



The Demons of Emily Eldritch

Martin Adil-Smith

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She knew that she was ready to do what must be done.

Emily Eldritch has known for all of her thirty-nine years that she is not who she is meant to be. Now, in an anonymous hotel in Mid-Town Manhattan, she faces the truth of her ruined life; a husband who does not love her, a child she believes she is not fit to care for, and a grief that has never been faced.

And yet, in her final hours, something calls to her, reliving the events that have so reduced her... and offering her an impossible alternative.

Now Emily must choose whether to continue in this world, or take her chances in the next.

The Demons of Emily Eldritch Details

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From Reader Review The Demons of Emily Eldritch for online ebook

Jonny Bell says

This seething story of mental illness and depression seeps in your veins like some kind of dark shadow. Blending the best of Peter Straub and Stephen King, this psychological thriller takes the titular character through the last hours of her life, and looks at the cataclysmic events that have brought her to the point of no return.

This is not easy reading, and many of themes felt uncomfortably close to the truth - we all know people who have been bullied, people who have married the wrong person, or could never win Daddy's love.

It's not that Emily is weak... but these things grind her down, and when the author allows us to take a step back to understand why... well that is true horror.

I loved it.

Ash says

Well written, interesting...

Thoroughly enjoyed it.

An interesting study of depression and neurosis. Almost as a poem, Emily's tragic life unfolds. If you have ever dealt with depression and mental illness, this should be illuminating.

With a twist... I'm looking forward to reading Martin's other works. This short story is just a piece of the puzzle, and definitely needs some closure and clarification. :)

Jennifer says

This is a short story (approx a 45min read) about a woman who is in a hotel and contemplating her life.

As she does so, she reflects on the events of her life that have destroyed her confidence and infected her with a "leprosy of doubt" (BTW: an excellent phrase that I shall use in future).

This tale is not an action piece, but more of a character study. That said, there is great pace as the major events are covered and how they affect her; from the apathy of her father, the bully at school, and the death of her mother.

And then there is the ending! I won't say what the twist is, but I had to go back and re-read it... and yes all the clues are there. This story asks a really interesting question:

"What if the demons - that we all suffer from time-to-time - aren't just in our head? What if they are external to us, but we don't recognise them?"

The themes are really good; I loved the way the main character - Emily - considers her life in metaphors of the sea whilst she is looking at water in the bath. And the secondary themes of predating birds work well too.

This is a great story in the Lovecraft (The Call of Cthulhu) tradition, and the sense of creeping madness is beautiful to the point of painful - it describes really well how no-one wakes up one day feeling like this, but comes to this point slowly over many years, and for many reasons.

Like I said, the ending really creeped me out, and for a moment I considered how well I know those closest to me.

Recommend.

Contel Bradford says

The lies we live. I picked up this chilling short story after reading the amazing "The Call of The Black River", and was not disappointed. Rather than rehash the plot, I will just say this; this terrifying tale is a meditation on identity and memory, and makes you ask the question "How well do we really know our loved ones?" A gripping read that fans of Stephen King and Joe Hill will love.

George Cahill says

Echoes of The Fall

This is a thoroughly unnerving book, and addresses difficult issues that most authors avoid. In particular, Emily's mental illness and her post natal depression in the face of a seemingly uncaring and distant husband.

There is no getting away from it - this is a challenging read. If you have never suffered from depression, or don't know anyone who has, then you will struggle to understand why the main character is breaking apart. However, if you have ever felt low in your life you will instantly connect with themes of the story, and the character's struggle to hold herself together.

Emily's character is richly told, but I struggled to understand some of the actions of the periphery characters, and in particular the father. However, the revelation at the end made me appreciate at how easily we can take people as face value, and not question their motives until it is far too late.

I hope everyone read this with an open mind and an open heart. Then, reach out to those who struggle with mental illness in your community, because they need all the support they can get.

A gut wrenching and emotional read.

Yael Aharoni says

Two Worlds

This riveting read reminds me of Stephen King and Poe at their finest, and looks at how we are surrounded by strangers who call themselves our friends in modern day metropolis'

Playing well to the themes of memory and identity, the reader comes to realise that Emily's life is a lie, and

she is being manipulated by those who force her further and further from those who could help her, under the guise of love.

