



They Hunger

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In the rugged wilderness of the Appalachian Mountains, the treacherous Unegama River holds more than its share of mortal dangers. But something deadlier than any force of nature is about to be awakened. Something both unnatural and immortal.

Driven from their ancient hunting grounds, they have dwelt in their cave for hundreds of years...hiding, waiting - and hungering. Now, a group of whitewater rafters has made the mistake of passing through their hunting grounds, and for these awakened creatures of the night, their first blood is about to be unleashed.

AND THEY ARE GOING TO FEED...

They Hunger Details

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From Reader Review They Hunger for online ebook

Sharon/ LFrog1386 says

With every Scott Nicholson book I read, I become more of a fan. Scott knows how to weave together basic human elements with the supernatural kind in order to create a story that grips you from start to finish. Right from the start, we are grabbed by the chase taking place between two FBI agents and a religious fanatic that likes to blow up abortion clinics. Throwing them all into a vast amount of wilderness where cell phones don't work adds another layer of danger. Along comes a team of white water rafters, off to test some new gear for a company that manufactures rafts. The team are thrown together by the company and all have disparate personalities that clash along the way. When they encounter the creatures and the FBI agent and the bomber all around the same time, all hell breaks loose.

The only criticism I would make would be the characterization of the "bully". Nicholson drew him a little too one-sided, which became a bit unbelievable and pulled me out of the story a bit. I also was a bit miffed when some characters disappeared and while you do eventually find out what happens to them in the end, you are cheated of the "how". But then I realized that the visceral punch you receive because you didn't see it coming is intended and effective. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has not read Scott's work yet. It would be a great introduction to his work.

Pia Veleno says

A bit too slow moving, and the characters a bit on the cliche side, but the monsters were worth the read - a great twist on the vampire.

Amateur de Livre says

Review by Tracee Gleichner

A few years ago I ran across Scott Nicholson's name, probably because it is mentioned in the same breath as horror masters John Saul, Bentley Little, and Dean Koontz. At the time I was so bogged down with other literature (among other things) that his name, unfortunately, fell to the wayside. When I was offered the opportunity to review *They Hunger* I jumped at the chance to sink my teeth into it...no pun intended.

Set in the Appalachian Mountains along the Unegama River, this story focuses around two disparate groups of people. First is the group of rafters led by Bowie Whitlock. ProVentures needed a group of mostly seasoned athletes/outdoors men to test their new line of rafts on some of the nastiest rapids in the US, and who better to lead them than someone who grew up rafting on that same body of water. Robert Raintree, who is connected through the company by endorsements, is also 1/2 Cherokee Indian and is hopeful to follow in the paths of his ancestors and try and find his Spirit Guide...through the help of some modern pharmaceuticals he keeps in his "medicine bag". Lane is the lone "suit" of the group, sent by ProVentures to plug the products and use all of the necessary slogans for advertising purposes. CA McKay is an accomplished cyclist invited to help boost the publicity as he is well known around the world (comparable to Lance Armstrong). Dove, the only female in the group is the seasoned photographer/journalist with extensive

outdoor experience, sent to document their journey each step of the way. Finally, Farrengalli is the arrogant, loud mouthed New Yorker who won the opportunity to join the group due to a reality show contest he won. Each member of the team has obvious strengths and weaknesses, but Bowie is confident that he can get them to work together at least long enough to get through the rapids and collect their money and bonuses.

We also have Robert Wayne "Ace" Goodall, also known as the 'Bama Bomber. Notorious for his abortion clinic bombings he has taken his latest groupie and co-conspirator Clara and decided to hide out in the mountains hoping for a "sign from God" as to what they should do next. He isn't aware that he is being tracked by Agents Castle and Stamford, one looking for something to boost his failing career, and the other still wet behind the ears. The FBI agents are somewhat reluctant to be there as they don't believe he is in the woods at all, but need to investigate as there is a small chance he is, and they can not let him get away again.

Both groups also aren't aware of the creatures that they will soon meet..dark angels to Ace, who is a religious fanatic, but terrifying creatures to the rest "the face was humanoid, but the bald, blunt dome of skull descended to a sharp, bony chin. The eyes were large and milky, with no pupils, as though the creatures had no use for vision." It seems at first as if we are dealing with a species of creature that has been buried for ages, just recently released thanks to some powerful explosives that Ace has used. But as the story unfolds you realize that these creatures might not have been buried all along, just dismissed as folklore along with Bigfoot, Chupacabra and The Loch Ness Monster. People go missing in the Appalachian Mountains every year, and due to the fact that it is days to civilization, with rapid waters, and sharp inclines, it is only natural that accidents can happen...but what if these disappearances have nothing to do with nature, and everything to do with the creatures that hunger for blood?

