



Seed

Ania Ahlborn

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With nothing but the clothes on his back—and something horrific snapping at his heels—Jack Winter fled his rural Georgia home when he was still just a boy. Watching the world he knew vanish in a trucker's rearview mirror, he thought he was leaving an unspeakable nightmare behind forever. But years later, the bright new future he's built suddenly turns pitch black, as something fiendishly familiar looms dead ahead.

When Jack, his wife Aimee, and their two small children survive a violent car crash, it seems like a miracle. But Jack knows what he saw on the road that night, and it wasn't divine intervention. The profound evil from his past won't let them die...at least not quickly. It's back, and it's hungry; ready to make Jack pay for running, to work its malignant magic on his angelic youngest daughter, and to whisper a chilling promise: I've always been here, and I'll never leave.

Country comfort is no match for spine-tingling Southern gothic suspense in Ania Ahlborn's tale of an ordinary man with a demon on his back. Seed plants its page-turning terror deep in your soul, and lets it grow wild.

Seed Details

Date : Published July 17th 2012 by 47North (first published May 28th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Ania Ahlborn

Format : Kindle Edition 246 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Thriller



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From Reader Review Seed for online ebook

Carol says

Seed is a creepy, *scary* story with a monster from hell.....literally. (*no spoiler here*)

Imagine driving along on a pitch black road when suddenly your headlights go out, and the last thing you remember is a pair of soulless, empty eyes reflecting bright silver.....yikes! After miraculously surviving the violent car crash, Jack's memory of his terrifying childhood slowly begins to return along with an evil presence that endangers his family and threatens his world.

Not Stephen King quality, but spine-chilling just the same with a (view spoiler)

Adam Light says

A solid 5 star read.

I love cerebral horror stories. Seed definitely falls into this category.

It is the story of Jack Winter, husband, father and rocker. The Winter's are hanging on by a slender thread financially, their immediate goal is a modest one: buy a new car before their old Saturn gives up the ghost and leaves them stranded.

Shortly into the story, things go from bad to worse when a freakish car accident sends the car to an early grave and the cause of the accident forces Jack to face a past he had all but forgotten.

As it goes on, Ahlborn deftly weaves both stories together, pulling the reader at break-neck speed to an inevitable conclusion.

There are some seriously dark and disturbing themes explored here, certainly not for the weak stomachs among us. I had a lot of fun reading this, and Ahlborn's novel *The Neighbors* just got bumped up on my TBR list.

Strongly recommended!

mark monday says

Seed is a story about a cute little girl and her somewhat feckless father and a bad case of possible demonic possession. it is less about a Bad Apple and more about Does a Bad Apple Fall from a Bad Tree? it features a possible supernatural presence known as Mr. Scratch. it includes a great little scene that simply has a mom tying her child's shoes. i was really creeped out by that one. good scene!

i have an open mind when i read horror. it is one of my favorite genres so i like a lot of different things.

i like a tale of slowly building tension, one where the characters and place are slowly built up and then increasingly weird things begin to happen, one where the author doesn't show their hand all at once. or a tale where the characters are so richly developed that i feel like i know them and i actually feel anxious for their safety as if they were living beings. or a tale where the sinister, strange, and sometimes violent things may

sometimes be inexplicable, but they don't feel random... instead they are rooted in a kind of elemental or even metaphysical menace. where that menace doesn't just appear on the scene as an obvious authorial tool for Pure Evil. the evil doesn't have to make sense to the characters, but it has to make sense to me. or sometimes i like my horror with a writerly, literary kind of flair, a sort of epic of melancholy and dread, or a journey into terrifyingly alien waters. a rich, dense kind of horror. i like horror that is well thought-out: a trap for readers. evil characters may appear, the evil may be bizarre, but it has an internal logic, one that is organic to the plot. i like smart, sensitive, emotional, and/or boundary-pushing horror... but sometimes i also like horror that is basically trashy thrills and quasi-sleaziness where i read breathless, sometimes turned on, usually turned way off, but a tawdry and fun horror-adventure from beginning to end that i may feel guilty about but still guiltily enjoyed. and finally, i am always on the look-out for what the novel accomplishes in the end. i don't need resolution, but i do need to feel the author is trying to do something interesting or resonant or - barring those two - something that isn't just trying to upset me (that's easy) but that is trying to actually surprise me. crazy cheap thrills - fine, but soulless cheap endings - no way.

unfortunately, except for its cheap and rather soulless ending, Seed is none of the above. Bad Seed!

however i am just one voice. if you like stories of demonic possession, you may want to just toss my opinion into the garbage and give this one a go. the author is clearly a gracious and intelligent sort, so i will not be saying a word against her!

okay, i just bumped this one up by 1 star. for that scene with the tying of the shoelaces. it was quite good.