Jada Ryker says

Short Story with a Twist

Emily's demons haunted her. Sometimes they were louder. Sometimes their voices were softer. But they were always there.

"The leprosy waited with glee in her open wounds, gently gnawing on her reinvigorated nerves until a sense of numbness re-entered and she began to fall back into herself... into her cracks."

Martin Adil-Smith's *The Demons of Emily Eldritch* is a short, powerful story. The ending is unseen, unexpected, and an epiphany.

William Tooker says

Teasing us with the tip of the *Spirals of Danu* iceberg Martin Adil-Smith knocks his first effort out of the park. His prose is rich and textured like the most engrossing Anne Rice text. He has a rock solid command of metaphor that does not break down when extended some distance. My one quibble is that the twist could have been foreshadowed a bit to make it equally as compelling but less jarring. But how can you not be driven dreamy with imaginings when hearing of the Outer Dreamer? This is an imagination that makes me eager to explore and I would have to say that this is in the top 1% of first efforts I've seen. My appetite is absolutely whetted for the entre coming in *The Spirals of Danu*.

Tyler Shen says

If you are a woman, you will totally understand this story. The chances are that if you are a modern man, you will get it too.

The titular Emily has not had an easy life. A father who ignores her, bullies at school, and then her mother dies... all these things conspire against her, until she reaches breaking point.

Her husband should have saved her from her personal demons, but instead... well I'll let you read it and find out.

If you have ever felt like you have dated (or even married) the wrong person, then you will love this book, and it gives an unsettling insight as to why these people come into our lives.

Gritty, creepy, and often a little too close to the truth - recommended.

Jon Vanbuskirk says

It's very hard to judge short stories due to there being so little time to really get to know the characters. That being said, I did enjoy this particular story, in fact I even felt like I could understand the main characters driving feelings.

I think this was a great start to the series, but not a good standalone short-story.

John says

What at first seems like lengthy character development ends up being the plot itself. Very well-written, but with several blatant typos. I enjoyed it for the prose, but stories about suicidal women aren't really my thing. As with the other Martin Adil-Smith piece I read, the story takes a sudden and jarring turn for the bizarre at about the 85% mark. The twist here didn't make total sense to me, but perhaps it's because I'm reading these books out of order and there's some overarching mythology I'm not yet aware of.

Sheryl Seal says

The Demons of Emily Eldritch (The Spirals of Danu) by Martin Adil-Smith is a definite eye-opener! Highly recommended with a powerful message! From the very page, I knew this would be a great short read and Emily was a great character that will touch many lives, she will long stay with me. Very deep and dark, there are others who will relate (in my opinion).

"Every time she closes her eyes, Another little piece inside of her dies, She relives the mistakes of the day, And she knows she can't escape. Each wonderful chapter has a poem like this which is very thought provoking and the author Martin Adil-Smith has a beautiful way with words. The end was a great twist, that I myself have often wondered on...

Evan Bollinger says

This nerve shredding shorty story is a blend of Poe and Lovecraft, and looks at how living in a major metropolis can make you nearly invisible.

Addressing issues like mental illness with great tenderness, Emily Eldritch's world begins to unravel as the main players in her life are of questionable identity, but also the reader comes to suspect the protagonists memory is not as reliable as she claims.

Emily is unaware of the lies and shadows that surround, and is unaware that her demons are not in solely confined to her head.

A truly creeping horror story. Recommended.

Shane O'Neill says

An excellent read from the pen of Martin Adil-Smith, which resonated very much with me and the fallout and effects of not dealing properly with grief. The ramifications of that psychologically usually last a lifetime, and this is reflected in the story's main character. But this tale has a much more chilling aspect, and really packs a punch.

Leanna Harrow says

Weaving fiction and reality together, this shivering short story really gave me the goosebumps, and reminded of the works of Philip K Dick and Clive Barker.

Unseen, but wholly humanoid figures orchestrate events around poor Emily Eldritch as she is brought to her lowest point by the people she loves.

The detail is wonderful, and the writing is crisp and fresh.

A great idea delivered creepy wonder.

Recommended.
