



# The Game

*Shane Scollins*

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## **The Game** Shane Scollins

No matter where you are, they'll find you, and put you in "The GAME".

Candice Laguna's life is being systematically dismantled, by an unknown force, for a reason she can't imagine. But she is about to become the unwilling star of a reality game competition the likes of which has never been broadcast to the world.

Just when things get darkest, a mysterious man snatches her from the grips of doom. He is a man who is not what he appears, and not who he says. He has no name and his motivation to help Candice is not what it seems to be.

THE GAME is a mystery/thriller with an unpredictable paranormal twist. It has action and adventure and plays up the everyday exploitation of reality television obsession gone wrong.

## **The Game Details**

Date : Published March 13th 2013 by Limitless Publishing

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Author : Shane Scollins

Format : Kindle Edition 231 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Romance, Mystery

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# From Reader Review The Game for online ebook

## Emiliya says

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## Tristan says

Yet another amazing book by Shane Scollins! Just when I thought I knew where the book was going he threw in a twist I didn't see coming! My kids thankfully know how to cook because once I start one of these books, I'm not putting it down until it's finished! I'm looking forward to seeing more from this author, his books keep me interested and it takes a lot to hold my attention. I'm generally reading several books at once but his I have to finish before I pick up another.

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## Emma says

Yum. Intense. Exciting. Action Packed. Smidge of romance. Great characters. Fun, new plot. In all, a fantastic book that was well worth the read. This girl gets sucked in to a maniacs version of a reality show- and that means 'testing' his candidates before starting the show. Oh too good!

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## Jeff Dawson says

The main character is Candice. She's a bit of sassy little thing until she start receiving some very unwanted calls from a man who appears to infatuated with her. What she doesn't understand is that she and her friends have been chosen to participate in the most macabre reality show to ever hit the airwaves and internet.

The villain in the story is Angus and his collection of minions: Rena, Mark and Caleb. This is one of the nastiest collections of individuals I've ever come across. Of the group, Caleb is definitely the vilest person you will ever come across.

Angus wants Candice to play in his game. She does everything she can to get away from this nut job he starts turning her life upside down: fired from her job, reposed car, drained bank account, the murder of one of her ex-boyfriends and a video of her best friend, stripped and bound to a bed.

From this point, Angus toys with her, drawing him into his "Game." Let me tell you, the scenes of the game Angus has her play are some of the most exciting I've ever read. It's gruesome, horrifying and extremely suspenseful!

Did I mention there's also a ghost in the story?

The main problem I have is once the game is over, the story continues. I think it should have a sequel. A lot of the energy and excitement that is packed into this thriller, loses its punch.

Highly recommend for all YA and adult readers.

A few grammatical errors, but nothing to detract from the story.

Solid four stars

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### **Betty Hart says**

Just finished this book today. Loved it. I got into it right off without having any idea where it would lead. I was surprised by the turns it took. Very exciting and enjoyable read. Recommend it highly.

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### **Leigh says**

#### **ORIGINAL REVIEW AT: LITTLE BOOK STAR**

I really enjoyed reading *The Game*! At first I thought it was about the characters getting put into a maze which is the game, but nope! It was a fresh read because there was a lot of unique things going on especially with Lukas's character, our protagonist. The beginning was super uber intense and terrifying! It starts out with this person who creepily butts in to Candice's life. I was just like "who is this creeper!? How did he know Candice's number? Who the heck is he?" It was just like a movie playing in my head. Even if it's a young adult book, the characters seems mature. It's written in 3rd person point of view and it switches perspective between Candice, our 19 year old protagonist, Lukas, and the third perspective is sometimes the antagonist or another character in the book. What I also like about this book was the actual "game" scene. Oh my goodness. I wish I had popcorn with me while I was reading those scenes because they were just suspenseful and scary! I wish the game lasted longer though, and it's not because I want to see the characters suffer, lol, no!

What I was kind of iffy about was when I got to know more about Lukas and his situation. Even though his character was well thought of, I feel like his situation didn't really fit the whole game thing, especially the ending. The last couple of chapters were kind of leading into a new plot and new type of story. But I think some of you will like it though. While there is the whole game thing going on, we also get to see who Lukas really is. Another thing that I was "so-so" about was the romance. It was alright to me, and kind of cheesy sometimes. It was a bit sudden, but I love how every time an obstacle comes crushing in between them, they still find a way to be together.

