



When the Wind Blows

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The children were waiting. Waiting for centuries. Waiting for someone to hear their cries. Now nine-year-old Christine Lyons has come to live in the house on the hill -- the house where no children have lived for fifty years. Now little Christie will sleep in the old-fashioned nursery on the third floor. Now Christie's terror will begin.

When the Wind Blows Details

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Author : John Saul

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From Reader Review When the Wind Blows for online ebook

Marianneboss says

This is basically Mommie Dearest if there was also a Grannie Dearest thrown in the mix.

I don't know what weird fetish this author has by killing off children in the most gruesome ways, it's like kiddy torture porn. In all the books I've read from him at least a child dies, so much it's become ridiculously morbid and predictable at this point.

Katrinia17 says

After reading John Saul's, When the Wind Blows, I can't say that I'm a fan of his but I'm not putting him down for the count. When it comes to being a reader, I can't say that I'm specific to any genre. If I had to pick one it would be children's or YA, not mystery, suspense, horror or thriller, all of which this novel could be classified under. Since none of the above is my forte, so to speak, I feel as if I must tread lightly when judging a book by an author who is much loved by many. Almost, like judging King while saying, "I never read horror." or Tolkien while claiming that you don't care for fantasy, never even touched the stuff. I won't say that I've never read in these genres, I've for sure have "touched the stuff", but I'm not joining the mystery readers guild or anything of that sort.

But though I may not be an expert in the matters of such, I can say that I do believe that I have come to some understanding about such genres. I believe that some mysteries, suspense and horror books fall just like comedies. How many comedy movies have you watched in which you thought to yourself, "This is funny?" or said, "I thought this was once funny but now..."? Over time the jokes are no longer funny. Horror and the such falls much the same way. Over time, years later when one picks it up and reads or watches it, the scenes of blood and the lines, "The stairs creaked underfoot." no longer have the same effect.

In this case, for John Saul, I think this has happened.

In no way does this make the book a "bad" read. Actually it is decent, it's just that you are comparing 1980's main stream fiction to our time. It is just like music, some is unforgettable, some you wish to forget and others you only remember fondly when you catch a jingle of it on "VH1's I Love the 80's". This book would be the latter. If I had read it in 1980 (when I was only about...2 months old) I would be looking fondly back at this book and in my mind I would be saying, "Oh I remember how that book scared the crap out of me!" But I'm not and it did not.

In today's world all I can say is that the book held my attention from beginning to end. It was predictable but I was okay with that because the way it was written, I wanted to keep on reading. I became attached to characters and the setting and I had to find out who stayed and who didn't. While I knew who the killer was, I wanted to know why. In the end, I wanted to know who the next killer would be. And, when I finished the book, I looked fondly at it and said, "Hmmm, I wonder if there was a sequel?"

John Saul's, When the Wind Blows, is not a classic in its genre, but that doesn't mean that it's not worth reading, especially if you are a die hard Saul fan or fan of the genre.

Trisha says

Amberton, een klein stadje, gelegen aan de onderkant van een mijn, is 50 jaar rustig geweest. Maar de opening van de mijn brengt daar verandering in. Als de opzichter Dhr. Lyons bij een ongeluk om het leven komt, gaat zijn dochter, Christie, tijdelijk bij Diana Amber en haar moeder Edna wonen. Maar dan gebeuren er rare dingen en stort Christie's wereld geleidelijk in. Edna is namelijk alleen maar boos en Diana is niet te pijnlijk. Het belangrijkste is dat als de wind waait Christie lief moet zijn.

Een apart verhaal vanuit een aparte hoek. De wind en de mijn spelen in het verhaal een belangrijke rol. Het verhaal sleept je mee, maar het hield mij niet echt vast. Het is spannend zoals we gewend zijn, maar het heeft niet helemaal dat beetje wat me trekt.

John Saul is geboren in 1942 in Pasadena, Californië. Hij groeide op in Whittier en haalde zijn diploma in 1959 van de Whittier High School.

Na verschillende opleidingen aan net zoveel beroepsopleidingen te hebben gevolgd zonder het behalen van een diploma of graad, besloot hij van school te gaan en auteur te worden. In de daarop 15 jaar schreef Saul verschillende manuscripten en had hij verschillende baantjes. geen enkele uitgever zag iets in zijn verhalen, totdat zijn agent bij Dell terecht kwam. Daar wilden ze niets kopen, maar vroegen ze hem of hij een psychologische thriller kon schrijven. Saul maakte een verhaallijn, schreef het uit en hoopte dat het goed genoeg was. Zowel zijn agent als Dell waren laaiend enthousiast en zagen in dit verhaal een bestseller. Dell pakte groots uit. Advertenties en TV spots voor deze onbekende auteur werden gemaakt. En het slaagde. Saul werd in een klap wereldberoemd. *Suffer the Children* was geboren. Alle boeken die erna kwamen kwamen wel in de Bestsellerlijsten en zijn boeken werden wereldwijd uitgebracht en in verschillende talen vertaald. De boeken werden uitgegeven door uitgeverijen die zijn verbonden aan Random House. Naast auteur is Saul ook acteur, scriptschrijver en is 1 van zijn boeken in 1984 uitgebracht als film.