I am not one for giving away too much of the plot...doesn't leave too much to the imagination that way. What I will say is that, although the creatures themselves are quite gruesome, the real story is around the characters themselves. Mr. Nicholson has truly mastered how to engage the reader with...to review the remainder of this review please visit <http://www.uponfurtherreview.org>

Matthew Tait says

I was lucky enough to obtain an advance readers copy of Scott Nicholson's sixth book *They Hunger*, due for release from Pinnacle books in April of this year.

'Write what you know' the old codgers advise burgeoning writers when they start along the literary path. Scott Nicholson certainly 'knows' the Southern Appalachian Mountains and soon his name (if it already isn't) will be part and parcel with them as King is to Maine. In *They Hunger*, the Unegama River and its serpentine rapids are the centre-piece for a group of characters that meet under sinister duress - the kind that hides in darkness and feeds off blood.

I know Scott has a lot of professional admiration for Dean Koontz and this is reflective (not in stylistic imitation), but in the way he brings incongruent characters together and shoves them into a god-awful situation. In *They Hunger*, we have religious zealot abortion-clinic bomber Ace Goodall who flees to the Unegama wilderness in an effort to escape his pursuers. (Think Ed Deepneau from King's *Insomnia* with a Charles Manson twist). Riding shotgun with him is Clara Bannister, a self-destructive, semi-believer in Ace Goodall gospel. The seekers on his trail to bring him to justice are two FBI agents: Jim Castle and Derek Samford, hardboiled types from a thousand Cop movies. Not too far away are an odd assortment banded together for a collective agenda: to test flight a kind of prototype white water raft for outdoor adventure conglomerate ProVentures.

Regrettably, it was these particular characters on the raft that made me a little uncomfortable with the whole thing: Bowie Whitlock, who leads the expedition, is making his 'final jaunt' so he can retire because he blames himself for his wife's death. Such a back story felt modestly clichéd, and reminded me of a corny Sylvester Stallone in *Cliffhanger*. Then there's the solitary female of the group, Dove Krueger, contracted to photograph the voyage and create coitus longings among the males. Rounding up the gang are a wrestling Indian Cherokee on a spiritual path; a ProVentures representative; bicycling champion C.A McKay and slippery, vulgar-mouthed reality show winner Vincent Farrengalli. Their bad timing and lack of coalition will inevitably see them run afoul of ancient creatures, released from their prehistoric underground hideaway after the FBI agents accidentally set off a trip wire bomb engineered by Ace Goodall.

One could argue about the cardboard characters or not, but I found *They Hunger* to be an expedition certainly worth taking. Like his previous book *The Farm*, Nicholson gives you a kind of comforting horror tale; you'll feel that the terrain is well-mapped and the gore, when it comes, brings an almost malign grin to your face. His flying vampires are old-school and at times *They Hunger* can be like taking a trip down memory-lane - one where horror movies were in their infancy stage but at the same time at their peak. Humour is also a large component, as the battle of wills and ego merge with that of survival. Like the river he takes you down, Scott Nicholson's *They Hunger* is a fun roller-coaster ride and the journey is at times hair-raising. Here, Vampires come back to the forefront of the horror-novel, and Scott Nicholson ultimately does it in style.

Margie (Bookzombie) says

Overall, this is a fun book. I think that Nicholson created a great cast of characters and really their emotions and reactions to situations are scarier than the creatures. Also, if you have read the word "vampire" and want to put the book down, don't. The creatures in this book, although definitely vampire, are much different than the vampires we see portrayed most often in books and movies.

The book was well paced until about the last 40 pages or so. That is where I felt it was a rush to the finish line to wrap up the story; and once at the end, I was little disappointed. I felt that the story was incomplete and left me with some unanswered questions. Maybe Nicholson wants the reader to decide for themselves in the end, but the lack of closure made me like the book a little less.

Vince Liaguno says

In his latest novel, *They Hunger*, author Scott Nicholson sinks his teeth into a meaty vampire tale that's *The Descent* unleashed meets *The River Wild*. With shades of *Deliverance* and *Just Before Dawn* to color the

narrative with a gritty backwoods feel, Nicholson once again proves that he is to rural Appalachia what Bentley Little is to the southwest.

Read the rest of the review [here](#).

