



## **The Home**

*Scott Nicholson*

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When twelve-year-old Freeman Mills arrives at Wendover, a group home for troubled children, it's a chance for a fresh start. But second chances aren't easy for Freeman, the victim of painful childhood experiments that gave him the ability to read other people's minds.

At Wendover, Freeman and the other children are subjected to more secret experiments, organized by a shadowy organization called The Trust. But the experiments do more than open up clairvoyant powers--the electromagnetic fields used in the experiments are summoning the ghosts of the patients who died at Wendover back when it was a psychiatric ward.

Now a new scientist has been brought into the project, an unstable and cruel pioneer in ESP studies who performed most of his work on a very special subject: his son, Freeman Mills.

## **The Home Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2005 by Pinnacle

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Author : Scott Nicholson

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Genre : Horror, Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Supernatural, Thriller, Ghosts

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## **From Reader Review The Home for online ebook**

### **Carl Alves says**

In The Home, Freeman Mills is a twelve-year-old rebellious type who has gone through various homes until he reaches Wendover, a home for troubled children. After having gone through traumatic experiences as a child, his plan is to lay low, a task that isn't so easy for someone with the ability to read minds, and as he soon learns, to see ghosts. Wendover is really a front for bizarre experimentation being funded by some shadowy government agency, that never got explained very well in the novel and had a bit of a cliché feel to it. At Wendover, they bring the children to a state of death briefly before bringing them back. This experimentation unleashes many of the ghosts at the site that once used to be a mental institution.

The Home was an enjoyable novel. There was a great deal of suspense and intrigue as the devious nature of Wendover and the people who ran it were slowly unveiled. There was also the specter of what had happened to Freeman as a child, which ties into what was currently happening, that I also found intriguing. The setting of the story worked well to set up the mood and atmosphere. There were a few things that happened in the later part of the novel that I found a bit confusing and not well-explained, but the ending itself was satisfying. This was a good horror story that I would recommend.

Carl Alves - author of Blood Street

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### **Jeny Robertson says**

While entertaining, this book lacked something for me.

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### **BookLoversLife says**

The summary pretty much says it all so let's get straight to my thoughts.

I liked this well enough to listen to the whole book in the matter of days, which is good for me because it's over 10 hours long!! But one thing I didn't like was the narrator. He was very very dull. I found myself at times with my mind wandering, even though the story itself was intense. Daniel Dorse, while being clear and concise, was dull and boring. He didn't bring any life to the story and it felt like he read the whole book in a high falsetto voice, which was quite annoying. This is a case of reading it instead of listening to it!!

The plot was intriguing. The setting was perfect and the characters were varied and wonderfully written. I think my favourite part was the setting. The home they are in now is filled with the ghosts of people who were patients there years ago. I always find these kind of settings to be the scariest because asylums just scream haunted!!!

All the characters were awesome in their own way. Everyone of them are flawed but you can't help but root for the kids. Each of them has their own story and reason they are there but they don't deserve the likes of Dr. Kracowski nor Mr. Bondurant looking after them. Both are truly evil in their own way!

In all this is a creepy, chilling and intense read. I could totally picture this as a scary movie and one I would think twice about watching, because while I can read about ghosts etc, I am a total wuss when it comes to watching them! It scares me silly!!

\*I received a copy of this in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.\*

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### **Deborah says**

Wendover, a group home for troubled children, holds many secrets. The children residing here receive experiments to enhance their ESP. The characters are vivid. The evil that occurs within the walls of Wendover will frighten you.

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### **Amy B says**

A mental institution is shut down and turned into an orphanage for troubled children. A doctor is using electromagnetism to "cure" the kids, a side-effect of the treatment being ESP...and ghosts coming out of the basement. If that's not enough, there's a secret government trying to control the whole thing. It was interesting, but flimsy. Characters and plot left a lot to be desired.

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### **Michelle Dear says**

Disclaimer: I am a colleague of Scott Nicholson. I have professionally edited several of his books outside of this genre. I approached this book as a reader exclusively, and this is an independent personal review/analysis based upon my perspective as a reader who enjoys this particular genre. It is based upon my subjective enjoyment of the content, and is as objective as possible regarding quality of content.

