



Resurrection Dreams

Richard Laymon

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Vicki was the only one to stand up for Melvin, but even she had to admit he'd gone to far when he dug up a body and then tried to bring it back to life with the aid of a car battery. Years later, and now released from a mental institution, Melvin is back and after Vicki - or rather her body.

Resurrection Dreams Details

Date : Published March 1st 2005 by 47North (first published September 15th 1988)

ISBN :

Author : Richard Laymon

Format : Kindle Edition 370 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Zombies, Thriller, Splatterpunk, Suspense, Fantasy, Paranormal

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From Reader Review Resurrection Dreams for online ebook

Cody | codysbookshelf says

This was only my second Richard Laymon novel, and I loved it! I guess I'm now a certifiable Laymon fan.

What makes this novel such a success is the twists: Laymon misguided me more than once, only to pull the rug out from beneath my feet at the most crucial moment. It works as not only a horror story, but a thriller.

This tale of unrequited love, obsession, and playing God is a dark one — arguably the darkest story I've read this year — and it is not for the faint of heart. It's filled to the brim with body mutilations and gore and rape. If that isn't your speed, you might want to skip this book (and Laymon altogether). As for me, I had the time of my life; it was the adrenaline rush I needed.

There isn't much else I can say. This is a sharp knife to the heart, and Laymon has no mercy. And the reader is all the better for it. My highest recommendation.

Unapologetic_Bookaholic says

A man resurrects a lady, repeatedly has sex with her and wishes he were with another woman. I suppose I only made it as far as I did with this story because I wanted to know what made this guy tick. Not the character but the author. He's supposed to be the best horror author ever. To me he's "shocking" to the degree that he takes things out of the ordinary and places it into everyday life as any good horror author should be able to. But it's not something that's entertaining or that I'd want to spend days trying to finish. It's just not for me. I've given enough to Mr. Laymon.

Bob Milne says

Damn. In the first seven pages of Resurrection Dreams we have a crashed car, a naked dead man in the driver's seat, an equally naked woman sprawled on the pavement, his bitten-off penis lodged in the mouth of her severed head, and two horny teens interrupted in the middle of molesting what's left of her torso by the sound of sirens approaching.

Yup, this is a Richard Laymon book, through and through.

At its heart, Resurrection Dreams is a dark, depraved, disgusting love story. Vicki is a small-town doctor, sickened by the thought of returning home, and Melvin is a small-town gas jockey, excited by the return of the one woman who ever treated him with respect. The catch?

One, Melvin is just a little bit mad, having spent years in the loony bin for digging up a fellow student and attempting to resurrect her corpse for the school science fair.

Two, Melvin is still playing the resurrection game, only now he's murdering women to get the bodies he needs, suffocating them to preserve their beauty.

Three, he's finally found a method that works, and he's slowly building his own little army of love slaves and assassins as he pursues the one woman that matters . . . Vicki.

As twisted terror and titillation go, few authors manage the awkward blending as well as Laymon, and this is among his best. Everything you're afraid might happen, it happens. Wherever you fear the story is headed, it's going there. Whatever you imagine is coming with the next page turn, it's something darker. No matter how embarrassed you are for the characters (or Laymon), there's something even crazier lurking in the shadows.

The action is crazy, the horror insane, and the heroics absolutely bonkers. There's nobody who writes like Laymon, and there's nothing quite like the wild ride that his books provide.

[http://beauty-in-ruins.blogspot.com/2...](http://beauty-in-ruins.blogspot.com/2011/09/review-melvin.html)

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

People praise Laymon like he is the messiah of Horror; so far my experiences with him have been hit and miss.

The plot is cheesy, childishly simple, and mainly predictable. Predictable, cheesy, simple plots can be enjoyed, of course, but one usually expects a bit more from Laymon. The idea that Melvin can really do what he does is outlandish enough; a reader learns to suspend a certain amount of disbelief, but the way it came to play here seemed a bit overdone. Also, what was the purpose? You would figure he'd want to show the world now that he had proof.