Amy says

This story takes place deep within the Southern Appalachian Mountains where two FBI agents are on assignment, Jim Castle ("Piss-and-Vinegar") and Derek Samford (The Rook, or "Haircut"). Their mission is to nail the 'Bama Bomber, Robert Wayne "Ace" Goodall, who is wanted for a series of deadly abortion clinic bombings, on the run with his girl Clara Bannister. The FBI agents stumble upon the 'Bama Bomber's camp setting off a trip wire explosion, which unleashes a long-buried subterranean vampire bat-like species, hungry and ready to hunt. Add to the mix a team of professional "crack" adventurers sponsored by ProVentures, an outdoor gear corporation, and an innocent couple on vacation from New Jersey and the deadly hunt begins. Who will survive? I would recommend this book, another creepy, fast-paced read by Scott Nicholson with plenty of interesting characters. My only complaint is that the story seemed to move in fast-forward as it neared the end, which was frustrating.

Judah says

A tree died so this book could be published.
That pisses me off.

Seriously, you don't go into a book like this looking for anything deep, any enlightenment, or for anything other than some cheesy thrills... which this definitely did NOT deliver.

What it did deliver was stock, cardboard, one-note characters. A whole bunch of misogyny. A plot/story that read like a fifth-grader was trying his hand at writing. (I say "his" because I doubt many female writers would create such pathetic female characters)

Halfway through it, I just started scanning the pages, trying to make it go faster, looking for the next part with any of the monsters in it... but even when I found those parts, I was bored. It was like watching bad porn. You fast-forward, hoping for some good stuff, but the payoff never happens.

Overall, an utter waste of time and a tree's life.

Scott Nicholson says

Well, I wrote this book and it's probably not my best, though some people say it's their favorite. It's an action thriller set in the remote Appalachian wilderness--think "Deliverance with fangs" Hope you give it a try.

Stephanie Rabig says

I really loved the monsters of this book-- creepy bat-vampire bat things! The scenes with them were entertainingly nasty, what happened to their victims was horrifying, and the setting was really well-detailed and made me want to visit (weird as that sounds).

Where it fell apart for me was the characters. Ace, hiding out in the woods after committing a series of abortion-clinic bombings: his pov chapters made me seriously uncomfortable, with his constant misogyny-- which, fine, great villain. Except then at the end he gets to be the one to blow up the cave of monsters and after all his grossness, he basically dies a hero.

Bowie, the leader of the rafting expedition, who has an on-again off-again thing with another rafter, Dove, except he's sure she's going to head off and sleep with any and every other man in the group at a moment's notice, because . . . why?

It's okay, though, because his suspicions are proven right! Dove turns down Farrengalli (a genuinely unpleasant human being) at every turn. Until the end, where she sleeps with him for absolutely no reason.

I dunno; I prefer reading books where I can root for at least one character and this one didn't give me any. I'll check out another of Nicholson's books-- I've generally heard good things-- and hope it doesn't follow the same trends as this one.

William M. says

This refreshing new take on the vampire myth blends the excitement, adventure, and isolation of white water rafting with the suspense and terror of great horror storytelling. In terms of movies, think of this as "The River Wild" meets "The Descent". Nailbiting, fast-paced, and loaded with authentic imagery that starts off strategically slow, building with an almost paranoid intensity, never letting the reader get comfortable with where the creatures will strike next. My only complaints were a couple of annoying characters and a couple scenes where I became confused with the details of the specific location. Other than that, this is not your typical vampire story and is sure to please any fan of the horror genre.

Maicie says

Great premise: a group of whitewater rafters, a couple of detectives, a megalomaniac, a pathetic co-dependent and some really nasty, gross vampire-like beasties.

It's a nice little read for lovers of horror (and who isn't) but not meaty enough to get an extra star or two. I was hoping for some psychological intrigue (along the lines of *The Ruins*).

Worth reading once.

Edward Lorn says

I'm a completionist. I'd read all of Scott Nicholson's Pinnacle-era books aside from this one, so I figured I'd finally cross this one off my list. What took me so long? Well, I don't like vampires. I've only ever liked two bloodsucker stories in my life: 'Salem's Lot and 30 Days of Night. Sorry, this one didn't make the list.

I've never come across a single line of text that ruined an entire book for me, but this one did:

"Lane, who had scrambled to his hands and knees beneath the creature and was posed like a bottom in a gay porn flick, let out a grunt."

It was jarring, and I didn't know how to take it. What am I suppose to glean from that simile? That gay sex makes one vulnerable? That two men having intercourse is a scary thing? Was it supposed to be a bit of tension-cutting comic relief? If so, I didn't find it funny. My main point is this: you could cut every bit about gay porn and the sentence would be just as strong, if not stronger. Just saying the guy was on his hands and knees was plenty. It took me out of the moment. I almost quit the book. If that sentence hadn't been so far into the novel, I would have, but by the time it dropped, I was invested in the story. I still can't think of one good reason for that simile. If you can think of one, please, comment below. (Oh, and I wasn't disgusted by the idea of two men fucking. It just didn't work in context. Had it said "like a woman taking it doggy style" I still would have felt the need to put it down. After all, the monster is not trying to fuck this guy.)

