



Red

Jack Ketchum

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The old man hears them before he sees them, the three boys coming over the hill, disturbing the peace by the river where he's fishing. He smells gun oil too, too much oil on a brand-new shotgun. These aren't hunters, they're rich kids who don't care about the river and the fish and the old man.

Or his dog. Red is the name of the old man's dog, his best friend in the world. And when the boys shoot the dog -- for nothing, for simple spite -- he sees red, like a mist before his eyes. And before the whole thing is done there'll be more red. Red for blood...

Red Details

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Author : Jack Ketchum

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From Reader Review Red for online ebook

Melissa Helwig says

During an attempted robbery, three teens shoot a man's dog for kicks. But that dog was the best thing in Avery Ludlow's life and he's not going to let them get away with it. He wants justice for Red and he's going to get it no matter what it takes.

What I love about Jack Ketchum is that all of his novels are realistic. I could see any of his plots happening to myself, which makes them even scarier.

And Red is no exception. Loving and losing an animal is something everyone can relate to, making it easy to understand how Ludlow feels. It will really tug at your heartstrings when Red dies. I teared up and had to stop reading because I was in public.

The book moves slowly and there isn't much action, but it doesn't matter because Avery Ludlow and his attempts to get the boys to confess is interesting. And when there is action, it's definitely worth the wait.

The characters are well-developed. I was rooting for Ludlow and was livid with the boys and their parents, praying for their comeuppance.

Overall, a great book, definitely worth checking out.

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

Addy says

Just...wow! Touched my heart in so many ways. Ketchum is a true genius! I definitely need to Ketchum all!

The Behrg says

This is probably as perfect of a book as you can get and just goes to show you don't always need an earth-shattering, end-of-the-world apocalyptic event to tell an engaging story. Ketchum is a master wordsmith, adding flavor to the simplicity of this tale without ever overstepping his bounds. Letting his characters live without ever forcing them to bend to the demands of a preconceived plot. This was quite simply a beautiful, if painful, glimpse into an ordinary life, where the darkest masks of mankind's avarice and cruelty are put on full display, set against the backdrop of one man trying to do right. Absolutely loved it.

Tressa says

Very difficult book to read (I've always had a tender spot in my heart for animals), but great satisfaction

seeing a man get fed up and take the law into his own hands.

Red really highlights the inability for citizens to take responsibility for their actions and the actions of their snot-nosed slacker brats.

Kev Hector says

To me Jack Ketchum is an incredible author and this is underlined with how this novel has been written. J K is so well known for his twisted evil minds, cannibals and blood thirsty horror, this book however is different thus extended his pure talent. There is no added gore or grotesque storyline (though I really do love reading those) just for the sake of it. Instead Jack just grabs you straight from the very beginning of the story, as he always does thus channeling both your mind and your Imagination on the story he wants to put across to you. A very realistic story and it's because of this fact it keeps you thinking until the very end to see what indeed is going to happen. This book/story is sad in places yet you get the feeling of revenge in others making it a joy to read.

Hope this helps you all, besides if you like reading Jack Ketchum novels then you will enjoy it. If you haven't read any of them, my God you don't know what you're missing.

Happy reading....

Bill says

Avery Allen Ludlow didn't do anything to the three punk-ass kids that came up on him while he was fishing down by the river with his dog Red. They did plenty to him however. Now, it's time to fess up for the deeds done and harms perpetrated. When it becomes apparent that is not going to happen, Avery takes matters into his own hands.

Jack Ketchum can tell a hell of a story. While this one may not be as brutal as some of the previous works I have read by him, there are some definite similarities in theme. Avery was a truly classic character and JK did an excellent job at giving him depth and heart. It was impossible not to root for him and to hope that the privileged prima donna pricks get exactly what's coming to them.

A solid 4+ star read and another winner from Mr. Ketchum.

Adam Light says

Red is the story of Avery Ludlow, an old widower out fishing, his trusty dog at his side, when he is set upon by three teenage boys intent on robbing him. When they realize Avery hasn't got anything worth their while, the boy with the shotgun blows the dog's head off for shits and giggles.