Overall, I recommend this to everyone especially if you're in for a thrill! It's such a fresh read that will leave you hooked on from the first page.

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### **Jennifer O'Neill says**

If you're a fan of *Hunger Games* or *The Maze Runner* your gonna love this!

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### **Misty Baker says**

For those of you that don't know, my husband is a bit of a computer genius. He can spend hours staring at

random dots and slashes (that to any “normal person” (like myself) looks like nothing more than gibber jabber) and definitively determine who/what/when/and where something may or may not be occurring. He speaks a language that I fail to understand (usually including words like: bit, ram, server, cache, appatach...I could keep going.) and can usually fix anything (in 5 minutes or less) that my computer illiterate ass can screw up.

Because of this deep understanding of the digital world, he is Captain Paranoid when it comes to online security. Me? Not so much. Sure...I’ve watched Hackers, and heard horror stories about identity theft, but much like any 85 year old Grandpa who has a hard time using Google, I just assume nothing bad is going to happen to me and I go about my day.

Last month however, I stumbled upon this web series called Cybergeddon and reality finally smacked me square in the jaw. Sure...I knew it was just a show, (and the possibility of me being hunted down by a deranged lunatic with a grudge was about as likely as me eating a cockroach for fun) but something struck a chord with me.

We are all connected!

Over the years we have become slaves to the internet. Privacy? Pffft. Forget it! Every piece of personal information we possess is tucked away somewhere in some digital file just waiting to be exploited. And that is a pretty scary thought.

But not as scary as Shane Scollins “The Game.” After reading this...I’m just gonna go with “F’d up book”... I am making a vow to be a little more careful. Also...I’ve decided that “shoot first, ask questions later” might not be such a bad motto to have in some circumstances. (David would be so proud.)

"No matter where you are, they'll find you, and put you in... “The GAME”.

Candice Laguna’s life is being systematically dismantled, by an unknown force, for a reason she can’t imagine. But she is about to become the unwilling star of a reality game competition the likes of which has never been broadcast to the world.

Just when things get darkest, a mysterious man snatches her from the grips of doom. He is a man who is not what he appears, and not who he says. He has no name and his motivation to help Candice is not what it seems to be."

Well...since I’m feeling extra generous today, I’ve decided to serve up the “happy side” of this book review first. Which, coincidentally enough, is about the first half of the book.

Up until the 52% mark in “The Game” I was one sadistically happy camper. People’s lives were being ruined left and right. A group of expertly penned nefarious foes were blissfully residing in Crazy Town. And the amount of goosebumps popping up on my forearms made me look more like a leaper than an enraptured reader. In short: it was a 5 star read backed by a 6 star dose of WTCrapology is wrong with people!! I loved it.

Imagine for a second that the ladies of the “Real Housewives” franchises were kidnapped by Jigsaw (from Saw movie madness.) And then the whole debacle (the puzzles, the gore, the struggle to survive) were broadcasts to the masses as some sort of sick sociological experiment (complete with American Idol type text voting to let a player live another day.) This is the type of chaos that resided in the first half of “The

Game.”

Candice was just an innocent girl, minding her own business, when a psycho with an agenda (that apparently involved sticking it to the producers of crap reality TV) decided he liked her unique combination of looks and gumption. (See...sometimes it sucks to be the hot one.) As a result, she spends the first half of the book in a wild goose chase to save not only herself but several others from impending doom.

\*\*

“Candice Laguna, you’ve been chosen to receive this call.” The voice was that of an enthusiastic game show announcer. “We’re so glad you’ve answered, we’d like to invite you to see this video.” A text message beeped through, with a video attachment. What she saw in the video halted her breathing. She involuntarily moved her hand over her mouth. It was Zee, bound and gagged, tied to a bed in her underwear. Candice couldn’t breathe. Her heart began beating oddly out of time. Tears came and her hands shook so badly she almost dropped the phone. The three-second clip looped over and over and she couldn’t look away. The phone rang again, and the overly enthusiastic voice blurted again. “What you’ve seen may be disturbing to you, but you haven’t seen anything yet. If you don’t do exactly as we say, she will die a horrible death. That’s right, a horrible death. You cannot go to the police, or she dies an even more unimaginably horrible death. This is going to be the best time of your life, Candice Laguna. You’re getting exactly what you asked for, that’s right, exactly what you asked for. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, so don’t delay. Stay tuned for your instructions. And remember, you must do exactly as we say. Thank you for participating. Good night.”