The characters are real enough, likeable in their own way, even Melvin, who the author made sure you felt sorry for while still making sure you couldn't help getting amused by his gawkiness. Laymon didn't go overboard with the sexual lust and wanting here, but he did manage to anger me with the ending concerning a few of the characters. The beginning was fine, with some shocks and thrills, the middle held up well enough pacing wise and the ending, while strongly written, didn't sit with me well.

Laymon's writing style is direct, humorous, and dark when it's meant to be. Regretfully he left any semblance of suspense and genuine horror out the door, instead opting for some cheaper gross out factors, not even dishing that out much.

This isn't a Laymon book I'd recommend highly, but I wouldn't tell Laymon fans to pass it up. It's not bad, it's more lukewarm – nothing to get excited and ga-ga over, but not something that would entirely spoil an evening either.

Bark says

This is an amusingly vile take on the back from the grave plot. Laymon takes twisted delight in creating Melvin, a junk food ingesting geek with an all consuming desire to bring back a woman from the dead. He uses old tomes with recipes/spells to bring the dead back to life but never truly believes it'll work (we

would've heard about on the news if were possible, wouldn't we?!). Somehow his most recent *recipe* works and then the fun begins because he's unprepared to deal with the consequences. It's quite entertaining in a morbid, dark-humor kind of way.

Vicki was unfortunate enough to witness Melvin's first attempt at resurrection when they were teens at the same high school and has had horrible nightmares ever since. Now she's a doctor and headed back to her home town and decides (quite ridiculously, if you ask me) to visit Melvin who owns the local gas station. Melvin always liked Vicki because she was the only person who was nice to him as a teen. Now that Vicki is all grown up Melvin likes Vicki a whole lot more and develops an unhealthy obsession and starts some serious stalker-like behavior.

Vicki and her friend Ace decide the only way to end Melvin's obsession with Vicki is to shatter the illusion. So these two brainiacs concoct a plan where Vicki will "date" Melvin thus shattering his dreams of the perfect "dream girl" once he realizes Vicki isn't entirely inaccessible to him. Yeah, that will work . . . This, of course, only allows Melvin closer access to her life and causes more trouble (and more grossities)

I found this book extremely funny and was especially amused at all of the perverted men populating the story. The thing that cracked me up the most was the "resurrected" people who all came back as raving sex fiends. Eyeballs gouged out? Hands burned to a crisp? Half a noggin' gone missing? Fear not, in this book one can still get excited and easily grab the nearest breast with nearly a fumble.

For those who care about such things be warned that this book would've benefited by another round of the red pen. See page 109 for example. Two characters are in the same room talking about trivial things like biting hands and such when in the next sentence (not chapter) they're suddenly in separate rooms and it seems like we've missed a huge section of naughty goings-on. Hey, I want to know why all of the good stuff went missing! It was disconcerting and jarred me right out of the story.

James says

I wish I could have been in the room when Laymon was working on this one. I picture him drinking Pepsi, eating trail-mix, and having a few chuckles. I had a few chuckles too while reading this. It is one of the more humorous tales from the Laymonverse. And while I thought it was a huge amount of fun, by the end of it I was ready for something else. The amount of stupid decisions by Vicki, our heroine, was really irritating towards the end. Now we all know that stupid decisions are part of the fun in Richard Laymon's books, but when the damaged young female protagonist is purposefully setting up dates with the weird, creepy serial killer/mad scientist/dark sorcerer, just so she can get information from him, then we need to quickly wrap this up. But no . . . it went on and on. But it's still a great, creepy tale and I do recommend it.

Chris says

When you read a Laymon novel, you know what you're getting into and this novel certainly is in keeping with that. Vicki Chandler returns home to Ellsworth after finishing medical school, even has a job lined up at the local doctor's clinic, but doesn't look forward to seeing Melvin Dobbs again. You see, Melvin owns and operates the town gas station and garage. But he's also known for

his crazy high school stunt, when Vicki went to school with him, in which he'd attempted to resurrect a dead cheer leader during a science fair. Needless to say, Vicki doesn't care to see him again after all these years, even though she'd defended him in the past from school bullies. But they meet and Melvin is still creepy...and has a serious crush on her. And he'll do anything...anything...to have her all to himself.

