



Bite

Richard Laymon

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It's almost midnight. Cat's on the bed, facedown and naked. She's Sam's former girlfriend, the only woman he's ever loved. Sam's in the closet, with a hammer in one hand and a wooden stake in the other. Together they wait as the clock ticks down because ... the vampire is coming. When Cat first appeared at Sam's door he couldn't believe his eyes. He hadn't seen her in years, but he'd never forgotten her. Not for a second. But before this night is through, Sam will enter a nightmare of blood and fear that he'll never be able to forget -- no matter how hard he tries.

Bite Details

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Author : Richard Laymon

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Kristen says

Boo to whoever wrote the synopsis on the back of this book, and Boo to Richard Laymon for what this book turned into. This book is sold as a vampire novel... it's not, in fact the "vampire" has metal fangs and spends 90% of the book in the trunk of a car with a stake through him, looking very very dead. This book follows Cat and Sam through a series of bad luck and even worse choices. The choices they make are so dumb, that the reader will find themselves hoping that the vampire WOULD come back and do the two of them in before they have a chance to breed and create anyone else as dumb as the two of them.

Short Summary: Cat shows up out of nowhere on the front steps of her long forgotten ex-boyfriends house. She asks him (after not seeing him for 10 years) to slay a vampire for her... so without a single question he goes "Okay" and they slay the vampire. Then they pop the Vampire's body into the trunk and head off to who knows where to try to bury the body. But they get a flat, and meet up with a serial killer, and some hostages, and some other nastiness... but they laugh and have sex through all of it.

It seems like this should have been at least an okay book. But it wasn't... in reality this was a very boring book with little to no action, lots of whining and Cat yapping about the 57 or so times she has been raped, bitten by vampires, beaten by men, forced into abortions etc, and Sam just sort of nods at her and says something along the lines of "well that sucks" and she nods. These have to be two of the dumbest, and most boring characters ever put into a horror novel. And the sad thing is that if either of them had a lick of sense this book would have only been about 50 pages long... and better for it. The dialogue is terrible, the plot is full of more holes than a cheese grater, and the ending leaves the reader wondering – why did I just read that... I could have put it down and read something else... or picked my toes for 3 hours and had a better time.

Sorry, I can't even recommend this to Laymon fans. The gore isn't up to his standards... there is of course lots of sex and body descriptions... and I think it is a Laymon requirement to use the word "Rump" at least 30 times per book. I won't say that it's the worst book I've ever read... but it will be one that I quickly forget.

Heather Wildman says

I'm a great lover of character driven stories probably because human reaction is what life is made of. After having a Laymon book read to me over the phone, I fell in love with his character building abilities. So, when this book came highly recommended by someone who knows me rather well, I had to read it.

In this book about the murder and disposal of a vampire, the question of whether or not they are real is a steady theme. Bite takes the reader on an adventure that consists of a series of unforeseen happenings and one man's excuse to prolong his time with the woman he has obsessed over for years. So, are vampires real? Well, according to Laymon's characters in this book, the world may never know...

Vicki Willis says

This had all the things I consider Laymon. Dumb, adolescent-like boy, manipulative girl, bizarre sex and of course a lunatic. It wasn't his best, but it kept my interest and I enjoyed it. The ending was the best part for me.

Horace Derwent says

i like the storyline and it's structure, i like the author's way of telling the story, i like the story

i think i've been a longtime fan cuz i've collected over 20 books of his

what outrageously stunning books he cud write if he hadn't died so early(oh, michael mcdowell as well)?

can i say some F word?

???

Douglas Boren says

Ok, I gave this three stars only because I have to admit, the author did in fact write "well". There was good description, character developement, and tension for climax. However...the story sucked.

First and foremost, this is NOT a vampire thriller. Not even close.

Its more about mass murderers, and is basically a descent into depravity, stupidity, and intense sado-masochism.

I never could like the main characters; they can be described in three words...dirt-dumb-stupid. I came to feel they deserved whatever foul things came their way they were soooo stupid!

While this had some tension, and suspense, it is NOT a horror novel. If that's what you are looking for, you'd be far better off reading something by Terry Lloyd Vinson or Nick Pacione

Jey-Em says

After reading Darkness, Tell Us, I was intrigued by Laymon's rather eccentric writing. Not to mention his sexual take on things. I really thought I would like this book but it turned out otherwise.

What took the book down was the nonsense dialogues that just add up in the book's pages. I also observed 3 to 4 pages of Sam's peeping at Cat. 2 pages would do, Mr. Laymon.

What's more, Elliot's not really mentioned in the book. He just lay there in the car's trunk and that's pretty much his action.

To sum it all up, 1 star to this crappy book. I never imagined myself giving a one star to a book, really.

Reese Copeland says

Initially, I thought the book started great. This was shortly interrupted by a lot of boring details and lots of frustrations regarding "can we just get on with the story now?!". I realize some of this was for suspense, and that's great and all, but, when it starts impeding the progress of the story, maybe you should quit while you're behind. Eventually, the story ended, which I often found myself eagerly awaiting cause at least then I could say the story was progressing. Now, having said all of this, I thought the ending was genius. Wished it hadn't taken forever to get there, but, it was a great ending. If you have lots of patience, this is a great Laymon book for you. If you like things that move quick, prepare to be frustrated.

Janie Johnson says

Wow what to say about this book. Nothing like I expected, and I was really disappointed because I like most of Laymon's works. But this one, just did not do it for me. Nothing to take from the book at all. Hell I probably won't even remember in a year or two.

