



The Godsend

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THE CHILD...

Bonnie. Born in mystery of an unknown mother. Abandoned the morning of her birth. Adopted by the Marlows, who already have four children of their own.

THE OBSESSION...

Once unleashed, where will it end? The ultimate evil. Profound. Shattering. Ask Bonnie - demonic possession is child's play.

THE NIGHTMARE...

At first they are accidents. The crib death of the Marlows' baby. The drowning of their son. Then a third child's neck is broken. And the unspeakable is begun...

The Godsend Details

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Author : Bernard Taylor

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From Reader Review The Godsend for online ebook

Leah Polcar says

3.5. (Or to do a Kemper, 3.76). I think this ends up getting a "liked it" rating rather than something a bit higher simply because the idea of evil child wreaking havoc is so played. Which is not Taylor's fault -- he wrote this in what, 1977? Was Macauley Culkin even born then? Be that as it may, this deserves its three and a half stars since the trope is well-presented and the writing is solid. The only thing I really missed here was an elaboration on exactly where this kid came from, though I guess that is left intentionally mysterious to add to the believability and ordinary horror of the this-could-happen-to-you device. (view spoiler) The ending is rather horrifying in a non-grotesque, but utterly human way, though the impact is lessened since you could see it coming from a mile away. Nonetheless, if you love yourself some evil children, look no further.

Char says

I'm a lover of stories about evil children- I can't help myself. I'm happy to report that I loved this story too.

Alan and Kate have four children already when they meet a mysterious pregnant woman in the park. In a strange series of events, the woman ends up birthing her child in Alan and Kate's house and the story begins.

From there the atmosphere and tension continuously builds, always leaving the reader guessing. Always leaving the reader wondering at the truth. This story was skillfully told-you can feel the emotions of the parents as incidents continue to occur-and at times you want to hug them and at others you just want to shake some sense into them!

(view spoiler)

It was delicious!

To summarize, this book was a roaring good time, especially for those of you that grew up with movies and books like The Omen or The Bad Seed. If you like that type of story, you should pick up this novel. It's fast paced, atmospheric, suspenseful and just plain fun!

Highly recommended!

Kurt Reichenbaugh says

Good 1970s style horror. We've all been exposed to lots of evil-child stories as horror fans. I liked the "cuckoo" analogy to this one. It's also very well written. Stories told in the 1st person can be problematic as the narrator already knows the outcome before he/she begins telling you what happened to them. This novel overcomes that challenge in a fair way. No gore and grue in this one, so if that's your thing you may be disappointed. Fans of The Other should like it.

Peter says

This book is a cross between Rosemary's Baby and The Omen. The Marlowe's are blessed with four wondering children. One day in the park, the family meets this mysterious pregnant woman. The woman goes back to the Marlowe's house and has her baby. Later on in the day, Kate goes to check on her and she has vanished. Allan and Kate grow to love Bonnie and want to make her a part of the family. When Bonnie is adopted, strange things begin to happen at the Marlowe household. Allan believes that Bonnie is to blame for the evil things that are destroying his family. Kate defends Bonnie, saying that she is only a small helpless child. Allan and Kate's relationship is turning into an emotional roller coaster ride. Bernard Taylor is a good writer and an excellent storyteller. I would highly recommend this book!

Melissa Helwig says

Alan and Kate have the perfect family with four young children. Until they take in a pregnant drifter and she gives birth, leaving them with the baby girl. The couple adopts her, names her Bonnie and loves her just as much as their other children. But as she grows older, the other children begin to die in horrible ways. Alan blames Bonnie, but Kate is blinded by her love for the child and can't see that she's evil. Alan must get Kate to see the truth about Bonnie before she kills all their children.

The Godsend is slow to start, but once Bonnie enters it picks up the pace. And then it was hard to put down. I wanted to keep reading to know what Bonnie would do next and when Alan and Kate would finally figure out that it's her hurting the other children.

I had a love/hate relationship with the characters. I loved Alan and Kate, but hated how dumb they were at times. At least Alan eventually figured it out. Sometimes I just wanted to slap Kate for being such a moron. All of the kids were cute and didn't deserve what Bonnie dished out.

I don't want to give anything away, but the ending is bleak and depressing. But it matched the tone of the book. It would've been odd to suddenly wrap everything up with a happy ending.

If you love killer kids, I highly recommend The Godsend.

Read more of my reviews at <http://littlemisszombie.blogspot.com>

Valancourt Books says

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Karl says

This hardcover edition is number 40 of 250 copies for sale and is signed by:

Bernard Taylor
Bev Vincent
Lisa Desimini

Kimberly says

Alan and Kate Marlowe are a happy, young couple with four children of their own. When a series of circumstances lead to an abandoned newborn baby girl being left in their care, they look at her as a godsend, and eagerly incorporate her into their lives.

It doesn't take long before grievous misfortunes begin occurring once baby Bonnie is brought in.