Zoeytron says

There is something terribly wrong in the Winter household. It begins with the subtle sound of scratching, then skittering noises, soon turning into a lurking shadow, a glint of teeth. The insidious darkness is creeping in, pooling like blood. Sleep becomes impossible, you don't dare close your eyes for fear of it drawing closer.

Keep a lookout for a bearded man who cruises the back roads in a rusty red pickup truck late at night. He almost seems familiar, but you can't quite place him . . . is he friend or foe?

(view spoiler)

Bark says

Driving home from a family outing, Jack sees glowing eyes in his path. He swerves to avoid whatever it is that might be in the road and flips his car. Everyone is okay; at first . . . Soon after the accident? Well let's just say things are very far from ok. Jack's youngest daughter develops a high fever and begins acting very strangely. It's later revealed that she also "saw the eyes" and things spiral out of control from thereafter.

It turns out Jack has been suppressing memories of those damn soul-sucking eyes since childhood but now

they've come back to wreak havoc on his lovely little family. As things get increasingly bad for Jack, his wife and their two daughters, his memories start to come back but in a vague way instead of a big revealing flood. This increases the dread and the tension and succeeded in keeping me guessing for a long while.

I thought this story was everything it was set up to be. It was eerie, haunting, chilling, horrific, all of that and it contained above average characterization and great southern atmosphere (I don't live there but I have visited. Does that count?). Jack and his wife are struggling financially but they love each other and their life. Like any couple they have their issues but they stick it out. They were relatable. When things begin to get devastatingly awful and hopelessness creeps in, all of the cracks in their marriage begin to show. You may not like some of the ugly things that come out of one of their mouths but it always feels real. It's hard to be nice and stay calm and cool and perfectly loving when crap keeps building and building and then a whole heaping pile of it gets dropped on you. I felt for them, I really did and their portrayal felt honest to me.

I enjoyed the way the story was written with its slowly dished out flashbacks that reveal Jack's secrets to both him and to the reader. When it was revealed early on that Jack once used a cemetery as his playground I have to admit that it really creeped me out because as a child I also frequented my local cemetery. It was the perfect place to roller skate and scare ourselves silly and, of course, no one bothered me when I went there to read. Now I'm thinking I should've picked someplace, anyplace, else to loiter.

In the end I was left with some niggling questions like who was that truck driver, for starters? Things were brought up that weren't addressed well enough for my nosy self thus I can only give it a four even though it ended quite dreadfully perfect without a prettified ending which I very much appreciated. Anything else would've felt like a cheat to me. The world isn't always a nice place and horror is often a reflection of that awful truth. I love that the author didn't flinch away from that ugliness. This was a horror novel through and through and I'm looking forward to reading what the author comes up with next.

Narration Notes: Eric G. Dove narrates this work and his voice sounded familiar so I looked him up. He also narrated *Covet* which was a very different sort of book than this one. His voice was so funny in that book and he really brought some of those crazy characters to life. In *Seed*, Dove does a decent enough job but if someone had asked me (they never ask me!) I would've chosen someone with more of a darker tone to his voice for this tale of creeping dread. His voice was just a wee bit too casual and didn't seem to fit with the tone of the book but he tried and it wasn't what I'd consider awful by any means. I feel his voice would be better suited to lighter material or perhaps a light-hearted mystery or noir novel. His female child voices just didn't work for me and there are two of them in this story. Still, if you love audiobooks and a good old-fashioned horror tale don't let my comments put you off. It's a good one and well worth a few hours of your time.

Shandra says

Initial thoughts: Well fuck me sideways...that was a scary ass book!!!! Review to come...