Meer informatie over John Saul is te vinden op een van de onderstaande sites.

<http://www.johnsaul.com/index.html>

<https://www.goodreads.com/author/show...>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0766657/>

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Scott says

Though predictable, I did get gripped in the whole family legacy dynamic offered in this book. At times, there was a bit of a "Carrie" theme in the storyline. I am not sure if it worthy to be shelved on my "spooks" shelf though and may have to "sub-shelf" it on "crazy."

Trudi says

Haven't read early John Saul since I was a teenager. Can't remember hardly a thing other than they scared me at the time and contributed to my love of horror. I can't imagine any of his books would have the same effect on me now. John Saul just isn't that good of a writer, even all these years later, I don't think he's gotten any better.

Kelly says

I like John Saul, but I don't like that he often kills off all the best characters.

Melody says

It was good, not great. The way children are treated in some of John Saul's stories might lead some to believe the writer really detests kids. I am sure that is not the case. Maybe he feels it makes for better storytelling. If I were him I would be a little more creative with my plots instead of rewriting the same stories with different characters.

Tom says

"When the Wind Blows" is another selection from a giant bag of books a coworker gave me.

I should start my own imprint of mystery/thrillers: "Giant Bag of Coworker's Books, an imprint of HarperCollins."

In Amberton, Colorado, "When the Wind Blows" is a time when bad things happen. The Amber family founded the town (*ergo*, Amberton), based on a huge coal mine. The local Native Americans and Mexicans know there's something cursed about the mine: when the Wind blows, you can hear the cries of the water babies.

I capitalize Wind advisedly, for when the Wind starts blowing, weirdness ensues.

Anyway, the water babies are spirits of stillborn babies. The Native Americans interred their stillborns in a cave adjacent to the mine. Here, their spirits reside until it's time for them to be reborn. They don't like the Wind, so they cry.

Meanwhile, a widower mining engineer named Mr. Lyons comes to town to try and get the mine restarted. He dies, leaving behind his nine year-old daughter, Christie. In his will, he gives guardianship to the Amber family: 80-ish crone Edna, and 50-ish crackpot, Diane. Christie soon finds that Diane treats her like a toddler--insisting on giving her baths, and making her sleep in a crib. Also, whenever Christie cries, Diane starts beating the shit out of her.

And Diane is the more pleasant Amber to be around. Miss Edna, as she's known, is acid-tongued, and

downright cruel; some Amberton townsfolk think she's a witch.

So every time the Wind blows, Diane goes a little crazy. She enters a sort of fugue state, and does things she can't remember. Like kill Christie's friends, her horse, and freak out a little that she can hear her baby crying in the distance.

"When the Wind Blows" goes back and forth between which Ms. Amber is crazier: the mother or the daughter. Really? Flip a coin.

Ultimately, we learn the reason Diane's so screwed up, and Edna's so mean. By the time we get this information, though, I had a really hard time caring. I just wanted a house to fall on them both and be done with it.

I couldn't help but feel bad for young Christie. She was an innocent, thrust into this bizarre *pas de deux* of whackjobs. The most interesting character, a Mexican woman named Esperanza, is deplorably underused. She has spiritual wisdom regarding the water babies and the sanctity of the mine, and she tells Christie the first day she moves into the Amber estate: "If you need me, come running, and I'll protect you." This could have set-up some interesting scenarios. Sadly, though, she seems to be an afterthought, like a character who'd be written into a picnic scene because none of the other characters brought macaroni salad. I felt like she had a lot more to offer, and it only made sense to me that Christie would escape to Esperanza's house the first chance she had. Edna made it clear she doesn't want Christie living there, and Diane's gone round the twist, so it would be easy enough to arrange. The good news is that a girl who apparently went to the same insufferable brat school as Nellie Olsen ends up dead at the bottom of the mineshaft.

It sounds horrible to relish a nine year-old girl's death--even a deplorable brat of a nine year-old--but I found a paucity of Big Moments in this book, so my conscience is clear.

Nor did I really find many of the characters interesting. Most of them were nice, but one-dimensional. The key relationship is the triad between Christie, Edna, and Diane. Christie was okay--plucky enough, with a slight ability to learn how not to get Diane smacking her or Edna yelling at her and swatting her with her cane. (I sort of stopped caring, though, when Christie didn't just get on one of the horses and ride like hell away to the Town Marshal's house, or to Esperanza's, places she could be safe).

