



The Boy Next Door

Sinclair Smith

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The bestselling author of *Let Me Tell You How I Died* delivers nail-biting new chills and thrills when a young girl discovers that the charming boy next door is really very dangerous--and that he's not really living next door. He's in the crawl-space under her house.

The Boy Next Door Details

Date : Published 1996 by Scholastic (first published 1995)

ISBN : 9780590133777

Author : Sinclair Smith

Format : Unknown Binding 163 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Childrens

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From Reader Review The Boy Next Door for online ebook

Tara Calaby says

I kept waiting for the pay-off. There wasn't one. Poorly written, great chunks of capslock text and a vital thing left unexplained at the end.

Michelle Toy says

2 out of 5 Point Horror Book Stars!

(I rate these books compared to other Point Horror Books Only)

I read this as part of the #pointhorrorbookclub that I run monthly!

You can read the post here <http://talesofyesterday.co.uk/2015/09...>

This is more of a discussion than a review with highlighted areas of the book and has a comedy feel to the discussion to. Please be aware that as this is a discussion there will be spoilers.

Want to know more about #pointhorrorbookclub - check this out <http://talesofyesterday.co.uk/tales-p...>

I wasn't so sure of this Point Horror but - classic retro point horror!

For more reviews and book chat please visit www.talesofyesterday.co.uk

Please be aware that the discussion will contain spoilers!

Nattie says

Stupid. Stupid. Stupid. That is all. Oh wait, wasn't the crawlspace in the attic, not under the house? It wasn't really a crawlspace, but it most assuredly was NOT under the house, unless you can get on your roof from under your house these days. I mean really, who wrote that synopsis?

Sam says

A particularly chilling point horror book, this is a good read as it is quite subtle and not that scary when reading but it will play on your mind once it's finished

Hannah Schuelke says

Personal Response

I liked many things about *The Boy Next Door* including the detail and idea. The book however, this was not one of my favorite books for many reasons. I thought the book was a let down in the end, and it was not very interesting or fun to read. The book was also kind of confusing and was not what I was expecting.

Plot Summary

The book begins with a good girl named Randy, but then Randy falls in love with a complete stranger named Julian. Julian moves into the abandoned house next door, and as Randy gets closer to Julian, she discovers he is a prankster. Julian turns Randy into a rebel and gets her to start pulling harmful pranks on people. Soon Randy's best friend, Alice, starts to figure what is going on and she thinks Julian is just part of Randy's imagination. After a few serious pranks, Randy notices Julian is very strange and dangerous, so she tries to avoid him. Randy manages to avoid him for a few days until Julian captures Alice, and Randy goes into Julian's house to save her best friend. Once Randy enters the house she easily spots Alice, but can not get her out. Julian shows up and corners Randy however, as he is about to get her the ceiling falls and traps Julian. Randy and Alice's friend comes to their rescue and calls the cops. The police take Julian back to prison. Alice and Randy are back to being best friends again and trusting each other.

Recommendation

I recommend this book to younger kids because it might not be that interesting to older kids. I would recommend this book to people who enjoyed reading or want to read short, thriller, and scary stories. I would also recommend this book to people who like a little suspense in their books. This book might be a little hard to understand and might make young kids worried or scared.

Jolene Haley says

I really liked this novel. The entire time I couldn't figure out whether or not the main character, a girl named Randy, was a reliable narrator. I like it when I have to try and figure that out.

In fact, the entire way though, I loved the mental warfare that Sinclair Smith played with the reader.

If I could change anything however, I would change the ending. I did like the twist-- I didn't see it coming AT ALL. But the ending felt very rushed and all of a sudden the dialogue didn't seem to fit. It almost felt like someone else wrote the end. For example, at a very serious end of the book, the main character yells, "TOO MUCH CHEESE IS BAD FOR YOUR CHOLESTEROL..." Now I understand the author may have been trying to put this in for comic effect but, it just didn't work among the other dialogue at the end. So, I would change that if I could.

Other than the weird dialogue and rushed end, I did enjoy this novel. I think fans of R.L. Stine would enjoy this YA thriller.

I give it 4 out of 5 blocks of cholesterol raising cheese.

Priscilla VdL says

I read the Dutch version..in 2007 i think, like it!!...I finished rereading it today.

It's one of the first thrillers I've read so that awesome.

Ava Haine says

INTRIGUING

It is not impossible that recent psychological thriller films are based upon these types of novels. For me, reading this piece was like watching the movie, *The Boy*, where the actual porcelain doll who she thinks is haunted was actually being moved by a man living in the house she's sitting. It kinda has the same logic as this novel, only by reading it, might move bits and pieces of your thoughts in different directions; exactly how Randy's been experiencing halfway through the story, which I find genius.

I admire how well it was written in such fast-paced manner under 200 pages, without ruining the twist, and that classic ending that I only see in movies.

The Boy Next Door is one read that can be a reference regarding classic thriller films, how the plot thickens, how the story flows, it was all like watching a slasher film made in the 80's.

Chelsea Murrell says

Read this book many years ago when I was at school getting into horror books. It's a fun little read for any YA horror book reader like all Point Horrors. It kept me entertained the whole time reading it.

Gayle Noble says

One of the strangest Point Horror books in my collection. Charlotte (Randy short for Randolph) is a cheerleader with a best friend called Alice, and a boyfriend named Ted. A boy shows up and says his family are moving into the vacant house next door and he starts to talk Randy into playing rather cruel and potentially dangerous pranks on her friends.

It's unbelievable that Randy would just drop all of her life including Alice and Ted for a boy she doesn't know. Especially one that is so obviously creepy and has just shown up out of nowhere. Also **WHAT WAS WITH THE AUTHOR WRITING IN CAPS SO MUCH?!** Very annoying. This one has not stood the test of time for me.