The titular dog was Avery's best friend, and he wants justice. He plans to get it no matter what the consequences might be.

This is the first Ketchum book I have read that was not necessarily a horror story, and it simply floored me.

The prose is elegant, beautiful at times, and gory in all the right places.

It is short and straightforward, but deceptively so. There is so much more going on in this book than what is on the surface. I really enjoyed this book. Read it!

The Face of Your Father says

Ketchum was a master of his genre.

Lonely old man goes fishing with his dog. Thugs kill dog. Thugs regret killing dog.

At a crisp 200 pages, Jack Ketchum's 'Red' is 'Death Wish' with man's best friend. Ketchum's brutality is unapologetic and somehow refreshing. Modern day villains tend to have backstory that leads to them being misunderstood and sympathetic. Not Ketchum. Ketchum's villains are deplorable. The violence is senseless but never gratuitous. Ketchum was not out to shock his readers with fiction, he only wanted them appalled by the reality of human behavior.

4.5/5

Wayne Barrett says

Before I give my opinion of this book I want to point out the horrible work by the printer of this edition. I don't usually pay a lot attention to the printing companies, but this one was bad enough, actually the worst I've ever seen, that I will be paying attention from here on out. The publisher of this edition is a company called "47North". When I say it is the worst I've ever seen, I am not exaggerating. I didn't keep count, but I bet there were a hundred misprints throughout this book. I'm not sure what kind of program they are using but they need to trash it. I got this off of Amazon. If I had got it at a book store I would have returned and demanded my money back. Be warned; if you see a book published by "47North" don't buy it unless your local grocery store has run out of toilet paper.

Okay, I didn't count the poor editing by the printing company in my review because that would be unfair to Ketchum and would not properly reflect on the story. This is actually 2 novella's in one book. I think 'Red' really resonated with me, being an older man (though not as old as Avery) and having a couple of old dogs that I love like family. It is a story of vengeance told in classic Ketchum style.

The second Novella, 'The Passenger' is kidnapping story, once again following the Ketchum hard-core story-telling. I could see the twist coming at the end, but this was still an entertaining suspense/horror story.

If you can handle Jack's style, you'll enjoy this novella combo. Just make sure it's not by 47North.

Maicie says

Most of us go somewhat insane when someone messes with our child or our dog. You can talk smack about my sister, my mama, even my husband, but one snarky remark about my child and you will meet my alter,

not very nice, ego. Kick my dog and I turn into a pro-death-penalty, gun toting, gray-haired bundle of irrational action.

When Avery Ludlow decides to go after the three teenagers who shoot and kill his dog, I was pumping my fist in the air. I was still pumping it when the book ended. Lord, I hate bullies—especially the ones that are rich, powerful and old enough to know better. When they get what's coming to them life is so sweet.

Ketchum writes darn good horror. He writes ever better thrillers. I was relieved that this wasn't about a dog that comes back from the dead. A story about a man who is pushed too far makes a much better book. Highly recommend.

Bonus! My edition contains the novella “The Passenger” – another ‘revenge is sweet’ story. I little under a hundred pages of twists, turns and turmoil. Fun.

Jason Parent says

This story was so good. Ketchum's talent for storytelling is evident in all his works. The man was an expert in fast-paced horror and brutal, yet not-sensationalized, crime novels.

But he also had a subtle depth to his work few others master. It's not spoon-fed or overbearing, but true and not always just. Real. Gritty. Powerful.

In Red, he infuses simple actions and understated dialogue with heavy emotion and heart-yanking understanding of human psychology. It's a tale of a man whose dog is murdered without rhyme or reason. I know, you're probably thinking Dean Koontz' odes to dog love, and certainly here, the relationship between man and animal is explored.

But Red is so, so much more than that. It's about grief and loss, being whole and missing pieces, putting one's world back in balance. On the surface, it evokes questions of morality and justice, but I think the heart of the book goes miles beyond that.

