



## No Doors, No Windows

*Joe Schreiber*

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## No Doors, No Windows Joe Schreiber

When madness is your inheritance, how do you escape it?

Scott Mast thought he got away—first from a family haunted by a dark fate, then from a dull career writing greeting cards in Seattle. But now he has come back to his New Hampshire hometown only to find that his family is in ruins, his nephew needs a home, and a shattering truth is clawing its way into the light.

Fifteen years ago, Scott's mother died in a fire. And now the shadowy circumstances—the bodies buried beneath the ashes, the lives ripped apart that fateful day—are starting to be revealed. The answers unspool in the pages of a peculiar old manuscript—an unfinished ghost story written in his father's own hand that beckons Scott out to a strange house in the woods with a lightless corridor that cannot be seen from the outside. Here Scott Mast will uncover all that has been hidden—and perhaps finish his father's unspeakable work.

## No Doors, No Windows Details

Date : Published October 13th 2009 by Del Rey (first published January 1st 2009)

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Author : Joe Schreiber

Format : Paperback 276 pages

Genre : Horror, Thriller, Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Adult

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## From Reader Review No Doors, No Windows for online ebook

### Philip says

Good. Not great. While Schreiber's novel starts out with the fairly unique setting of the Round House (which has both doors and windows, so I'm not sure where the title of the book comes from) and an interesting cast of characters the more that is revealed the less interesting it all gets until it becomes a pile of derivative mush that ends up resembling the ending of a 'Nightmare on Elm Street' movie rather than the tense haunted house story you were promised in the beginning. A noble effort, but it doesn't compare at all to House of Leaves. (As you may read in other reviews.) Worth checking out. It would have been a ton better without several soap opera revelations in the final 10 pages of the story.

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### Cathy says

I liked this book quite a bit. Very creepy and scary. Greeting card writer/failed fiction writer Scott Mast comes home for his father's funeral. He finds an unfinished manuscript written by his father and becomes obsessed with finishing it and with the "Round House" that the story is about. I happened to be reading it when stranded in another city. Why was I reading a scary book when I was all alone stranded, you ask? Because I'm an idiot. Anyway, I thought the book was very well written. The tension builds as the Scott gets closer to the truth about the house and about his family. Some of the end was a bit confusing and perhaps contrived to make it all fit and for that I dropped the rating from five to four, but if you like the horror genre, I would definitely check this book out.

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### Tripp says

There are two horror novelists whose books I avidly await. The first is Sarah Langan and the second is Joe Schreiber. Both write spooky stories that disturb not by creating revolting images, but by creating moods and suggesting terrible things. They are young and have just a few (solid) books to their credit, but Schreiber has two new books out. The books are in different genres, so I expected some variation, but I found the differences between them to be startling.

One book, Death Troopers, has an immediately engaging concept, but a weak payoff. The other, No Doors, No Windows, has one of the most hackneyed of concepts, but is riveting throughout. In Death Troopers, an Imperial prison barge investigates and abandoned Star Destroyer and finds it occupied by space zombies. Sounds cool, but doesn't go anywhere. No Doors, No Windows is a haunted house story about a hard luck family and the gothic horrors of small towns. It's been done a million times, but Schreiber's characters, plot peculiarities, pacing and writing rise to the top.

Death Troopers has weak characterization, relies on the Star Wars universe to carry much of the background and is marred by far too much exposition. No Doors, No Windows has a number of interesting characters, some cliched to be sure, but sympathetically and often surprisingly handled. The difference in the writing is just shocking. It feels lifeless in Death Troopers, while vigorous in No Doors, No Windows. Sadly, I think that Death Troopers might be the future of Schreiber's books (he already has a prequel in the works.)

Death Troopers has a sales rank of 430, while No Doors No Windows has a rank of 89,965 (as of this writing). I can't blame him if he churns out more of these Star Wars books. My only hope is that the people who find him thanks to Star Wars move on (and buy) his much better horror books.

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### **Misty says**

Great book, delightfully creepy!

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### **Vicki Olson says**

Freaky!

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### **Amit says**

For the sake of my life I will never quit reading, never ever...