Laymon is at his plot-twisting, perverse best with this gorefest involving reanimated corpses and undying love, of a sort. Nice hook at the novel's conclusion, perfect summertime...or anytime, good reading!

Addy says

I thought this book was another success for Richard Laymon. It was gruesome and actually quite funny. A unique take on zombies and one's sadistic way of resurrecting the dead. Action packed and likeable characters, this one will get your heart pumping. The ending was a little disappointing but overall it made do. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves horror.

Adam Light says

This was okay, but not one of the best Laymon books I have ever read. Oh geez, I have to watch that, its just that sometimes I accidentally slip one in like that.

Melvin is the poster boy for goofy villains. He has two obsessions; Vicki, the only girl that was ever nice to him in high school (the lesson there is never be nice to the weird guy), and bringing people back from the dead.

Both of these fetishes are going to cause an undue amount of grief for a lot of people, but Melvin could honestly care less about the consequences of his actions. It is all simply a means to an end for this guy. All he wants is Vicki to like him.

To love him.

And, yes, to have sex with him.

I enjoyed the characters and the over-the-top humor Laymon injected into this story.

I laughed aloud a couple of times.

The sex and gore content was especially high in **RESURRECTION DREAMS**, so it gets three starts for the strong attempt by the author to raise the bar on his patented formula, but for me it disintegrated into a non-cohesive disaster overall.

I won't spoil anything, but it was going along quite nicely and then I just don't know what happened. I see other reviewers that stated this one was a posthumous release. I know that isn't true, but it FEELS like it could be... like this one was not quite cooked long enough, so it was still a little too pink in the middle...

I am a big fan, but the best thing about this one was Melvin, a fairly memorable villain, and Charlie - he was well done, too.

Michael Fierce says

Resurrection Dreams is the funniest most fun best book I ever read that helped add to the growing, gnawing, bone-crunching, lipsmacking interest in **zombies** that, by this point, has swept nearly everyone up into an

uncontrollable off the heezy zombie frenzy that forever changed the world we know leaving in its wake a land of apocalyptic death, ruin, and destruction. A world that will **NEVER** be the same. **EVER AGAIN.**

And I've been thanking this book ever since!

And all the cool George Romero zombie flicks too. **OF COURSE.**

I can't think of a better trend than **Zombiemania!**

Even a bad zombie book can be mildly entertaining.

A great zombie book though, like this one, can be re-read over and over and be ravenously eaten up again and again.

Here's the back cover of the book in case you're one of *those peoples* that actually need to know the particulars of what a zombie book is about.

~ **DUDE! It's about zombies! - Isn't that enough!?** ~

The opening chapter pulled me in faster than a speeding bullet to the brain! I hungered for more and more and **MORE**, eating up every piece and every scrap until my eyes were as red as the eyes of the dead inside.

No sense in telling you about the plot, characters, or anything else beyond what was said in the synopsis. It's a zombie book, ya feel me!? But with this particular one, you cannot possibly go wrong in reading it. And in my best Men's Warehouse George Zimmer voice, I'm gonna say:

After you've read this one, you will crave all things Richard Laymon.

The Good news!?!? You have nothing to fear. He wrote many great books. **ALL** of them **HORROR** btw.

Even his lesser works are way beyond most horror writer's best.

Mattering on your topic of interest, you can mosey your way through all the book descriptions & pick out something you really want to delve into. The Best news yet? Even the books of his you don't think sound like your cup of tea probably are anyway.

*No doubt, Laymon's maturity level never advanced beyond the age of 13. His vaseline covered infatuation with boobs, teenage girls and sex is right in line with that weird always staring long-haired rocker dude that went to 'your school' who showed up nearly every day sporting his worn out **Mötley Crüe Girls Girls Girls** t-shirt while perpetually wagging his tongue & devil horns hand sign atcha ala Gene Simmons- everytime you accidentally looked him in the face.