Red is simply a beautiful piece of fiction: art that reflects life in its exposed, truest sense. It will be a very tough one to beat as my favorite read for this year and has earned a place among my favorites of all time.

5 stars and highly recommended.

Horace Derwent says

days ago, i dove into my piles and sought out that Overlook Connection Press edition which has a whiskered red doggie's face on the front, thus i dove it into my piles again

cuz i bought a mass market copy of this :D the author's way of storytelling and his power of words shivers me once more, he's a hero of the genre!

rereading it makes me wanna see the movie again, and it has robert englund there :O

Sotiris Karagiannis says

Spoiler Free Review

Γνωρ?ζοντας τις απε?ρως φρικιαστικ?ς σκην?ς που περιγρ?φει ο Κ?τσαμ σε ?σα βιβλ?α του ?χω διαβ?σει προς το παρ?ν (νεκρ? σεζ?ν, το κρυφτ?, το κορ?τσι της διπλαν?ς π?ρτας, δικα?ωμα στη ζω?), περ?μενα και αυτ? η νουβ?λα να ε?ναι γεμ?τη απ? αυτ?ς. Π?ς να μην ε?ναι εξ?λου θα μου πε?τε, απ? τη στιγμ? που η υπ?θεση ?χει να κ?νει με ?ναν μοναχικ? γερ?κο που τρ?α κωλ?παιδα σκοτ?νουν το σκ?λο του για καν?ναν απολ?τως λ?γο.

(δι?λογος με τον εαυτ? μου)

-Τι πιστε?εις ?τι θα διαβ?σεις;

-Προφαν?ς ο γ?ρος θα θ?λει να π?ρει εκδ?κηση και η εκδ?κηση θα ε?ναι αιματηρ? και φρικιαστικ?.

-?χι, λ?θος, δεν ?χει β?α.

-Τι φ?ση, Κ?τσαμ δε διαβ?ζουμε;

Και εδ? ?ρχεται το οξ?μωρο της υπ?θεσης. ?ταν δι?βασα την υπ?θεση περ?μενα μ?α ιστορ?α εκδ?κησης α λα Κ?τσαμ, φρικιαστικ? και κινηματογραφικ?. Αντ? για αυτ? ?μως, π?ρα ?να δρ?μα αρκετ? πολ?πλευρο, που εξαιτ?ας της δι?ρκει?ς του (λιγ?τερο απ? 180 σελ?δες χωρ?ς τις κεν?ς), χ?νει σε αρκετ? σημε?α, αλλ? κερδ?ζει απ? ?λλα.

Πριν συνεχ?σω το review πρ?πει να πω ?τι ο Κ?τσαμ ?χει πει σε πολλ?ς συνεντε?ξεις ?τι αγαπ?ει π?ρα πολ? τα ζ?α και στενοχωρι?ται συνεχ?ς για την αδικ?α που επικρατε? ?ταν κ?ποιος κατηγορε?ται για κακοπο?ηση κ?ποιου ζ?ου. ?πως αναφ?ρει και στο βιβλ?ο, τα ποσοστ? τιμωρ?ας ε?ναι ελ?χιστα (μ?νο το 34% απ? τα αιτ?ματα εξετ?ζονται και απ? αυτ? μ?νο το 14% τιμωρε?ται) και η μεγαλ?τερη ποιν? ε?ναι 100\$ και 10 μ?ρες φυλακ?, ακ?μα και ?ταν σκοτ?σεις ?να σκ?λο. ?χοντας αυτ? στο νου, μπορ? να πω ?τι η συγκεκριμ?νη νουβ?λα ε?ναι απ? τις πιο προσωπικ?ς του Κ?τσαμ, γιατ? υπ?ρχουν μ?σα σε μ?α ρεαλιστικ? ιστορ?α, κ?ποιες ανησυχ?ες και σκ?ψεις που τον τυρανν?ν.