Actual rating: 4.5 stars. No spoilers!

Review:

I started this book all smiles and happy, like this lil guy...

Then BAM!!! The craziness kicked in and I was scuueurrrrrred!!!!

So everyone who knows me knows how much I love scary anything, and horror books. I have been reading more and more of them lately. I often do pay a little attention to the average star rating when choosing a book, so I was hesitant with this one being mid threes. I held off, but it just lurked in the background....it kept calling to me. I'd look at it's cover, I'd read the synopsis...then I'd get scared that it would suck, and be a waste of my time, so I'd walk away. It got to the point where I couldn't ignore the intense screaming coming from the pages of this book, so I finally decided to read it. My only regret is that I did not pick it up sooner!!

Creepy kids scare the pants off of me! So this one hit a nerve. We meet a family of four while driving in their car. Jack, the father, isn't a rich man and Aimee had accepted this fact a long time ago. She loved Jack for Jack. They drove a beat up, old car and lived in a small home. Abby was the older sister, and Charlie the younger. As they are driving along, Jack sees something in the road and swerves. He ends up rolling the car. Everyone seems fine on first look. Aimee is livid with Jack and accuses him of falling asleep. He tries to tell her he saw something, but she isn't having it. Charlie whispers to her father that she saw it too...that's when things start to change in their home.

As we delve deeper into the story, we learn that something had always been a little off about Jack. Slowly, things start to change in his daughter. Jack is the only one that truly knows what's happening. But he has no clue how to save his daughter.

This book definitely had me scared!!! I didn't even realize how wrapped up in the story I was until one night, I'm laying in bed reading. My husband is asleep next to me. The dogs are laying in bed. The windows are open.

All of a sudden, the bedroom door **SLAMS** shut!!!! I squeal and levitate off the bed!! My husband jumps up, "What's going on?!" as he's reaching for his gun. I start hysterically laughing, and he's trying to figure out what the eff is going on. Haha. Needless to say, I was beyond engrossed.

I'm knocking off a half a star because I would've liked to know more about the history of this entity, and who really is that guy in the truck? It earns 4.5 from me for being able to wrap me so far up in it and scare me silly! It was a fun ride!!

Tressa says

Jack Winter grew up in a trailer off an isolated road in Rosewood, Georgia. As a child he explored the land around his home, and one day he sat down to rest in a cemetery, where he spied a shadow with two black eyes and it followed him home--for years crouching at the end of his bed; keeping him up at night; smiling its crooked, razor-toothed smile; making him do things to animals and his parents.

One night he ran away from home and kept running, and his memory was suppressed long enough for him to live a normal life as a husband and a father to two girls, now age 6 and 10. But the demon is back and living in his youngest daughter, Charlie, and he doesn't know if he can save her since he couldn't save himself.

The fact that this demon possession story takes place in Georgia and Louisiana adds to the spook factor with its gothic atmosphere. No review I could write could do this great little possession story justice. Just take my word for it--it's scary!

Cina says

CONTAINS SPOILER

Where do I begin? I was gifted this book and the first few chapters seemed really interesting. However, after the accident and Charlie started becoming "sick" the book for me rapidly went down hill. I felt a sense of anger towards Jack as he sat quietly and watched Charlie unravel knowing what was going on with her. He never at any point told his wife, said something, or acted in some form to protect her. Even when there was no shadow of a doubt what was plaguing his daughter he didn't fight for her.

Sign after sign, tense moment after another, as his family falls to the hands of evil....he sat and held all of his knowledge within. Frustrating! This is where I felt the author could have really spun a tale of good vs bad, the love of a father vs the evil that takes his child, but instead what we did get was a man resolved in the fact that his child is lost and basically he can not win the battle.

The full story of Jack and what really happened in that secret cemetery never really unfolded. As a reader I just got glimpses, what happened in there? did he sell his soul? what was he promised or given? why was he allowed some much time before the demon appeared outside of Jack's assumptions?

I am not a lazy reader and can fill in the blanks but I am a greedy one and desire more. What did the demon tell Charlie before he took over? when did it happen? how? This could have been a superb tale, you can tell by certain aspects in the book but it for me, fell flat.