Early in "When the Wind Blows," Diane comes off like an overly sheltered woman who's been cowed by her wicked mother. Then we sense that she's a little crazy too. Then we're led to believe that Edna was protecting Diane from herself. Then...

Hell, I quit caring about either of them around the halfway mark.

I remember reading a John Saul novel in the past, and really enjoying it. This particular effort, though, didn't work for me.

Except, of course, when the little brat falls down the mine shaft. If that's the highlight, I can't really recommend this to anyone except the author's fans. (note: "When the Wind Blows" has a decent enough Goodreads average, so maybe it's just me. (Then again, nah: it's not just me))

Dustin Crazy little brown owl says

Well, John Saul has certainly created some crazy characters in this one. a disturbing tale of mother/child relationships gone horribly wrong.

Chris Cangiano says

A quick and somewhat formulaic read but still fun in that Lifetime movie, early 1980's horror kind of way. The town of Amberville is haunted by the shadow of a fifty-year old mining disaster which affected every family living there. Now Christie Lyons' father has come to town to try to reopen the mine. Soon enough she's orphaned and living with the Edna and Dianna Amber, the town's nasty matriarch and her doormat of a daughter. Dark secrets abound. Who is killing young Christie's friends? Does it have something to do with the old Indian cave used as a repository for stillborn babies? And what's up with that wind? You get the idea. Add a half-star if, like me, you are a fan of the paperback horror B-Listers of the 80's

Ryan Lieske says

Look, if you read enough horror fiction from the 1970s on, then you've already read this book before. Trust me. You've probably read it two or three times. The authors and titles may be different, but it's still the same book. Now, does that mean "When the Wind Blows" is not enjoyable in a comfort-food kind of way? Not at all. I had enough fun with it to keep reading. Even though, as stated, I have read this book two or three times already. As you have too. Nothing new here. And it's not even done all that well. But it serves its purpose, I guess.

Nicole says

I'd probably give this more like a 3.5 star rating. This is definitely a strange one, but I guess that's what you get from John Saul. If you're looking for something that makes you go "what the?" then this is a story for you.

Heather says

When this book appeared in one of my Goodreads Deal of the Day emails with the notation it was on my "want to read" list, I eagerly snatched it up. John Saul for a buck ninety-nine? Heck ya!

Having read other books of his in the past, I had an idea of what to expect: Something bad happened years ago in Smalltown USA and now that bad thing is happening again as history repeats itself, usually involving the deaths of several children along the way. Which kind of makes you wonder what John Saul has against children, but he's such a great storyteller, you almost find yourself trying to guess who's next on his hit list. (Well, at least I do, I admit).

In this case, Smalltown USA is Amberton, Colorado, a small mining community founded by the Amber family, which also has a strong Native American presence. In this case, the "bad thing" is that legend has it that when Native American babies are stillborn, they are buried at the mine awaiting the time their souls will be reborn to new mothers and when the wind blows, (which happens A LOT), you can hear the babies crying. And being that it's a mine, it has seen it's share of tragedies along the way.

One of these tragedies happened fifty years ago, on the day Diana Amber was born, when a flood killed her (mine owner) father along with several others. Extremely sheltered by her mother, who didn't want her in the first place - and never really forgave her for being born as her father died, Edna, Diana now finds herself the guardian of Christie Lyons, a nine-year old who is orphaned when her father is also killed in a mining accident and whose mother had died years ago.

Coming to live with the Ambers quickly becomes a nightmare for Christie as Diana starts to treat her in the same manner in which she was raised - an odd mix of alternating between being extremely loving to extremely abusive, depending (literally) on whether or not the wind is blowing as the blowing wind causes Diana to have "spells." And then, as Diana becomes more possessive of her "baby," increasingly confusing Christie for a newborn instead of a child, Christie's friends start to die...

This was one that I was happy to discover I had not previously read and I quickly became engrossed in it even with having an idea of what to expect based on his tried and true formula. I think I made it about 50 pages before I wanted to jump ahead to see how it ends! And as I mentioned in my last review of one of his books, though written in the early 80's, there is such a timelessness to his style of writing that it didn't feel dated.

My biggest issue with this book was just how often the phrase "when the wind blows" or variations of it was mentioned. While I understand this is very central to the plot, it was still overkill - almost to the point that it started to take away from the story. However, even with that, this was a very satisfying read that once again ends with the hint of history being about to repeat itself 20 years down the road with the next generation. I am thrilled to have rediscovered this author and was definitely left wanting more!

Dawn says

I read this book many years ago (early 80's). According to the records I've always kept of the books I've read, I thought this book was good. In my early teen years I read mostly all horror books.

Jenn says

Old timey horror. These are the books I would steal from my brother when I was a teenager. A simple story with simple wording. Good for a laugh, atrocious with spelling and grammatical errors (I would have expected more from a well known horror author) and lots of conversations vs paragraphs. A decent quickie horror read.