Και για αυτ? το λ?γο η ιστορ?α δεν ε?ναι ο?τε β?αια, ο?τε φρικιαστικ?. Ε?ναι μ?α ιστορ?α που θ?μα των κωλ?παιδων π?φτει ?νας καθημεριν?ς ηλικιωμ?νος ?νθρωπος, που εν? δεν ?χει να χ?σει τ?ποτα γιατ? ε?ναι μαθημ?νος στα λ?γα, δεν προβα?νει σε ακρ?τητες, ?πως ?χουμε συνηθ?σει απ? ?λλα βιβλ?α ? αντ?στοιχες ταιν?ες εκδ?κησης.

Βασικ?, δε μιλ?με καν για εκδ?κηση. Αυτ? που ψ?χνει ο ?β Λ?ντλοου ε?ναι ?να γιατ? και ?να συγγ?μη απ? τον υπα?τιο του φονικο?. Αλλ? τα πρ?γματα γ?νονται πολ? πιο περ?πλοκα ?ταν σιγ? σιγ? εμπλ?κονται για ?λλα πρ?σωπα στην ιστορ?α.

- Sorry, but you got the wrong boys here, Ludlow.

-I know that I got the right boys. You are the one who got the wrong boys Mr. McCormack.

Και τ?ρα πρ?πει να αναφερθ? ξαν? πως χ?ρηκα π?ρα πολ? ?τι ?να τ?τοιο θ?μα δεν εξετ?στηκε απ? την ηθικ? της αυτοδικ?ας και του υπερανθρ?που, δηλαδ? ε?ν ?ταν ηθικ? να γ?νει ο γερ?κος

βιτζίλ?ντε και να αρχ?ζει να σκοτ?νει ?να προς ?να ?λα τα ?τομα που ενεπλ?κησαν στο φ?νο, επειδ? το δικαστικ? σ?στημα της 'murica ζ?χνει σαπ?λα. Ανταυτο?, η "εκδ?κηση" ?ρχεται μ?σα απ? το θλιμ?νο βλ?μμα του Λ?ντλοου, που π?ντα θα εμφαν?ζεται στο μυαλ? σου ?ταν αυτ?ς μιλ?ει απ?ναντι στους δολοφ?νους. ?χει κ?ποιες πολ? δυνατ?ς εικ?νες που βγ?ζουν δυνατ? συναισθ?ματα καθ?ς και τα κλασικ? "one liners" του Κ?τσαμ που και εδ? ε?ναι πολ? σωστ? βαλμ?να, περικλε?οντας με ελ?χιστες λ?ξεις ολ?κληρα νο?ματα και εικ?νες. Απ? αυτ? την ?ποψη για εμ?να κερδ?ζει π?ρα πολ? το βιβλ?ο, γιατ? εν? ?χει μ?α φαινομενικ? φρικτ? αρχ?, μετ? γ?νεται αυτ? που θα ?θελε να διαβ?σει ο καθ?νας για να νι?σει ?τι "ξ?ρεις κ?τι, υπ?ρχουν και οι ?νθρωποι που πραγματικ? αγαπο?ν τα σκυλι? και θα ?καναν τα π?ντα για αυτ? μ?χρι το τ?λος". Ε?ν ?χετε σκ?λο καταλαβα?νετε τι λ?ω.

Για να λ?με και τα αρνητικ? ?μως, το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι πολ? μικρ? και δεν "ανο?γεται" περισσ?τερο εκτ?ς του Λ?ντλοου. Τα υπ?λοιπα πρ?σωπα ε?ναι αρκετ? αδι?φορα και πιο πολ? λειτουργο?ν ως συμπληρωματικ?, γιατ? ?τσι και αλλι?ς ο γερ?κος ε?ναι ο πρωταγωνιστ?ς. Αλλ? θα προτιμο?σα να υπ?ρχε λ?γο περισσ?τερη αν?πτυξη στις οικογ?νειες των δολοφ?νων γιατ? ακ?μα και αν γ?νονται γνωστ? τα κ?νητρα αρκετ? νωρ?ς, δεν πα?ουν να ε?ναι επιδερμικ?. Και για αυτ? σκεφτ?μουν να ?βαζα? 4 αστερ?κια, ?λαξα? ?μως γν?μη γιατ? οι 4 τελευτα?ες σελ?δες με ?καναν να βγω στην αυλ?, να βρω τα σκυλι? μου και να τα χα?δ?ψω κλα?γοντας.