But, none of that should detract from the pleasure you will have reading this or any of his other books.

I know I will be craving the need to re-read it again & again devouring it fresh every time I do.

Hands down, it's a winner.

****Highly Recommended!!!!**

Leila Hulsey says

This novel sent chills up my spine. Melvin was, beyond a doubt, one creepy and sick SOB. Laymon always had a way to twist a creep into a sick and vile character. I Loved It!!!

Kasia says

Written in 1988 this book starts off sounding unlike Laymon in many ways but by the time I got sucked into it I appreciated the book for what it was. Published after his untimely death in 2001 the story came out without his final editing but still a good read, especially for the die hard fans. This is certainly not his best book but I enjoyed it, the suspense kept on building up and made me twist in my seat, wondering what is going to happen next.

After finishing medical school Vicki Chandler comes back to her hometown of Ellsworth as a doctor to take up a job at her local medical clinic. She has mixed feelings after finishing high school and college to be back home but she is in debt to the clinic's owner who gave her money for her studies and decides to grin and bear it as she pays back her loans. Her memories flood back with her arrival, her best friend Ace still living and working in the city, Paul - her long lost love haunts her memories because she knows she will never see him again here and Melvin, the geek with bizarre hobbies is back to drooling over her the same way he did back in high school.

Many things have changed since the high school days. Back then Melvin was obsessed with resurrecting the dead and would dig up bodies from graves. These days he no longer robs graves, he finds himself fresh live victims and does unthinkable things to them. Unfortunately for Vicki, she is back just when his experiments are starting to bring results and he wants her, first dead then brought back to life and his forever.

There is so much more to this story that I can afford to tell, because I read it only knowing the basic story line and really enjoyed the twists and turns. Melvin tried his best to woo Vicki, even though she found him repulsive and was nice only to get him off her back as he meddled in her life, killing of friends and anyone she crosses paths with to bring her closer to him. The characters were well developed and even the minor ones stood out; watch out for Patricia, the mad woman steals half the show! The book follows Vicki around as she goes to work and tries to date again only to have Melvin follow her and disturb her plans, many times barely letting her get away with her life.

The ending was brought together but without an explosive finish I was expecting. Overall it tied up the loose ends but few things jumped up to the surface too abruptly and complicated the matters. I liked the book enough to give it 4 stars, mostly because when I thought everyone was safe, something else would happen and stir up the story, keeping me on my toes!

Jonathan Janz says

This book was bat-excrement insane. But that's why we read Laymon. There's a creep of an antagonist. A hot/smart protagonist (with a hot/sorta smart friend). There's a bizarre premise that would only work in a Laymon novel.

And of course there's Richard Laymon's inimitable style.

If you're looking for a pleasant Sunday drive, stay far away from this book. If you feel like being strapped to the hood of a muscle car and driven off a cliff, read **RESURRECTION DREAMS**.

That is all.

Adamus says

I thought this book was definitely one of if not the funniest Laymon books I've read so far. The characters were great! Specially Melvin LOL the plot was cool I thought that it was gonna be the same type of zombie book everybody's writing these days, but it's far from it. It's definitely a suspenseful book that keeps you guessing there were some great twists in this book also. I really enjoyed the read it was a fast paced funny and horrifying book!! I definitely recommend to Laymon fans if you haven't read this one yet & definitely to horror fans specially if your into Zombies give it a try because this is more of a real life scenario with zombies I feel. It's definitely got a social twist about the book.

Bill says

I was in the mood for some mindless blood and guts reanimated corpse sex slave killing spree fun. This one fit the bill nicely. Laymon's good like that.

Blue ribbon science fair experiments, headless weeny chewing girlfriends, reanimated hotties, plenty of inappropriate fondling and black magic body mods. Let the good times roll!