The begining, the set up of the story, was a bit ridiculous, so this supposed Vampire is introduced, and then the title "Bite" came into play for a moment and that was it. Where was the fear and the intensity at? Then towards the middle it gave me a few laughs. Even though it is supposed to be a horror, as it says in description of book 'Sam will enter a nightmare of blood and fear that he will never forget'. I didn't see that at all. It seemed to be mostly about this guys peversions. No action, no fear from the characters really, maybe on ocassion. And there was no seriousness about the matter at hand. I feel also lacked good character developemnet.

The end of the book was way drawn out. It was almost like Laymon really did not know where to go with it and just started throwing stuff in there that he thought sounded good. All I could do was shake my head and hope that I could get through the last of the book. So because the middle of the book gave me a bit of a reaction albeit it was not fear, but laughter, I gave it 2 stars.

Adam Light says

Bite is Laymon in top, if not peak, form. Fun, witty, danger around every bend. I won't declare it essential Laymon (unless you, like me, want to read every word he wrote) but it is a great example of the .author's talents.

Mylene says

I will always be a huge Laymon fan. That being said, I can totally see how a newbie could start a book like

Bite and decide prematurely that Laymon sucks. The beginning of Bite is a bore fest... How much description do we really need about Cat and Sam trying to move the dead body of a so-called vampire? I have to say that I was even more irritated by the fact that I was going to have to slug through a whole vampire tale as I am sick to death of the neighborhood Nosferatus. But, as a true Laymon fan (and an avid, if not, obsessive reader), I hung in there and it paid off. Ironically, this type of long winded, painfully detailed introduction allows Laymon to do what he does best by getting the reader to drop their guard and sets them up for the action to come. The story really picks up when our heroes get shot off the road and end up meeting Snow White. It picks up even more speed when Donny and Peggy get in on the festivities. There are twists and turns, to say the least. Laymon takes us on a rollicking roller coaster and the reader is left saddened when the drops are over and the ride ends. Newbies: take note of this review! Give Laymon a chance.... You won't be disappointed.

Not my favorite Laymon novel, but it grew on me. At the end of the day, I got exactly what I expected from this author.

Mark says

I've said this with previous Laymon reviews and I will say it again - Richard Laymon does not beat around the bush with detail and in-depth description, he writes slash horror like that seen in b-grade horror movies. Generally, there are assorted sex scenes and he usually tries to push the boundaries. This is Richard Laymon's style. He is NOT Stephen King, Clive Barker or Poe. This is what you will get from every one of Laymon's books and it is what I expect, therefore my ranking is based on this.

If the previous paragraph did not make sense then let me make it clearer. At times Laymon's writing comes across as nonsensical because of the lack of detail and sometimes the lack introduction to the storyline - here I will sum up the opening of this book to prove my point.

"Sam has never really gotten over the girl, Cat, he had the hots for back in school. Although it has been years, the thought of her still arouses him. One day, out of the blue and after many years, (in which she has married and lost her husband) she knocks on his door with a story to tell. She wants Sam's help to kill a vampire that has been visiting her some nights for the past year. At first, she didn't mind but now she wants the vampire, named Elliot, gone. She proposes Sam waits in the closet until Elliot visits and then kills him while he is distracted by Cat. Sam agrees to do the deed."

In Laymon speak the story has now been set up and is ready to roll - who cares that it is rather an obtuse and unbelievable opening - no fun to write there, Laymon wants to get straight into the horror.

By no means is this the most bloodthirsty or horrific of Laymon titles I have read but it does deliver what I expected. A weird horror where nearly every character turns on one another at some stage. Included is a typical Richard Laymon trait as he introduces a character that becomes essential to the story but kills them off when their time has run. This book was FUN. A classic of literary genius, far from it but it was FUN. A quick read to slot between heavier reads. I will continue to use Laymon for just that, a break up of more lengthy and heavier reads and lots of nonsensical FUN.

Gary says

I really liked this. The plot is weird with twists and turns that lead everywhere and nowhere. As always, Laymon finds a ridiculous number of sexually deviant psychopaths everywhere, but isn't that part of what makes him fun to read. While this isn't one of his best, I thought it was one of his better books. It was a fun summer read and since I didn't go into it too seriously, I was able to enjoy it. Laymon has been my favorite author since I discovered him a decade or so ago.

Wendy says

What to say about this book? Well it was 'interesting'. One of the things that I am finding about Laymon's books, at least the ones that I have read, is that his main male characters always seem to be easily lead around by the women by their little brain instead of their big ones. lol I mean some of the stuff that Sam goes along with in the name of love really makes you wonder just what kind of idiot this guy is.

I kept waiting for Cat to say 'Surprise' this was all a set up to get you back, or some other crap. lol I found the entire plot of the book to be very surreal (at least I think that is the word that I am looking for). From the minute that Cat shows up at Sam's door in nothing but her housecoat after 10 years asking him to kill a vampire for her, to the climax of the story the twists just seemed so unreal to me. Like how in the world could all of these things keep happening to these people.

All in all a great book for one of the Sick Shit swaps but not the greatest read ever.

Addy says

I gave this book a 3 only because even though I was disappointed in the material, when I truly thought about it, I really shouldn't have expected anything different. Once he had introduced Snow White and the idiot twins (Donny and Peggy) I should have known this would be more about them than a supposed vampire who spent the majority of its time in the trunk of a car. Despite these flaws, it did have me guessing and gave me a few laughs on the way. Definitely not his best and not a good place to start if you are a laymon newbie. I imagined all kinds of possibilities laymon could have taken for the ending. The one he picked was ok.

Adamus says

This was a little different for me & definitely a different style for Laymon even tho there wasn't as much action in it as his others it did still grab you. I was a little disappointed because how the plot turned out, but there were some really suspenseful moments & not too mention a lot of funny moments. I feel Laymon tried something different with this book compared to his others it wasn't bad but it wasn't exactly what I expected, & because the plot that's why I have it 4 stars, but it was still a pretty good book & I would recommend it still to Laymon fans.