In the end, when Jack decides to return home....you hope for this epic battle, but what you receive is not necessarily a plot twist or even exciting. From the time Charlie is possessed there is a sense of build up, to something epic...it's already been made known that the entity that has her is about mayhem and death. So what she does for me wasn't surprising...what surprised me was that even at this moment with all his internal conversations when opportunity to end the battle so to speak he does nothing. I'm a parent and I understand the reasons why not but as he said, Charlie was gone.

Sighs....good can't win all the time but it would have been better in this case if it broke even.

Although I gave this book 2 stars, I would still recommend it because it had potential and for what it is, quick read and interesting enough plot it's not the worst book I ever read.

Tim says

What a gem this turned out to be! Whilst looking on Amazon for kindle reads I discovered Seed by Ania Ahlborn and with a bunch of really good reviews and a price tag of \$0.99 I decided to give it a whirl and I must say I am really glad I did.

Demonic possession in fiction and cinema is well trodden ground, but for some reason I am always drawn to these types of stories (Don't ask me why as they scare the shit out of me!) and Anina Ahlborn does not disappoint. The prose is wonderful and the use of imagery in the novel is excellent. I especially enjoyed the dialogue between the characters, whereas some authors dialogue can come off clunky and unrealistic, I thought Ahlborn's dialogue was real and felt like the exact type of thing you would hear two parents saying if their daughter was acting a bit possessed-like.

The plot is fairly simple; Jack Winter, his wife Aimee and their two daughters Charlie and Abby are involved in a car accident at the beginning of the novel and from there onwards things start disintegrating into madness when their youngest daughter Charlie (not Charlotte) starts acting a bit strange. Now that is a super simplified version of the plot but it gives you a general starting point for the novel and from there things really start to get good. This is not the grip the edge of your seat Exorcist style scare fest, it is more subtle in the way the mounting sense of unease crawls in from the dark corners of the room and then has you fully ensnared in it's grasp.

The technique of telling the story of Jack's childhood and the beginning of Charlie's descent into darkness was a great way of letting that subtle dread build in the reader. As we find out more about Jack's upbringing and his own personal demons we begin to understand the fate of Charlie and I thought this was an excellent way to tell the story and it really dragged me in and had me ripping through the pages.

There are some genuinely creepy scenes in the novel as you would expect but they never reach that over-the-top WTF kind of level. Seeing Aimee and Abby totally terrified of their Six year old daughter/sister was actually more unsettling than any stupid rotating of the head kind of crap. Also seeing the disintegration of Jack and Aimee's marriage because of the secrets Jack keeps and Charlie's mounting sickness just added to the general dark despair that this novel has and the ending was unexpected but fantastic.

I cannot recommend this book enough! If you are looking for a well written, subtle horror title then look no further.

Paul Nelson says

Seed by Ania Ahlborn has been patiently sitting on my kindle waiting to be remembered until recently I came across the audiobook and at just over 6 hours immediately thought, yep that's easily doable in a day, perfect.

Seed is an almost perfect slow building horror, it plans and executes a clinical attack on your emotions as the

screw gradually turns and the tension ratchets to unbearable levels. It all starts with a car crash, as the protagonist and driver of the car Jack, sees something at the side of the road, something rooted deeply in the terror of his childhood.

Things deteriorate from that moment on, youngest daughter Charlie takes on the child from hell persona of Damianesque proportion and this family is about to suffer nightmares that grip the reader as tightly as the most terrifying homicidal maniacs bear hug.

'She knew there was only one way to get rid of the prickle that had burrowed into her heart: get up, stand over her sister again. Stand over her and wait until she stopped breathing.'

Seed was Ania Ahlborn's debut novel and it really is a tremendous piece of work, it's not long, the author seriously doesn't beat about the bush and over describe, and I was heavily invested in the story, the characters and this family's plight. So you couldn't really ask for anything else and I'll certainly be reading more from Ania Ahlborn.

Also posted at <http://paulnelson.booklikes.com/post/...>

Stepheny says

Here's the thing.

I've been busy lately. I haven't had a lot of free time to write my reviews because I was recently promoted at my job and unfortunately that means I have to actually work at my job instead of killing a few hours a day on goodreads with my fellow book junkies. Now I have to read and then try to hammer out my reviews when I can.

