



The Hymn

Graham Masterton

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A mysterious rash of sacrificial deaths in California leads an investigator into a nightmare world of paranormal cults and Nazi terror.

The shocking suicide of his beautiful fiancée has left Lloyd Denman devastated. Though outwardly happy, Celia Williams chose to set herself on fire, ending her young life in the most excruciating manner imaginable. Haunted by her death, Lloyd vows to uncover the truth behind her bizarre actions. An answer may be waiting for him in the California desert, where ashes and bone are all that remain of a busload of passengers who perished in an apparent mass suicide by fire that has the police baffled.

But Lloyd's desperate search is pulling him deeper into the circle of the Salamanders—a world domination cult born of the same dark and ancient secrets that spawned Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. And once in, there may be no way out for Lloyd, except through the terrible purifying agony of flame.

A gripping masterwork of supernatural suspense from one of the very best in the nightmare business, Graham Masterton's *The Hymn* is a breathtakingly original tale. Combining terrors both psychological and supernatural with the mystical secrets of Native American shamans and Nazi butchers alike, the award-winning, critically acclaimed author of *The Manitou* spins a web of darkness guaranteed to ensnare fans of Stephen King, Peter Straub, and other masters of first-class horror.

The Hymn Details

Date : Published May 27th 2014 by Open Road Media (first published 1991)

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Author : Graham Masterton

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From Reader Review The Hymn for online ebook

David says

minus a half star for a magical Native American.

If The Burning was a made-for-TV movie, it would be called My Fiance the Fire Elemental.

Jamie Rose says

I don't know why Graham Masterton doesn't get more of the attention showered onto mediocre horror authors. I'm almost immune to book scares nowadays but GM still can creep me out. I have never read anything by him that isn't a good story and he manages to make even the most implausible plots work brilliantly and he tells stories in a very engaging way. definitely one of my favourite authors.

This is one of his older books, but apart from the lack of cell phones, it doesn't seem dated.

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

Review: THE HYMN by Graham Masterton

Once again, Mr. Masterton delivers plotting so taut, interwoven with a strong historical background and lesser-known religious traditions. In THE DEVIL IN GRAY, he worked with the American Civil War, specifically the tragic Battle of the Wilderness, near the Confederate Capital at Richmond, Virginia; and with the slavery religion of Santeria. In THE HYMN, formerly published as THE BURNING, he reinstates the Nazi concept of "master race" and racial purity. Then he brings in 19th century operatic composer Richard Wagner, and millennia-old pagan traditions, specifically of the Norse Vikings. This strums chords of elitism and eugenics, reminding that though the Reich ended drastically, the underpinnings of its thought continue, sometimes where least expected.

Of course, because this is a Graham Masterton horror novel, there is also a continuing chord of graphic violence, visceral, explicit, and hair-raising, and the innocent are not exempted. But I found the background rationale--that implacable, no-matter-what-cost, drive to create the Master Race, the superior immortals--far more terrifying than the violent deaths in its cause. There is little more terrifying than fanaticism.

TallaCassie says

I forced myself to finish reading this. The setting was in California but the author was clearly foreign: car park, kerb, the use of 70's slang when the book should be in late 80's early 90's. I liked the concept at first but I wanted to kill the protagonist mid way through

Sam Hager says

All seems well and without warning, the police visit a successful restaurateur and he finds his fiancée poured gasoline all over herself in a parking lot killing herself. Others mysteriously end their lives in a similar horrific way.. This was a unique fantastic story. only complaint was the story was at times too fantastic.

Mad Zakrzewska says

I gave four stars because for some type of books whose are wrote to pleasure the readers should be another rating. Thinking of 'The Burning' like a belle-lettres is not right in my opinion. But the atmosphere which was created by Masterton and this whole idea of burning people and make them the breed of lords is great. So, I gave this 4 stars because if you think of 'The Burning' you can read it in the bus and feel horror, you feel also it can't be a bad book. Well, the writing is correct, in some parts even great, the storyline is designed really, really good and sometimes you can smell the human body's burning. Scary (and it's big plus) and engrossing.

Eddie Generous says

Unnerving Magazine Review

With a gas can in hand, a happy woman saunters up the street until she finds the perfect spot (in front of a Mickey D's) and lights herself on fire. Intriguing from the onset, though waning some as fear of damage begins to dwindle, *The Burning* by Graham Masterton is a horror story entrenched the re-emergence of the Third Reich. An extra eerie time to read the tale given that half of America fell asleep last week and some fanatics, disgruntled hillbillies and generally gullible I-can-look-the-other-way-about-racism-but-not-about-emails-that-may-or-may-never-matter types voted a fascist dope named Donnie to be their next president. The premise is something folks visit often in horror fiction and film, and why not? Hitler was a horrible dude and the things he did are of nightmares incarnate. Still, in the case of *The Burning*, the evilness falls a bit to the wayside and the hero spends an awful lot of time at first bettering a supernatural being attempting to hold him and then not understanding the obvious end game before him. Drawing from another well, this story snatches for Aboriginal magic and even mixes the cultures for the sake of a blind thirteen-year-old's spell book.

