw. (view spoiler) I just feel like there's something missing with his story.

All in all, it was an entertaining story with plenty of gore. I enjoyed it.

Jenny says

This book made me think of Stephen King or Dean Koontz. In fact, Stephen King is mentioned once in the story, so I'm thinking the author must be a fan! This is a fairly short, intense, strange, and thrilling read! The

book starts right off the bat with strange things happening and people dying, and it drew me right in!

I was a little confused at the beginning, but I was up to speed pretty quickly. I really enjoyed the MC, John Root, and also his eventual love interest, Danni, and her little brother, Mitch. I despised Billy Ray Capshaw, another character that seemed like a side part until the end. These four were the most fleshed out characters of the novel. The rest were all side characters, most of them victims. The main evil character, Christian (so ironic!) was not nearly as interesting as far as villains go, but he was scary!

Most of the story was either following John, battling evil, or Christian, who was creating the evil! All of the evil things and crazy incidents of the townspeople was told through their eyes, and it was just insane! The things that these normal people did to each other...it really showed the worst of humanity. In the middle of all this evil is Danni and Mitch, and they definitely show the best of humanity!

There is a lot of sex and violence, so I would definitely recommend this one for older readers! If you love a good thriller with a lot of fantasy and mythology, you will like this one!

Heather Faville says

I greatly enjoyed J.G. Faherty's Cemetery Club, so when the author approached me to read his latest I was rather excited and I was not let down.

The Burning Time starts out as somewhat of a mystery as the reader is introduced to several characters as they enter the town of Hastings Mills. The town's new priest Cyrus Christian, a young man known for causing a bit of mischief who once lived in Hastings Mills, Billy Ray Capshaw and the silver haired newcomer John Root. We also meet and get to know various townspeople, such as Marge Chilton, owner of the Chilton Arms, Mitch and Danni Anderson, a brother and sister who have been left on their own due to the death of their parents and the town's sheriff Chief Showalter who definitely seems to enjoy his position of authority...maybe a little too much. Now I mentioned a mystery revolving around these characters, didn't I? Well, there is an evil in town and, like all, tales of evil, there is also someone in the town who is there to fight the evil. The question is figuring out who is who and how does the rest of the town react to these two people and what is happening in their town.

Eventually, we do learn the names of the two people who are going up against each other and the rest of The Burning Time is spent learning what will happen if the evil is not vanquished and how he/she will be defeated in order to save the town. The story progresses at a fairly quick pace and keeps the reader engaged wanting to know what will happen next and how.

I do not want to go into any more detail because The Burning Time is a tale that keeps the reader wanting more just by the sheer detail and description given as the story unfolds. A definite read for anyone who enjoys a fun yarn of good vs evil.

Charlie (NJBiblio) says

****MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS -- PROCEED WITH CAUTION****

"The Burning Time" is a classic good v. evil tale that pits one lone wandering white magician against the Trickster of folklore. In this re-telling, the Trickster sets up shop in a small, rural New York town with the

purpose of concentrating enough negative energies to call forth the ancient gods.

I found the story at first to be very intriguing, seeing how the townspeople were initially slowly and methodically brainwashed and brought into his power. The timing of which coincided with the arrival of the white magician, John Root and his befriending of a young man named Mitch and his sister, Danni. Shortly after this, however, the book took a more base turn that moved it out of the realm of a classic psychological to a more crass horror novel. Extremely graphic imagery and language abounds as the town descends into chaos before the inevitable conclusion.

There were many good points in the novel. It is very fast paced and makes for a quick read and the overall plot and writing is well done, even if the general story had been attempted many times before. My only real critiques would be the fact that some background characters start developing side plots that seem to be abandoned but would have helped give the town much more flavor and I am still confused about John Root's age and origins. We are told that he had a family at one point, but the timeline set forth in the book didn't mesh with some of the actions he takes, including what seems to be a forced and hurried love story with Danni put in place more as a plot device than as character development.

None of these questions kept me from enjoying the work, however. I did find it quite entertaining and would definitely look forward to reading works from this author in the future as he progresses through his career.

Carl Alves says

The Burning Time is a supernatural thriller set in a small town in New York. In an otherwise normal, ho-hum kind of town a preacher of sorts comes to town, and when he does all hell breaks loose. People start to die in horrific fashion. Otherwise normal folk lose their mind. The town is on the verge of complete chaos until a travelling mage comes to counteract the stranger. He and his ancestors have battled the stranger before. After befriending a woman and her younger brother, he must do everything in his power to prevent the stranger from creating a passageway to the Elder Gods and letting all hell loose on Earth.

The Burning Time combines strong elements of suspense and terror. Author JG Faherty uses a slow build, not making it clear what the characters intentions are. The story builds tension and makes the reader crave for more. What mostly impressed me is the progression and maturity that Faherty has made as a writer. The Burning Time shows a real mastery of the craft of writing with three dimensional characters that resonate. It reminds me in many ways of Stephen King's *Needful Things*, one of the horror master's greatest works. Although there are a few logic holes to get past in the plot, the story-telling is of high quality. This is a book that any reader will truly enjoy – a must read.

Amanda says

Disclosure: I was given this book for free as part of the ARC giveaway program.

I liked the concept behind this book. The problem though, is in the execution. This was not a well-written book. The good versus evil and Cthulhu mythos was a great concept. It's interesting to see how good battles against evil time and again.

There were many problems with pacing, time gaps, and other unbelievable aspects in the story though. Continuity is a continued problem throughout. For example, there is no realistic measure of time (ex: a four

mile walk in 100+ degree heat takes under an hour? Not possible). There is little follow through on any action (ex: girls are killing themselves unexpectedly, but there's little follow up on what's going on with that scenario and only a slight connection to how it's related to the story line overall). Pacing rushes through and then dies off unexpectedly.

The main characters go through a whirlwind of emotions in a matter of seconds. There is little dedication put into character development which makes all of their decisions seem illogical and "off" throughout the story. Even knowing that there is an evil force pulling on the characters to make them behave in certain ways, when they are reacting and interacting of their own volition, that's where there are problems.

One of the biggest problems I had, was the love story as a sub-plot and theme. It was an unbelievable theme, much too predictable and wasn't strong enough to carry the plot the way it was meant.

Overall, this story is not good. The writing isn't good and the story line isn't very strong or engrossing.