Ahhhhh! Tell me that this was some kind of joke. Are kidding with me? How supposed to write something ok when at the same time I feel fear and emotional in the exact moment! I do believe right now I am incapable of writing a good or say a solid for this novel...

It was good, too good. The kind of novel that kept uptight to your position while you are reading. I do want to admit that this one is one of the best horror novel that I read in the year of 2018. If you ask me than of course I will love to recommend this work to those who love to read a good horror fiction...

Right now as I am writing this review I could feel every type of emotions that playing in my head. Would you believe that I was in that totally emotional by my mental condition. I just couldn't believe that. Well you see from a horror fiction you expect to find scary, creepy or cruel events; if you know what I mean. But at that exact point of that book while I was reading I just couldn't help myself but felt attached with the character that almost made me cry...

The story was too good as I already mentioned it. Specifically the way the author described it. I was so caught up with all the events from this book that in the end I forgot my sense of time. I was totally lost in it. I would say not from the beginning but when you deep further to the book, after then you will gradually become more aware with those characters. By the I liked the description of the circumstances and believe me in some point these writing style of making a story creep the hell out of me. I do remember in almost in the last end I read something and then I reread it again, couldn't believing my own eyes I felt fear; the kind of fear you don't want feel whenever you see or heard something unthinkable...

Scott!

Believe me this character that I think I can match something with myself. I could see myself in him (if some point) and I do felt sorry for him. I don't know how to make it right to say something about him but it's that character that make me think again that no matter what Life is so unpredictable...

**Sonia!**

Ah, that women. I don't want to talk about her but I know I do have to. Don't get me wrong but I felt pity for her sounding no offence here as I mentioned it already Life is so unpredictable and of course you don't when and how it might turn even in a split of second...

**Owen!**

Brother of Scott. Always drunk, hopeless person who never sure what to do with himself but hey he did have a good health into him. & what he did in the end for that women well it could never be better than that...

**Henry!**

Ah! That poor sweet little boy, son of Owen. I felt terribly sorry for that little pal, and reading about him I again couldn't help myself but remembered some of dark past of my childhood time...

**Colette!**

Special thanks for this character to the author. Though at first I really beginning to hate her but in the end well that was another story. But what happened with her husband (that sick minded beast) Red, yeah he deserved it and guess what? It satisfied my mind too. Never mind...

From me 5 out 5. Thanks to the Author -

Joe Schreiber...

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**Naomi says**

Creepy, but I don't think it really stood out. It was good enough that I will def. seek out other works by this author, but I have read horror books which have stood out more.

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**Robert says**

Schreiber does it again! This is one heck of a cold ride through a cursed, not haunted, house in the back woods of Vermont. The characters, the prose and the storyline crackle with that magical energy that makes you feel as if there are cold fingers running down your spine as you read. Read this book and you will be hooked on this author. As an aside his other book, Chasing the Dead, is another example of the far reaches of his talent. Enjoy, oh and don't forget to leave all of the lights on when you read this one.

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**Irenic says**

I saw this one pop up on Amazon a few times, and upon reading the blurb, kept passing it up. Then I came across it at the library and it was the best thing available, so I brought it home. Very glad I did. I enjoyed Schreiber's writing. His protagonist's struggle with a mental disorder (anxiety I think) and his brother's struggle with alcoholism rang true to me. I also like this type of haunted house story, where the house has a unique architectural detail (that's all I'm saying, so no spoiler). The sense of impending doom ramped up a little with every chapter, and the end was fairly satisfying, if a bit far-fetched.

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### **Tammy Walton Grant says**

Great set up, build up, starts ominous, then creepy, drifts to scary and speeds along to the climax - which then becomes a huge plane crash of half-baked storylines, cliches and convenient resolutions all thrown together with a sappy denouement on top. Whew.

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An excellent book until the last 30 pages or so. I really enjoyed the writing, again, until the last 30 pages or so. I'd like to read more by this author and would recommend this book even though I didn't care for all the goings on at the end. It was a great ride up til then.

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### **Edith English says**

#### **Thrilling**

Mr. Schreiber has done an excellent job of bringing the bizarre to reality. His imagination and talent conjured up a round house, heretofore unheard of. This book kept my attention throughout and I have found a new author to add to my favorite list.