Normally this wouldn't be a problem.

But normally I don't forget that I read a book.

In fact- I don't even *remember* the last time I forgot that I read a book.

But this book? Forgettable. I couldn't tell you a single character's name. What we have here is a classic case of **great potential** meets **poor execution**. An original storyline that was juuuuuuuust on the verge of being something great.

The things I remember are the major plot points- I could give you a passable 7th grade book review if needed.

If i had to sum it up in a word I'd use *atmospheric*. It was great in that sense. It was like reading a classic horror story where you just know doom is lurking around the corner! You're scared to turn the corner. Only, when you turn the corner you just find an average boring person looking for a smile and a nod back as they

go on their boring path.

Whenever I got excited that **this** would be the grand moment, it just fell flat and I would roll my eyes.

I enjoyed the originality of the storyline and think it could have been a lot more in the hands of a better writer.

11811 (Eleven) says

Finally, a demonic possession novel other than The Exorcist that is not only worth reading but is outstanding in its own right.

Read 2012 and 2015.

Blake Crouch says

The second greatest pleasure in reading is opening a favorite author's new book. But the greatest, for me at least, is discovering a new voice. It's deciding to give that sample a shot, getting through those first few pages, and becoming awestruck with the mounting feeling that you're reading something different and new and masterfully created.

It doesn't happen often. There's so much to read, and life is simply too short to slog through bad, or even mediocre books.

Such was my attitude as I began to read SEED by newcomer Ania Ahlborn, a story about the Winter family living in the deep south, struggling to come to terms with strange occurrences in their house (and themselves).

My hopes weren't high. This was a first novel, and even more than that, it was billed as horror. I love horror, and I've read, watched, and written quite a bit of it. So I'm very choosy.

By the end of page one, I knew one thing—Ahlborn could write. This was carefully constructed prose by someone who slaves over their sentences, word by word.

By the end of page two, I knew she had a story to tell.

But it was more than just that. It was that "mounting feeling" as each new scene appeared that Ahlborn didn't just have a story to tell. She was knocking it out of the park. In short, I couldn't believe how good it was. How well she had drawn her characters.

And most importantly...

How freaking scary it was.

And not the cheap, "go-for-the-gross" shocks that seem all Hollywood is capable of manufacturing these days. I'm talking about an intimate portrait of a family falling apart. This is not about a haunted house, but something infinitely more unsettling. Haunted people.

The ending of SEED is every bit as twisted, gut-wrenching, and horrifying as Stephen's King's PET CEMETERY, and that's no easy feat.

Great horror, like great comedy, instills you with that twinge of discomfort and then it just keeps ratcheting it up. It takes you to places you're not sure you can handle or want to see. But if the writing is good and we care about the characters, we can't stop ourselves from turning the pages.

SEED is great horror—a dark, fearless, unflinching blast of suburban spookiness that reminded me of early Stephen King.

This is easily the best debut novel—in any genre—that I've read in years.

-Blake Crouch, February 2012

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Buddy Read with Latasha and some peeps over at Horror Aficionados

Well, that was creepy right from the get go and then it sort of fizzled out for me and then picked back up.

The creepy little Charlie girl freaked me right out!

Jack and his family, wife Aimee and daughters, Charlie and Abby get in a wreck one night on the way home. Jack thought he saw something in the road and so did Charlie. From then on out it's crazeville.

This book is about possession, but some of it wasn't explained good enough for me. But who can explain why there are possessions and such. Maybe that is all there is, right?

That ending though . . . that was some messed up stuff!

Char says

I didn't know what to expect from this book. It was recommended by several other readers I trust, so I thought I would give it a shot.

It was very different from anything else I've read recently. The story was told through alternate chapters/sections going from the past to the present. I won't get into the story line as plenty of others already have. I will say that the ending of this book absolutely ROCKED!

I originally thought that perhaps "Seed" was the first of a series because by approximately 90% into the book the story showed no signs of winding things up. Then I sat down to read the final 10%, and things definitely wound up, just not in a way that I had EVER suspected. It was VERY original and that's what I am looking for most these days, originality.

I will be watching for anything else by this author.