Scott Nicholson is a guilty pleasure of mine. I found him around the time I found Bentley Little, and only picked up my first Nicholson book because Little had written the blurb on the cover. Scott Nicholson is not the next Stephen King, nor does Nicholson even pretend to write literary horror. He's a genre writer. I happen to like genre writers. Bentley Little, Richard Laymon, Edward Lee, Brian Keene, and Scott Nicholson all fall into that category, and you know that, going into their books, you're in for some big dumb gory fun. You just have to shut off your brain and enjoy the ride. (I can hear it now, "Then why didn't you just shut off your brain during that gay porn sentence?" Because I didn't. That's how much that sentence took me out of the story. It made me think when I didn't want to."

With this book, I was mostly bored up until halfway through. There was a lot of exposition, mainly having to do with a fictional outdoorsy company, and the writing felt as if Nicholson was just going through the motions, mistaking world-building for character development. When the action did start, it was fast and furious. One of the cooler scenes has to do with one of the monsters gliding out of the fog. I saw the scene clearly in my mind, and was more than a little creeped out.

The final 80 pages of this book made this a worthwhile read. Nicholson's choice of survivors tickled me. It took a huge amount of balls to keep a certain someone alive, and I respect that.

Also, I don't think Nicholson has ever heard the term "Pocket Rocket", so I will hold back my judgment. I will say this: a Pocket Rocket is not a piece of camping equipment. Ladies, can I get an Amen?

In summation: I don't regret reading this, but it'll probably disappear from my memory in a few weeks. Nothing to write home to mother about, unless Mom likes awkward similes. I do, however, recommended The Harvest or The Manor (the latter is now Creative Spirit), both of which are fine Nicholson books. The Red Church, The Home, and The Farm are decent but not spectacular, yet they're both better

than They Hunger.

Dark Recesses says

They Hunger
Scott Nicholson
Pinnacle
Mass Market Paperback, \$6.99 (U.S.)/\$9.99 (CAN)
Review written by Nickolas Cook

In his newest novel, *THEY HUNGER*, Scott Nicholson takes on the vampire genre in his own inimitable style and turns it on its head. In this fast paced, action packed horror story, Nicholson presents a mixed cast of professional athletes on a corporate sponsored trek through the deep forest of the Appalachian Mountains and an insane religious abortion clinic bomber on the run from a duo of F.B.I. agents. This streamlined narrative wastes no time jumping into the action and the monsters, as Nicholson leaves behind the usual Gothic tropes and the slow, atmospheric buildup to his usual supernatural horrors.

But there are a few other points that differ from Nicholson's other works, and they manage to run deeper than mere story for entertainment's sake.

First off, Nicholson doesn't offer us a romantic view of vampires in *THEY HUNGER*; instead, these vampires are animalistic, and possibly prehistoric throwbacks from the depths of the earth, giving us a refreshingly unique twist on the overworked blood-sucking genre. This probably won't sit well with the angst ridden Rice cult, but for those of us who enjoy something new, it's a welcome breath of fresh air.

Added to that twist, Nicholson also gives us a cast of wounded misfits that strive to break the horror archetypes. And they do- on many levels. So much so that the reader is guaranteed to find them almost impossible to plumb without first asking some moral and ethical questions of himself. There are no completely good or bad guys to root for; even the vampires may not be all they seem at first glance. For instance, does the bomber actual have the sanction of God? Is it okay to kill in the name of the law? That's the power of a seasoned and versatile writer.

Another surprising aspect of *THEY HUNGER* comes to light as we discover Nicholson's ability to interweave a naturalist writer's view in between the action and horror. Less than halfway through the book, it becomes clear that Nicholson beholds his home turf with the passion of someone who knows it with the intimacy of a lover. He has the artist's ability to make us feel the wet, the sun, the muddy loam, and the green of the wood. But, more importantly, as a horror author, Scott Nicholson also knows how to make us fear the shadows in the forest.

This may be the best book Nicholson has ever written. It's exciting to see such a talented author push himself beyond the tropes and onto a whole different level of competency. I'm personally stoked to see what he offers us next from his fertile imagination.

--Nickolas Cook

Danielle says

Eh. This was ok, I guess. It's about big, flying, monkey/people/angel/vampires. If that doesn't tell you enough, too bad....