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Makes you shudder right? Trust me when I say...it gets so much more mucked up than that. (Can you say ring of fire and tar?)

But..with the good comes the bad. Which (unfortunately) pretty much encompasses the entire second half of the book. (\*insert sad face\*)

Not only did “the game” end abruptly (Not that I was pulling for more torture...it just seemed quick.) but at that 52% mark the entire structure of the story changed from Horror to Paranormal. Now..before you give me a hard time by reminding me that it says “paranormal twist” in the synopsis, I know! I also know when something just isn’t working. And the slap shot feeling that assaulted my chest in a matter of one freaking sentence had me rolling over in agony.

Who here has read David Levithan’s novel “Every Day” about a boy who body hops? This is basically the premise (though slightly more complicated and apparently comes with a pink clad Colonel Sanders) of the entire second half of the novel. Goodbye crazy train. Hello WTF! My mind was on overdrive before this point. Picking up and selfishly devouring the awesomeness of gruesomeness and then WHAM! I hit a brick wall and never recovered.

As a matter of fact...there are TWO quotes from the book that sum up my thoughts exactly.

“This whole experience had been one ridiculous thing after another, but it wasn’t paranormal in any sense, until now. This cherry sat atop the insanity-cake she didn’t order and didn’t want.”

“It was as if the entire balance of the universe had blown into pieces.”

To make a very long rant short...it was like the book had split personality disorder, and apparently I liked Brutus the Butcher much more than Betty the...screw it, I can't think of anything witty.

My final verdict. If you enjoy horror I encourage you to take a chance. The beginning really is a big ol chunk of YES!!!! As for the rest of you...I say 'meh. Take it or leave it.

Happy Reading my fellow Kindle-ites and remember: It's ok if you talk to yourself. Just don't start answering.

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## **Jacki says**

This book was TERRIBLE! The plot was ridiculous to begin with, and then halfway through took another twist that exponentially increased the ridiculousness. Dialog was awkward and forced, typos were scattered throughout, and it seemed like the author lost track and interest in where he was going and what he was writing toward the end. Nothing really resolved and the end of the book had nothing to do with the majority of the story. The only good thing I can really say is that I absolutely flew through it - you could easily skim as the author used 3x as many words as he needed to get the point across.

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## **Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says**

Review also posted at [Ja ?itam, a ti?](#)

Honestly I'm really used to the YA novels and the writing style so jumping out of that world is sometimes really necessary. This one provided me that. Or the author did. Either way thank you.

If I had to describe my feelings after reading this book - my first reaction would be freaked out. Really this book freaked me out even more than I could imagine. To make things clear that's not a bad thing cause I started thinking a lot. This book is so real but still so unreal at the same time. While it tells you about the things that are all around you and really possible still you can't believe it. We're really the slaves of technology. That generally doesn't have to be a bad thing if you're a god guy but when you get a bad guy against you - well that's another thing all together.

Reality TV is something that became so popular few years ago and everyone started watching Big Brother and other shows. Even now they're popular. But this is a story about a bit disturbing show called The Game. Simple name for the simple game but with complex outcome. Candice is a normal girl, living her life up until one day everything turns upside down. She loses everything, her job, boyfriend, privacy - basically her life. She is in the middle of something she couldn't dream of. She lost control of her own life and there is only one way to get it all straight. To play a game. Soon someone else jumps into all that mess. Someone who knows everything just needs a little reminder.

Needless to say you should mix a bit of paranormal and romance into all that and then you pretty much get this book. This was my first book from this author and I decided to join this blog tour because it sounded interesting enough. I really liked characters and the idea of the story. Maybe it's a bit extreme but that's why it really gets you.

Even though the paranormal thing really works for this story I somehow wish that it stayed realistic till the end. That's the only thing that I could point out as bad.

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### **Marissa says**

In a year full of me reading stupid, awful books on my Kindle, partially because I'm a glutton for punishment but mostly because they were free, this is one of the stupidest. The actual plot ends about halfway through the book (There's a madman! With a plan! He'll host it in a can! Everyone will be a fan!), then veers right and busts out some preposterous supernatural nonsense, which is, unsurprisingly, tied up with a not even pretending to be subtle deus ex machina at the end. There's a love story, kind of, in the way "hey! two people are in the same room at the same time! Now they're in love!" is a tenable love story. You know the heroine is the heroine because the author has to stop every few sentences to remind you how effortlessly amazing the heroine is - which is true, but only because everything the heroine does is literally without effort.