I admit that I had a preconceived notion of this being another "Omen" or "Bad Seed" story, but it was so much more! Taylor's writing style has such an elegant flow, that you become a part of this story, yourself. His characters are complex and extremely well developed. The atmospheric tension NEVER relents once it worms its way into your imagination. In the Godsend, I feel that the strength lies in what is not outwardly expressed, but in what the emotions merely "imply". The possibilities will run rampant in your mind, creating a horrifying tale so tangible and so much more effectively than any words could ever convey.

The Marlowes--and Bonnie--will stay in your thoughts regardless of how you may wish to be rid of them.

Highest recommendation!

Alexa "Naps" Snow says

Oh man, "Godsend" sucked me in last night and I had to know what will happen next. Chills went down my spine as Bonnie, the baby joined the family. Sometimes books about happy families just annoy me. Nothing about this happy family annoyed me. But things go bad and this adorable family will never be the same. Oh, my heart.

Maxine Marsh says

Well, that was traumatizing.

Michael says

Well-paced thriller following in the footsteps of the 1970s evil children era. Bonnie is all blonde curls and twisted machinations as she steadily destroys her adopted family, sibling by sibling. The narrative runs at a steady clip and the characterization is a bit tepid, but a fast enjoyable read, nonetheless. The ending came across as trite with a typical cliffhanger that really didn't come as a surprise. Not my favorite of the "bad children" books, but fairly decent.

Charles Fischer says

Okay, maybe I'm overrating this, but I just loved it so much. So I've started into reading all these Valancourt Press titles, which are basically overlooked horror/Gothic titles. The first one I tried was this brilliant novel from Bernard Taylor about how the adoption of a baby slowly begins to destroy this bucolic, middle-class British family. The writing is so unassuming and nicely paced, with little details and glances and observations that end up adding to the engulfing, inevitable horror. The kind of quick but effective book that seems easier to write than it is. Definitely reading more by this author... Oh, I just hate that little girl, Bonnie, I hate her so...

Nick says

Valancourt publish vintage horror books, a number of which appeal to me and are sitting on my shelf. This is a "evil child" book, a horror sub-genre which I have never read. For these reasons I was excited to start reading The Godsend. I love the cover on this Kindle edition as it is like the paperback. I can't stand poor quality, cheap covers on e-books.

Baby Bonnie is adopted by a family of six, two parents with four children, after her mother disappears. She quickly settles in and the horror begins for the family. Slowly, Bonnie's adoptive father begins to suspect she is not a sweet innocent child. That she is responsible for what is happening. He is the only one who knows the truth about Bonnie as he alone tries to save his family.

I liked that there was no explanation of who or what Bonnie is. The Devil's child? A demon? Or a evil psycho kid? It occurred to me that maybe the father was going mad. That blaming an evil Bonnie was his way to relieve his anger and guilt at what was happening to his family. That Bonnie was just an innocent child.

As the father of a two year old daughter the parent's emotions resonated with me throughout the book. What would I do? How would I react?

It is a bleak and creepy story with an impending sense of doom. It reads at a great pace and I wanted to get to the end to find out what was going to happen. It did not disappoint.

I have Sweetheart, Sweetheart on my shelf and I shall look out for more books by Bernard Taylor.

Latasha says

This book flows very, very well. Before you know it, you've finished it. I would have liked a little bit more horror but if you really think about Kate, it's pretty messed up.

Rob Twinem says

Bernard Taylor is such a unique and unassuming voice in the world of horror fiction. His writing style is direct, very easy to assimilate and read, a type of cosy horror and just when you think it is safe he confronts you with something totally unexpected.

Alan and Kate live the idyllic life, in the picturesque village of Little Haverstraw, with their four beautiful children Sam, Davie, Lucy and baby Matthew. Alan is an illustrator and he works from his own studio close to the family home, and Kate is occupied with four busy and adventurous children. “A dragon-fly darted, hovered and darted, close to the bank. Flies hummed in the warm air. The flower in Kate’s hair slipped, tilted, and I reached up and secured it. I kissed her again, lightly. Now, I thought, now –just as it is; I wanted nothing to change” This is exactly what I love about Bernard Taylor, he gives you hope, he creates the illusion that you are safe in his hands, he paints a picture of the idyll as he invites you into his confidence with the shiftyeyed look of a black mamba!

They make the acquaintance of a pregnant young lady called Jane Bryant who they invite to their home and unexpectedly the baby is born. Immediately the mother disappears and after some deep soul searching Alan and Kate welcome baby “Bonnie” into their new extended and wonderful family. The story now adopts a more sinister feel as catastrophe and tragedy become the everyday norm and Alan and Kate must now confront their worst fears as they fight to retain their sanity amidst the realization that the new baby has a dark and evil intent.

The Godsend did not quite inspire and entertain me as much as Sweetheart Sweetheart or The Moorstone Sickness but it was still an excellent read in the very creative and gentle style of Bernard Taylor. This is not horror that is graphic but rather relies on the reader and his imagination to create a picture in his mind and by doing so he can almost experience the story and live the tragedy as it unfolds.
