



## Horrorween

*Al Sarrantonio*

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For untold ages a dark presence has shrouded the small town of Orangetield. In addition to the plentiful pumpkins that gave the town its name. Orangetield is home to the dreaded Lord of Death himself, Samhain. Despite the rumors of his existence, and rare, brief sightings Samhain has long been content to leave the local inhabitants alone. But that is about to change....

When a boy from the town disappears, detective Bill Grant is convinced Samhain is responsible. But even Grant cannot imagine the horrific extent of the Lord of Death's grand scheme. As what may prove to be the last Halloween approaches, the fate of the world will depend on the survival of a small group of people, pawns in a terrifying game of cosmic proportions.

## Horrorween Details

Date : Published October 1st 2006 by Leisure Books (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780843956399

Author : Al Sarrantonio

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## From Reader Review Horrorween for online ebook

### Roger says

Horrorween is probably not the worst book title I have ever heard. But surely it is in the top twenty. Al Sarrantonio is an author I have read before. (I remember Toybox as a pretty good collection of short stores, though I do not recall a standout) I read Horrorween for a variety of reasons. The action takes place in a fictional town called Orangefield-as I type this a real town called Orangefield is around thirty miles away. (Why don't they have a pumpkin festival? It seems like a natural.) Of course it is October-so 'Tis the Season. However this novel really never gets scary. It does achieve the level of atmospheric, and I think it could have become scary-but there is a real jump the shark moment about midway through the book that totally destroys any mood Sarrantonio may have conjured. After that the author never seems to regain his momentum. The subplot (remember this is only a subplot not even the main action) of SPOILER ALERT a mad genius roboticist escaped from a mental asylum who dresses as a clown and kidnaps children and transfers their intellect into a robot called Pumpkin Boy SPOILER OVER is so utterly ridiculous the remainder of the book is absolutely a lost cause. Over the top works on occasion-but not this occasion.

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### Kaitlyn says

Rating: 4.5 stars

So, I've had this book since Halloween of 2011, but I never really got around to reading it until now. I really wish I had read it sooner. It was a bit slow to begin with, sure, and it did have a few problems, but overall I found myself really getting caught up in it and blazed through it within a few days, once I got going. I just really thought it was an interesting concept, and a well-written one to boot, and I'd really recommend it.

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### Chris says

Every October, I try to read at least one Halloween themed horror novel, and this year I picked up Book 1 in the Orangefield series, by Al Sarrantonio, called HORRORWEEN. More of a series of interconnected vignettes, we're introduced to a number of citizens, including a midlist horror writer, a haunted and damaged war veteran, a police detective who's seen too much, a dowdy librarian, an awkward young girl interested in the occult history of Orangefield, among others. As Halloween approaches, and the town prepares to celebrate it's pumpkin harvest with a huge weekly town festival, dark forces are at work...

Overall, this was an enjoyable novel, but felt more like a collection of individual stories than a traditional linear novel. Still, there's more to the Orangefield story, and one doesn't have to wait for October to check it out!

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### Gevera Bert says

So much of the plot depends on Samhain being pronounced SAM HAIN and it's not, it's SOW-EN. Found

that really annoying.

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### **John Bruni says**

In my old age, I have grown curmudgeonly in my approach to reading Halloween-themed fiction. I've just read too much of it, and a lot of it is the same ol', same ol'. There is a lot of that in this book, but it was much better than I expected. The beginning is the best part of the book. Speaking as someone who, for an entire summer, had a bee infestation in his bathroom, the hornet situation is horrifying. I liked the Pumpkin Tender a lot. I loved the town history in two parts, in particular the unpublished second part. Even the Pumpkin Boy was suitably weird for me. This is one of the better Halloween books. A lot of fun.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

This book seemed like it would be really fun and interesting to read, but it was just choppy, predictable, unoriginal and incredibly lame.

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### **Bark says**

I snatched this book out of my tbr pile thinking it was going to be a spooky tale about a town plagued by the "Lord of Death" and creepy pumpkins. Who can pass up creepy pumpkins? What it really was, however, was a hastily slapped together book containing three loosely related novellas that had previously been printed elsewhere. This would've been lovely if I were looking to read a collection of ho-hum poorly researched novellas. But the blurb led me to believe this was a complete novel and it wasn't. I've been deceived! And now I'm a bit grouchy.