Ok. Here. It's my favourite line of the book:

"This cherry sat atop the insanity-cake she didn't order and didn't want to eat. But someone had already smashed it into her face and dared her to lick her lips."

I've been working on unraveling that one for a few days, now. Have at it.

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### **Corina says**

Typically I enjoy books that have somewhat of a romance angle in them and while *The Game* did eventually end up having some unexpected romance, it was mostly a physiological thriller with a dash of paranormal element in it. And I loved every second of it. Shane Scollins is a God. No for real, I loved this story so much.

The plot centers around Candice Laguna and how her life is destroyed by a group of people who want her to be a part of the game. I don't want to give away too much about what the game in the story is, but if I had to classify it I would say it's *The Hunger Games* meets *Awaken* (Katie Kacvinsky).

It's almost scary to think what people can do with technology today and Scollins did an amazing job of showing us the negative side of this virtual world we all live in. The characters were relatable and some were far past crazy, but incredibly interesting. I loved the bad guys as much as the good guys. Putting the pieces together along with the characters was one of my favorite parts of this book.

Being able to follow along and see things from every angle and seeing where things intersected between characters was fun and entertaining, but it also kept me on the edge of my seat. I couldn't put this book down. It's fast paced, but not in a confusing way, which I love. I can't stand stories that start off slow because then I drag my feet while reading and it takes forever to get to the good part.

But with *The Game*, the entire book is the good part. Candice meets a lot of interesting people on her journey



and the violence is definitely medium-high. We've got death, guns, things blowing up, kidnappings, and foul language, which of course has the makings of an awesome book.

This is one of those books I'd like to see made into a movie. I swear it's got one of those plots that you can absolutely see was made for the big screen. It's unique and definitely worth the read. If you haven't checked it out, you should. I need a paperback copy of this book for sure! Hats off to Scollins, please tell me there's a sequel???

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### **Karla Mae (Reads and Thoughts) says**

Reality Television – I think everyone loves watching those. It gives us viewers a glimpse as to how normal people acts or works or plays while being filmed; but what if The Reality Television turned into an ULTIMATE sick and twisted REALITY show?

Reading The Game has it's good side and bad sides for me. I'll start it up with the good points:

I'll give The Game A for the uniqueness that it encompasses. It has a very unique plot that could easily get your attention coz from the get go you would find yourself asking different questions like "Who are those people who keep calling Candice?" "How could they track her?" "What do they want out of her?" – The curiosity as to what would happen will surely keep you in reading it.

Angus, Lena and Rena are very effective villains. They totally scared me and creeps me out! I was literally scared to my seat as to what they might do next they're very much effective for me; They definitely left me at the edge of my seat.

The story started with those weird calls that our protagonist Candice gets and from then I get this weird and creepy feeling and as the story progress that feeling stays and add up to it is the utter feeling of disturbances. It's a good point for me because I could see that the effect that the author wants the readers to get is there. I definitely feel the story.

I'm still torn if it's a good point or not but at some point as I'm reading this it suddenly reminded me of the movie series SAW – just eliminate the uber gross killing parts.

Now, for the not so good parts for me. Hmmm..

The cover doesn't really make sense to me. To be honest, when it comes to reading, the cover usually depicts what might happen inside the book so you really can't blame me if I was expecting something Dystopian-ish to happen here or Maze Runner type of story (what with the maze thing that we could see on the cover) but I guess none of the things on the cover represent to what really happened on the story.

This is supposed to be called The Game right? So why does it feels like it all boils down into some Science Fiction Stuff without the game into it. Yes, I get the concept of a reality TV show turned into a horror story but The Game that I was expecting (though Its damn right creepy) didn't even last that long. Just two rounds of the game and it ended then Bam enters the Science Fiction stuff or in other words another issue that is too far from the concept of the supposed to be game.

The characters Candice and Lukas – I can't feel enough chemistry! I know this is not about romance and stuff like that but I think their relationship is too forced.

Lukas' real identity and situation also disturbs me. It's a good addition to the story BUT I do think it doesn't fit very well. His situation is unique and intriguing. It just doesn't sit well for the story.

The Game has a very unique story flow but a bit disturbing and weird. The last chapters seems to lead us into a whole new other story so I guess there would be more. Pick this one up so you could all see what I'm talking about.