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### **Lawrence Kapture says**

No Doors, No Windows is by Joe Schreiber, who writes short, smooth little horror thrillers with a really crawly creep factor.

No Doors, No Windows finds Scott Mast back home in small town America for his father's funeral. His alcoholic brother can barely take care of his precocious nephew, but Scott's about to go back to his successful job writing greeting cards on the coast when he finds pages from a novel manuscript written by his assumedly unimaginative father. The manuscript leads Scott to a haunted house mentioned in it, which leads to our protagonist renting the haunted house and trying to finish his dad's haunted novel. He's stopped taking his meds, and his research on the house's history seems to indicate that his whole family has a history of mental instability that goes back generations.

I liked how the scenario starts slightly off, with the funeral and the dysfunctional family. Each detail the author adds: the house in the manuscript turning out to be real, the dead girl in the blue dress, the ex suddenly showing up, the revelation that she dumped him cold without an explanation when they were set to leave town together, the once beautiful town matriarch addicted to plastic surgery... each bit just adds tension and an element of creepy, until the weird is rattling around in the story like a loose bolt in a dune buggy. I also really relished that the house shows up in many generations of his family's art, like a bad thought they are trying to exorcise.

I felt like you couldn't tell if the protagonist was haunted or nuts until close to the end, and I'm not going to tell you which. I do think Joe mines interesting territory, setting a presumably modern illness in the remote past. The ending seemed like it got wrapped up a little too neatly. Perhaps that was because over the course

of the story your feelings about the protagonist are muddled: should you be afraid for him, or of him? That's often par for the course in horror, but I wanted a little more emotional certainty about the outcome. Otherwise, it was a creepy, fun, quick read.

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### **Vicki G says**

I think this is the best book I've read all year. Words fail me when trying to explain why, b/c it has more to do with a feeling than any word, and my feelings have this bad habit of eluding one- or two-word descriptions.

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### **Alex Telander says**

It's been recommended that writers should stick to writing what they know when it comes to writing, and what better character can a writer write about than him- or herself . . . a writer. But the writer in Joe Schreiber's new novel, *No Doors, No Windows*, is one with a dark, disturbing past that even he doesn't fully understand until the last few pages of the book, and has worked hard to forget and stay away from. One hopes that Joe Schreiber isn't anything like his character, Scott Mast.

Scott Mast wanted to make it big as a writer, but it never happened. So now he spends his days living relatively well, writing copy for greeting cards. He currently lives in Seattle and is happily far away from his family and old life where he grew up. That is until his father dies and he must return home to New Hampshire, finding an alcoholic loser of a brother with a son who he neglects and fails at being a decent father to. As Mast contemplates what he can do to help – there's the touchy history of their mother having died fifteen years ago in a horrific fire – he discovers a unfinished manuscript his father was apparently working on. It's about a very special house where there are no corners or edges; everything is curved and rounded. In this house there is a door that leads to "the black wing," where there are no doors, and no windows; where terrible things happen. But the story is unfinished and Mast decides that he must finish the book himself. After meeting up with an old girlfriend (their failed relationship is its own doomed story), he stumbles upon a remote house that turns out to be exactly like the one in his father's manuscript.

And so Mast rents the house and begins writing the story, feeling a strange presence overtake him when he is adding to the manuscript. He knows it has something to do with the house, but he doesn't know what. Meanwhile his brother falls deeper into his booze-filled spiral, leaving young Henry alone and abandoned. The clues gently fall in to place with each chapter, as Schreiber leaves the read wanting more, forcing the turning of the page, and the need to know what is the story behind Scott Mast and his strange mental state; what's the story behind the house; what's the deal with Mast's brother; and most importantly: what's the story behind the Mast family that deals with the dark history of the town. Horror readers will enjoy *No Doors, No Windows* for its psychological thrill ride that doesn't get revealed and resolved until the very last pages of the book.

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For more reviews, check out the BookBanter site.

### **Sakura says**

I loved this book! It kept me at the edge of my seat as I read every chapter. I couldn't put it down for one second, I wanted to know what was going to happen next after every page. The suspense behind the story kept me going until the end. The twist and turns of the story feed my curiosity of wanting to know what was next for Scoot Mast. I think this was the best horror/suspense story that I have ever read.

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