

Night in the Lonesome October

By Richard Laymon

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Everything changed for Ed that day in the fall semester when he got a letter from Holly, the girl he loved. "Dear Ed," it began, "I will always cherish the times we had..." Holly was in love with someone else. It was as if his whole world had changed in a second. That night, heartbroken and half mad with despair, Ed couldn't sleep, so he decided to go for a walk. But it's a dark, scary night in the lonesome October, and Ed is not alone...

There are others out there in the night, roaming the streets, lurking in the darkness—waiting to show Ed just how different his world could be. Some of them are enticing, like the beautiful girl who wants to teach Ed about the wonders of the night. Some are disturbing and threatening. Some are deadly...and in search of prey.

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Night in the Lonesome October By Richard Laymon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Night in the Lonesome October is the first book published since the death of author Richard Laymon, and it is ironic that this is among his richest and most atmospheric pieces.

Laymon's hero Ed Logan is brimming with anticipation for his second year at Willmington University. He's been missing Holly, whom he fell in love with the previous year. But when Ed returns to campus, Holly doesn't. He receives a letter that destroys his hopes; she has fallen in love with another man and won't be coming back. Virtually destroyed by the news, Ed struggles to study and even to sleep. Leaving his apartment one night for a walk, he finds that he has moved into what might almost be a different world. There are others out on the streets; are they human, these figures who hide in the shadows? Certainly, the prey they seek is marked for a grisly end. Needless to say, Ed becomes involved with these sinister figures, particularly a mystery girl who will change his life.

The fashion in which Laymon insinuates these otherworldly elements into the otherwise normal world of his hero is brilliantly done, with Ed's distraught emotional state seeming to act as a catalyst. In all the best horror tales, the hero is not just menaced by nameless evil, but becomes inextricably involved with it. That is certainly the case here, and the attention paid to his central character is just as rewarding as the horror set pieces:

I swept the beam a small distance to the left. Near the far end of its reach, it dimly illuminated a low, squatting circle of men. Hairy, filthy, bloody. All of them looking at us. Chewing. Blood spilling from their mouths....

--Barry Forshaw, *Amazon.co.uk*

From Publishers Weekly

On February 14, Laymon died of a massive heart attack, at age 54. His death carried a particular poignancy because of late, after several years during which he couldn't find an American publisher even as his books climbed bestseller lists in England and Australia, he was enjoying a comeback here, with his current and backlist work being issued by Cemetery Dance and Leisure Books (e.g., his novel *The Last Vampire*, published by CD in 2000). Some of Laymon's problems with American publishers arose from the downturn in the horror market in the '90s; more came from what many considered excess sexual violence in his books. The poignancy of his death shades into irony because his first posthumous publication (there are more to come) not only features less of the sexual violence that in fact did mar some of his books but also highlights his tremendous strengths as a writer. This is at once one of the eeriest, and one of most immediate, horror novels of recent decades. It details what befalls a lovesick young man as he wanders on successive nights through his college town. Ed Logan, 20, just ditched by his long-term girlfriend, takes a seven-mile walk late one night from his apartment to Dandi Doughnuts the first steps in an odyssey that finds him mixing with a new girlfriend, cannibals ("trolls") living underneath neighborhood bridges, a gay college student with the hots for Ed, violent or potentially violent sexual predators both male and female and, most memorably, a fellow night-traveler: an 18-year-old homeless girl named Casey who teaches him to embrace the wonders and terrors of the night. The novel unfolds like a series of dreams some nightmarish, some amusing, some wet and is related in the extreme detail of moment-to-moment narration that allows Laymon, at his best as he is here, to plunge readers fully into the alternate reality of another's experiences. Due special praise here are the visceral truths of young adult life that Laymon plumbs in his characters. But above all,

this novel, like so many of his others, is just good old nasty fun to read; it's a trapeze through unknown territory, with jack-in-the-boxes of all sorts lurking just behind the next shadow or page. With Laymon's death, horror has lost one of its rarest talents. Horror fans know this, but, sadly, few others do. That horror remains literature's shunned child needs no further demonstration than that most major media (e.g., the New York Times) ignored the death of Laymon, who was, in addition to the author of more than 30 novels, some of them bestsellers, the president of the Horror Writers Association of America. RIP.

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Review

DREADFUL TALES: 'DREADFUL TALES knocks all other offerings for six and presents a consistent collection of tales, almost every one of which manages to shock, delight and horrify through numerous ideas, characters and situations... a breath of fresh air in the stale UK Horror climate... Gets my vote as the best of 2000 by a long chalk' Shivers 'A terrifying collection of short stories that showcases the dark genius of a true master of the macabre' Books Magazine 'This is an author that does not pull his punches... A gripping, and at times genuinely shocking, read' SFX Magazine 'Dean Koontz and Stephen King normally dominate this territory. They had better watch out, Laymon is already staking a claim' Northern Echo TRAVELLING VAMPIRE SHOW: 'If you are not already well acquainted with Richard Laymon, get to know him now. This is an enticing tale of three youngsters in a small American town' Manchester Evening News This gloriously inventive piece is probably Laymon's best book yet: dipping into the poetic vein of Ray Bradbury was clearly a vitalising exercise for him, and this is sheerly enjoyable... The prose here is rich and inventive, the atmosphere and scene-setting handled with real aplomb. Whatever you make of Laymon's earlier books, this is one you should try' News International Lineone 'Set in a sleepy American town in the summer of 1963, this rites of passage novel recreates the long, stifling days - and nights filled with possibilities - that distinguish the teenage years' Belfast Telegraph PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS BOOKS: 'No one writes like Laymon and you're going to have a good time with anything he writes' Dean Koontz 'This author knows how to sock it to the reader' The Times, 'If you've missed Laymon you've missed a treat' Stephen King, 'A brilliant writer' Sunday Express* 'AMONG THE MISSING is strikingly different. From the chilling opening...we are plunged into a disturbing world of twisted psychopathology' The Times 'In Laymon's books, blood doesn't so much drip drip as explode, splatter and coagulate' Independent 'Stephen King without a conscience' Dan Marlowe 'A gut-crunching writer' Time Out 'An uncanny grasp of just what makes characters work...readers turn the pages so fast they leave burn marks on the paper' Horrorstruck 'Incapable of writing a disappointing book' New York Review of Science Fiction 'One of the best and most reliable writers working today' Afraid 'Laymon's biggest strength is that he is able to provide lighthearted fun and disturb at the same time' Fear 'He's got a knack for creating characters you care about' Cemetery Dance 'There's not a crime novelist around who writes cleaner prose than Laymon - and few who can jack up the tension the way he does...Laymon likes to grasp readers by the neck with expert word-smithery, then haul them into a diabolical situation...once again, Laymon offers unexpected, well-rounded characters blown about in a narrative that moves like the wind.' Publishers Weekly 'A grisly cocktail of horror, murder and mayhem laced with Laymon's distinct blend of black humour. Great stuff.' Yorkshire Evening Press 'Richard Laymon doesn't disappoint with his latest offering.' Peterborough Evening Telegraph "So fastpaced you find yourself reading it at the speed of a bullet from a gun...a rollercoaster ride of fear' Peterborough Evening Telegraph

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fernando Rowe:

Exactly why? Because this Night in the Lonesome October is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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