#### **Book Description:**

Twelve-year-old Freeman is en route to Wendell, a group home for problematic, orphaned children. He has a history of truancy trailing him along with a traumatic early childhood.

The property that Wendell occupies is over 50 years old, and was originally a mental hospital with a dark history. Horrors untold and secrets not revealed are hidden deep within.

The Trust: Without morals, bound by ultimate conceit, this secret group procures and uses children as a means to an end for their own cause. While fostering paranormal traits in these children, they unknowingly release the horrors of the past that taint THE HOME.

#### **Review:**

Experience Southern religious dogma, ESP, paranormal activity, mad scientists, and a world beyond that is left to your imagination. Venture through a world of science versus religion as each is taken to the extreme. Face chilling inhumanity buried deep in the past as the victims seek vengeance, intent on destroying everything in their wake. Be thrilled, be horrified, and be entertained. A definite buy and read.

#### **Analysis**

Pros:

THE HOME is a fast, enjoyable read. Fans of Scott Nicholson will not be disappointed. A definite page-turner. Lots of action, creep factor, and paranormal activity. Nicholson gives the perfect amount of detail to create the structure, and allows the reader to create the rest of the detail in his or her imagination.

As an example: In the beginning, Nicholson does a superb job describing the Wendell properly. He is not overly descriptive, allowing perfect narrative structure in the most simple non-obtrusive form. It is beautiful piece of narrative--one of the best descriptive narratives I have read in a long time.

Cons:

Although Nicholson ties up almost all of the loose ends in the denouement, I would have preferred it to have been fleshed out a bit more. The ending felt abrupt and hasty. Additionally, I believe one particular character could have been tied up a little bit more clearly (to write about him/her would be a spoiler.)

Some of the characters could have been developed more fully, providing a richer experience. The trade-off would have been a longer novel. These days, readers expect novels no longer than 300 or so pages, which limits authors considerably. In this case, however, I believe that this novel would have been better off having been expanded. The downside to this would have been more scenes in different points of view, but I don't think the book would have suffered.

Last note:

I think that this book/concept would make a great trilogy. The second in the series would allow for a flesh-out of the characters that didn't get a chance to speak in this novel. There are other children that need an opportunity to share their stories as well, and the story isn't concluded yet.

This book is optioned for a movie. It is my contention that it would make an incredible movie due to the digital effects available today, coupled with the creative content that Nicholson has written. This is a core reason why I believe a trilogy is necessary. The story must conclude; all loose ends must be tied up. We must have closure on the Group, the children, and the adults.

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## **Kasia says**

What I really liked about this book was how fluid and clear it was. I really enjoy writers who have that special way with words where reading the story doesn't end up being a chore, but a true pleasure. This was my first Scott Nicholson book but certainly not my last as I have since gotten two more of his books.

The story is about a young boy, Freeman Mills who enters Wendover Home for juvenile kids, and while he has been going from home to home, this one is simply another stop for him before he can figure a way out. What he doesn't know is that this is not a regular old house. The institution itself treated mental patients very long time ago and some of them still haunt the rooms where other juvenile kids live. In this story what you get is a couple of creepy FBI type people who meddle in business that makes people disappear while cover-ups are made in case kids die while receiving their "therapy" sessions, doctor Kracowski who thinks he's second to God and who treats his young patients in very questionable ways, Mr. Bondurant who does everything in the name of the Lord, but who is a closet predator; basically a self proclaimed preacher who is a huge hypocrite. There's also Starlene, one of the counselors who purely and genuinely cares for the welfare of the kids along with a bunch of very interesting young kids such as Freeman himself, Vicky, Dipes, Isaac and Deke who's a dyslexic bully, while they are disturbed you can see that they are not bad deep down and

the relationships they form have real meaning.