I made it through the first story even though I had a nagging feeling I'd read it somewhere before (turns out I had). It was about a writer suffering through writer's block, a marriage that is falling apart and bees. The ending drove me nuts because I saw it miles away (and quite possibly because I had read it before) but I did have to wonder why the protagonist never realized it. This made him look like a real dummy.

To aggravate me further, a character named Samhain "The Lord of Death" arrives to wreak some havoc. Apparently "Sam" is terrorizing the small town where the nasty bees and the not-so-bright writer live. Typically the Celtic holiday is not pronounced "Sam Hain" but "Sow - En" but I guess it would've been too silly to nickname the Big Baddie "Sow". Hee hee, that might've kept me reading though! Anyway, if the story hadn't been so average I might have been able to overlook that silly nitpick and go with the flow but it wasn't and I can't let it go. Sorry, I warned you I was grouchy.

The last story bored me so much that I couldn't even get through it. I guess what I'm saying here in this crappy review is that I'd recommend skipping this one unless you're looking for some Horrorweenie type short stories and this all sounds fab to you.

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### **Fabian says**

I read the back cover... & found that this book was replete of my all-time-favorite themes and images. Suburbia... curses... harvest-time... homecomings... killer children. I got hooked. Well, Halloween IS my favorite movie ever; & my favorite holiday.

Samhain here is an actual personification who makes solely a cameo but whose presence is definitely felt. There is a Psycho moment: a protagonist gets killed off very early... The bees and wasps declare that something is coming... there is not one obvious killer or monster...

I loved where this was going. Alas, something, perhaps publishing firms or the author himself, made this a less-than-stellar project. (It ends in anticlimax... it promises much but delivers only what the reader ultimately consoles himself with). Where much MUCH potential existed! Children hear voices (voices!!!!), and do some dark shape's bidding. A girl's philosophy on the Andromeda Galaxy, and its collision with ours, is SO ORIGINAL & poetic, like the Samhain constellation and its inherent effect on suburban serial killers like Michael Myers, and I myself ponder about it... constantly.

So this is a rare find: very readable and Hollywoodesque. But I must declare: I've read way too many books with rotten endings lately.

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### **Michael says**

Barely two stars. This is a book grown from three different and disparate novellas. It's not cohesive and it's not well-written. The plot is weak and the characters empty. The only reason I didn't give it one star is because I've read worse.

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### **Penny says**

I found Horrorween to be a quick read. There was just enough suspense, to keep you turning the pages. However, the pagan undertones could have used a bit more research.

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### **Sparkle says**

Horrible. I can't finish this book and I never abandon books. Grammar errors and spelling errors aside, this story is flat and boring and pretty ridiculous. I gave it a good try was about 40% through but decided to use my time more constructively. The idea of pronouncing samhain incorrectly should have cued me in right at the beginning but I kept reading. Ugh. Regret.

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### **Josephine (Jo) says**

I read this book in October thinking that it would be fun to read something seasonal and spooky. It wasn't! I

could not tell from the cover that the book consisted of three (not very well written) novellas that really did not connect very well. I found the stories rather lame there were a few errors and not much to hold my concentration.

I feel that the author is rather like one of his characters, an author with writers block. He seems to have bundled together these three short stories into one book just to earn a crust.

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### **Carmen K says**

This is part of a series. Isn't every book anymore? It centers around a town that really goes overboard with the Halloween stuff. It's a quick a read and in the horror genre. I did not find it particularly scary, although it is entertaining enough that I'm reading another in the series. If you are looking for a quick horror read with a Halloween theme, you might want to check this book out.

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### **Randolph says**

Not a bad book overall. Obviously partially a hack job of trying to connect three independent stories, "Hornets," "Pumpkin Boy," and "Orangefield" into a coherent novel. Hornets and Orangefield are pretty good but Pumpkin Boy is pretty bad.

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### **Shawn Deal says**

3 1/2 stars I ripped through this novel and really enjoyed it up until the end. However, the end was anticlimactic and left every question unanswered. I would certainly try another novel by him, but I would want a stronger ending.

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