Για μ?να αυτ? το βιβλ?ο μπορε? να διαβαστε? απ? ?λους, μεγ?λους και μικρο?ς. ?σως αρχικ? να φα?νεται πολ? φρικιαστικ? σα θ?μα και να νομ?ζετε ?πως και γω, ?τι η κατ?σταση γ?νεται ανεξ?λεγκτη ?πως για παρ?δειγμα στους "Ξεγραμμ?νους" του Κ?τσαμ, αλλ? σας διαβεβαι?νω, ?τι δε συμβα?νει τ?ποτα απολ?τως απ? αυτ?. Οπ?τε τολμ?στε το μιας και ε?ναι και μικρο?λι. Θα το θυμ?στε για π?ντα, πιστ?ψτε με.

Να σημειωθε? ?τι αυτ? η ιστορ?α βασ?ζεται σε πραγματικ? περιστατικ?. ?πως λ?ει ο Κ?τσαμ, ε?χε π?ει σε ?να μπαρ και ο φ?λος του ο μπ?ρμαν του αναφ?ρει την ιστορ?α, πως τρ?α παιδι? σκ?τωσαν ?να σκ?λο και ο γερ?κος ψ?χνει να βρει το δ?κιο του αλλ? μ?ταια. Δεν ?ξερε τι κατ?ληξη ε?χε η ιστορ?α, οπ?τε ?γραψε μ?α δικι? του. Επ?σης χτες ε?δα την ταιν?α Red του 2008 με πρωταγωνιστ? τον Brian Cox ως Λ?ντλοου, που ε?ναι αρκετ? καλ? αλλ? δεν πι?νει το τ?λος του βιβλ?ου και τα συναισθ?ματα δυστυχ?ς. Π?ντως ο Brian Cox ε?ναι φανταστικ?ς στο ρ?λο, αξ?ζει να του δ?σετε μ?α ευκαρ?α.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

When most people think of Jack Ketchum, they think of horror. You think of horror again when you read a book blurb that sounds like a more realistic, friendlier version of Pumpkinhead. So hey, it's a horror story right?

Well, not really. Life has decided to stop being predictable after all. Red is much more than the typical revenge story it touts itself as being. Av doesn't believe a crime can't be forgiven, but he doesn't believe in scapegoats, liars, or not manning up to your mistakes and accepting responsibility. This story stands on the shoulders of a larger one which is slowly revealed to the reader.

The protagonist is an older widow with only his small self-owned store, empty house, and old dog left. They keep each other company as they've aged together and seen their loved ones pass on. The sympathy stake is

buried firmer since his wife died tragically, and the dog was a birthday present from her to him. It's not just anger at the act, but at the senselessness of it that gets to both Av and the reader who follows him on the ride.

Ketchum writes with a slow, sweeping grace. His writing is literary, but I do hold qualms with some of his sentence lengths and comma aversions the first few chapters. Thankfully this settles down.

I applaud the slow, believable progression of anger. The blurb reads like it's a classic revenge tale, but it's really not. The story is more intricate than you'd believe as he goes through every channel he can to try and see the boys admit to what they did and apologize. It's not just about punishment and getting revenge, but something for the senseless act, even if it's only an admission of guilt. The psychology behind this comes out as the story unfolds and why this is so important to the man.

The ending is heartbreakingly tragic as it reaches its inevitable conclusion, all that could be avoided, as the consequences swing to full closure on the karma wheel.

Marc-Antoine says

No one writes revenge like Jack Ketchum. A masterpiece in my mind.