It gets hokey and the magical elements are far flung. There were moments of suspense and mystery, other times the horror played on disgust. Broken down, this is a tale of stopping the apocalypse and the unlikely hero is just a guy lucky enough not to be burned too badly.

Entertaining enough, the writing itself is strong, the story and its simple snatches at Nazis and then at Aboriginals left a bit to be desired, however 1991 was a different time and if you're looking for *Firestarter* meets *The Goonies*, then *The Burning* might be your genre-fiction jammy-jam.

Kinksrock says

This is the second novel I've read by Masterton in which the main action consists of people being burned alive, with graphic descriptions. (The other: *Fire Spirit*.) I hope there are no more like this, but, if I come across another, I'm skipping it.

This one involves an ancient ritual through which people can burn themselves alive and become immortal. It involves some gobbledygook about the composer Wagner, Nazis, and some Native Americans get in there, too.

I warn people that Masterton's novels usually contain gore and sex. (As for the latter, there's a nasty and buxom lady in leather with burning abilities and a taste for humiliation.) This is not the only Masterton novel I've disliked. But this is one of two that I thought was not even entertaining (the other: The Ninth Nightmare (Night Warriors), which I stopped reading halfway through).

Barbra says

Good scary read.....

Chichi says

Loved!! Crazy! Enjoyed reading this. Liked the whole 'Master race' idea. The Third Reich in California. And the end, nice!

Gianfranco Mancini says

An unholy ritual based on Wagner's last and lost Opera.

Immortal pyrokinetic nazi "scanners".

Indian time warping magic.

Sex, gore and two great villains: an old nazist insects-eater and a buxom virago that seems out from a Russ Meyer's movie...

My first Masterton's read was a real fun one, can't wait for the next one. :D

Lostaccount says

Really enjoyed this book. The best of Masterton's older horror novels, so far. A gripping story with some great horror scenes, a Nazi/Occult theme, and formidable villains. The ending, as with most of Masterton's books, felt contrived and a bit ridiculous at times. But this is better than most of the horror novels being released these days.

Victor Castillo Rodriguez says

Esta novela tiene una premisa argumental maravillosamente extraña; tras la muerte por auto inmolación de una especialista en Wagner, su novio intenta encontrar a los responsables que la indujeron al suicidio. Acaba dando con más víctimas y unos geniales villanos nazis que buscan la creación de una raza superior mediante rituales paganos nórdicos relacionados con cánticos trasladados a las óperas wagnerianas. Tras la

inmolación, las víctimas se convierten en "salamandras", espíritus inmortales de humo y fuego que requieren de otro ritual para asumir forma humana. El problema es que Masterton "pincha" bastante a nivel narrativo en la primera mitad de la historia, repitiendo estructuras y situaciones de manera poco imaginativa. Además parece verse obligado a meter a otro personaje nativo americano para solucionar la papeleta sobrenatural, un niño que aparece en menos de un tercio de los capítulos de la novela y que no es necesario para el desenlace. Pese a todo, la novela es entretenida y tiene los clásicos ramalazos del autor; sexo bruto sobrenatural, violencia explícita (no busquéis más, esta es la novela en donde muere más gente quemada de la historia, y con todo lujo de detalles) y una atropellada escalada final que no sabes por dónde te va a salir. Heil Masterton!

Pati says

Uwielbiam Mastertona, za ka?dym razem towarzyszy? mi inne emocje, gdy czytam Jego ksi??ki. Wyznawcy p?omienia ukazuj? zagro?enie jakim by?by proces stworzenia rasy nad ludzi. Przywo?uje Hitlera, co napawa nas jeszcze wi?kszym strachem ,gdy? znamy chory umys? tej?e postaci. Wplatany jest równie? Ryszard Wagner...Jego tajemnicze utwory, które najpierw pomagaj? A później niszczy? Salamandry. Polecam wszystkim, Ksi??ka jest rewelacyjna.

Ruby Ridge says

No other author today writes a horror story like Graham Masterton. Starts off rolling slowly and the speed increases exponentially to an explosive climax. Recommended for fans of pre-2000 horror although new readers may want to read his earlier works first