The story itself is pretty far fetched, it merges the world of the living with the world of the dead, and the writer does such a great job of showing how its done, that I almost believed it myself to be possible. I really liked the ESP woven through, when Kracowskis treatments were giving certain people the ability to read minds, and not only the minds of the living but also of the souls of those who died in the house a very long time ago while it was an insane asylum. I'd say reading about ghosts is scary enough but insane ghosts are really something quite interesting to submerge in. As the house itself becomes more haunted with the continuous experiments involving electromagnetic fields, Freeman himself starts going into other peoples minds and pieces together a truth that is more terrifying than he could have imagined.

I really enjoyed this story as it reminded me of Shawshank Redemption, since the house was a mental institution where the kids were treated as test subjects and prisoners as only their minds remained free. The ending was also really good. Many unexpected people popped in and made it very interesting and while I don't want to spoil anything, the writer does a very good job of merging all the story lines together to form a solid tale.

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### **William M. says**

I don't know how many horror books the other reviewers have read, but this novel is not all that it's cracked up to be. Ghosts are seen by characters in almost every chapter, so the excitement/terror/impact is lessened greatly. The children in this book seem more intelligent than the adults that supervise them -- doctors included. The real conflict doesn't come into play until 250 pages into the book, and the constant flowery descriptions became tedious very quickly. Now, don't get me wrong, I loved Nicholson's last book, The Manor, but this is one to skip.

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### **Dana says**

A Tuesday Review for you...Another 5 star for Scott Nicholson, I'll start off by saying I didn't know if I could read this book after JUST having my 15 yr old son placed in a residential treatment center ( he has multiple problems that I don't even pretend to be qualified to handle and THANKFULLY he is doing fine ) Scott's description of Wendover's beautiful scenery sounded all too familiar. But that's ALL that was the same, When you mix troubled but gifted children, mind reading, experimenting on children with a Doctor who has a God complex, A Director who needs to be spanked himself.. Bad director.. a secret government agency, A Pure heart, an evil evil psychotic Father of one of children and in pure Scott fashion.. GHOSTS... you end up with one terrifying tale.. very intriguing and I didn't know where it would turn next... I HIGHLY recommend this book!! I give it 5 triptraps...

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### **Jeanine says**

I'm a huge fan of free ebooks. More often than not I find good ones, and new authors. This book and author are a good example of the diamonds I sometimes find. I could not put this book down. Gripping from beginning to end.

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## Scott Nicholson says

re-release of 2005 paperback version

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## Heavenlypeachgarden says

This is a great story, interesting from the beginning with a great story, the characters are diverse and interesting and you want to know what happens next, very like Stephen King but in ways better because King can go way over the top. This is easy to understand and flows well but keeps you gripped.

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## Kaisersoze says

This novel represented a good ol' fashioned clash between what I appreciate as a reviewer and what I like as a reader. On the one hand, **The Home** starts well and sets up a few interesting tidbits about what might be to come. Getting to know Freeman, in particular, was an enjoyable ride (except for his annoying character trait of comparing himself to old movie-stars in various action roles). There was also a great early scene where one character comes across a spirit that inhabits the home for wayward children that he works at and is left almost incapacitated with terror.

Unfortunately, that was the first and only time **The Home** managed to elicit any kind of creep factor within me.

Aside from simply not being frightening enough, my other main issue with the novel was that for much of its length, it seems to spin its wheels. Chapter after chapter involves kids who seem far older than we are told seeing evidence of ghosts, interspersed with various employees of the institution they're held at seeing the same spirits. But it isn't until the final 70 pages or so that any of this results in much. The book is marketed as a psychological thriller, so I wasn't expecting a bloodbath, but more happening sooner would have gone a long way to stop me lamenting what might have been and the time taken to get there.

All that said, Nicholson is clearly a writer of prodigious talent. His word play is focused and fluid; his narrative twists (when they arrive) are clever and thought through. So while I may not have overly enjoyed this one, I've seen enough to convince me further reads from the author remain on the TBR agenda.

2 to 2.5 Triptrappers Triptrapping for **The Home**.

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## Marla Knaack says

**Disappointing**

I like following the story of all the kids in the home, but nothing good ever happened. I'm sure the suspense will be thrilling for most people, but it's just not what I enjoy. I want "good" to win. So I was disappointed.

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**Erin says**

Review - coming soon!

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