**\*Advanced copy kindly provided for review\***

**\*Blog Tour deets posted at Reads and Thoughts.**

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## **Reeka (BoundbyWords) says**

As seen on my blog:

*The Game* was definitely a mash-up of so many genres I love: psychological thriller and paranormal to name my top two. It started off going in one direction, and then completely threw me for a loop. It was quick paced, and took me only about 2 hours to read through. I could have done with more substance, more back story material, but I think the author achieved exactly what he must have been going for: a quick punch to the gut.

We are immediately introduced to Candice Laguna, and learn that she's somehow been placed in the middle of a sick and twisted "game": phone calls from strangers that know her name, losing her job, and threats made to the people she loves. Not too long after that, we meet Vince, the appointed "hero" of the plot, who seems to want nothing more than to catch the people running the "game," and stop them from claiming more victims. What ensues is a wild goose chase of sorts, with obstacles thrown in at opportune times, and even an insta-INSTA-love aspect for good measure.

I almost felt like-no, I DID feel like-I was reading a short story. The world and character building was next to non-existent, and what connection I felt to the characters was based purely on my fear for their life, and hope for their safety. However, despite that, *The Game* was definitely a page turner, and teemed with action from the first word to the last. The premise was GENIUS, and had the stirrings of a story line that would have been AMAZING had it been fleshed out, and filled in, a lot more. It touched on realistic and controversial topics, even though they mostly lurked in the background, and really made me want to pray for this world we live in.

The characters were distinct, and easy to differentiate between, and again, I felt like I just wanted Shane Scollins to delve DEEPER into their lives, tell me EVERYTHING there was to know about them! Sadly, we were only given a taste, but I really enjoyed what he offered. Candice was a strong female lead, with a feisty attitude, and some profound dialogue. Vince played his hero role to a tee, and I only fell harder for his character as the book went on, and we were given the truths from past. I also really enjoyed Alexis, a sort of "side-kick" of Vince's, and I *so* wish we got to hear more from her.

The PUNCH to the gut for me, in a good way of course, was the paranormal plot twist thrown in near the last quarter. I did not see it coming at ALL, but found myself welcoming it with arms WIDE open. It was like

"Oh heeey there! I know YOU!". My good friend paranormal. I absolutely loved what the author did with the story line from that point forward, and it was easy totally easy to ignore the lack of character development once that piece of magic was thrown in. I highly recommend reading this book in it's entirety. It has something for almost every genre reader to appreciate.

**Recommended for Fans of:** psychological thrillers, mystery, and paranormal.

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**\*DISCLAIMER\*** I received this book as an ecopy from the author, in order to participate in the blog tour.

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## **Kristin (Blood,Sweat and Books) says**

### Review:

Sometimes a book comes along that grabs you, holds on tight and just when you think you can't take anymore (though secretly you do) the book decides to let you go. First half of The Game was awesome. Think Saw meets Untraceable. Sick, twisted, visceral I loved it! Seriously, the first half of The Game would make an amazing movie.

Before trashing getting to the negatives of the second half of The Game I want to talk about the amazing first half. I like most of the population enjoy reality television. Not gonna lie, I enjoy watching people escape from messed up scenarios. However, there is a fine line between enjoyment and straight up torture. I'd never want to actually see a person go through what Candice Laguna does. On paper it's a whole other story. I wanted more!! I mean it's horrible but bloody fantastic at the same time. Only downside is that portion of the book is over quickly. Clearly, I didn't read the synopsis close enough. I really need to skim to the bottom and not just read about the plot. Lesson learned that's for sure.

Now the first half of the book is 5 Stars all the way. In fact I'd recommend picking up the book just to read the beginning. The second half however, Why? Why? Why? Do you hate your readers? Was your ultimate goal to have the book thrown across the room in disgust? If so, Congrats you succeeded!

Unpredicable Paranormal twist did not work. Why would someone try to combine these two elements together? It's like the author had writer ADHD, Too many ideas, not enough time to write them all so I know, let's just throw them together. Ugh, I can't even begin to describe how truly disappointing horrible the second half of this book was. Had The Game been written that way the entire time I might feel different, might being the operative word. The ONLY reason I didn't DNF this book was a. I promised to review it for the tour and b. I kept torturing myself in the hopes things would get better.

Overall, The Game was a huge disappointment. So much potential was wasted by introducing the paranormal element. It saddens me to say this but I'm definitely going to be leery reading from this Author again. In the end, The Game is being rated a solid ★★★. While I loved the first half, the second half killed the book for me. I highly recommend borrowing this book and testing it out before purchasing. You've been warned.

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