



Deeper

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AN ASTONISHING FIND BECOMES AN UNSPEAKABLE EVIL

An off-shore expedition ends in a fascinating discovery for a team of divers near New England. The thing they bring ashore is certainly unusual. Big mistake thinking it couldn't survive on land. Bigger mistake thinking that it's the only one of its kind.

Deeper Details

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From Reader Review Deeper for online ebook

Ms. says

Excelent book. Scary monsters, interesting characters, lots of action. It's a short book, but I couldn't put it down, and read it just a few nights.

Kimberly says

This was the first book that introduced me to the author James Moore. I have it clearly listed as a "favorite" (as are most of the books I've since read by him :)), but just realized that I never reviewed it.

Right off the bat, Mr. Moore's writing style just "clicked" with me. This was so skillfully written--so "in character" that I felt as if I were physically watching these events unfold before me. Certain authors are able to do that, and James Moore is one of the top ones, as far as I'm concerned. First of all, his characterization was 5 star! The language used, emotions portrayed, everything down to the minute details of everyday living struck me as being so accurate. When you have characterization that makes the readers BELIEVE that who they are reading about are real people, you have a great story right there.

The second thing worth mentioning is his use of atmosphere. The town, details of life on a shipping boat, even the reticent villagers, brought this story to an even more intense level of believability. The storyline, itself, absolutely spellbinding.

I can not give high enough praise for the writing in this book--I only hope that someday we see the release of a sequel....or at least a return to some of the characters.

Highest recommendation!

William M. says

James A. Moore's previous outings, such as "Fireworks" and "Possessions", left me disappointed with his writing. I was about to stop reading his work until I stumbled upon his book "Blood Red", which I quite enjoyed. And while I don't think "Deeper" was nearly as good as "Blood Red", it is certainly worth reading. I'm a sucker for tales involving water and the deep unknown, and by having touches of the Lovecraft mythology, some likable characters, and a nice slow build with a creepy atmosphere, I was sold.

However, there were a few inconsistencies that bothered me. For instance, the fog was described as barely being able to see past one's face, yet a few paragraphs later a ship is spotted way in the distance. I also found that some of the sentences had awkward sentence structures, but perhaps that can be explained by the first person narrative. One thing that was hard to swallow was a photograph that was introduced of a beach attack by some sort of dark shapes that apparently killed dozens of people. Having that many people missing or killed in America would make it an instant national story and would never be so secretive. And the fact that Charlie recognized the hit man Buddy from back in the Navy was just way too much of a coincidence. I also didn't like the theories about the origins of the local police and didn't understand why the whole ghost angle

was needed. It was almost as if two separate stories were fighting to be in one book.

Those problematic issues aside, "Deeper" was still an enjoyable read, but new fans should start with Moore's better work, "Blood Red". Unlike the very R-rated "Blood Red", "Deeper" has more of a PG-13 feel, but to Moore's credit, I didn't think it hurt the story too much, even in a horror novel. For me, Moore's work is usually hit or miss, but this time, it was more in the middle, so it earns a mild recommendation.

DJMikeG says

Ugh. Abandoned halfway through. This is an extremely boring retooling of H.P. Lovecraft's "The Shadow Over Innsmouth", with some ghosts thrown in with the fishmen. I was excited for this book. I like Moore's "Fireworks" and I was interested to see how he would handle Lovecraftian themes and New England based marine horror. Not very well. This is an extremely dull novel and I found that I couldn't read more than two pages at a time once I got halfway through. Abandoned.

Andre Farant says

I recently watched *Dagon*, a movie loosely based on H.P. Lovecraft's *The Shadow Over Innsmouth*. Unfortunately, despite being directed by Stuart Gordon (Re-Animator), *Dagon* proved deeply disappointing. I was hoping for a modern adaptation of Lovecraft's deep sea mythos, complete with an intriguing premise, interesting characters, and grotesque special effects. Instead, I got a tired pastiche peopled with flat, unlikeable characters and so-so effects. As the credits rolled, I felt unsatisfied and a little cheated.

Then I came across James A. Moore's *Deeper* in my local bookshop and got exactly what Gordon failed to produce.

Joe Bierden, a New England fisherman, hires out his yacht and services to a team of researchers. Backed by a platoon of grad students, the researchers wish to uncover the secrets hidden deep with the underwater caves just off the seacoast town of Golden Cove. But the researchers have secrets of their own, such as why their team includes a couple of ghost hunters and a disarmingly intense cryptozoologist.

Deeper is a perfect blend of Lovecraftian tropes and modern thriller. The inclusion of a scientific expedition and speculations on the nature of the evil hidden beneath the waves draws from the works such writers as Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, James Rollins and the late Michael Crichton, but the first person narrative and blue collar narrator ensure that *Deeper* retains its everyman roots and never dives too deeply into techno-thriller territory.

In fact, the narrator is worth highlighting. In Joe Bierden, Moore has created a likeable, friendly story teller and protagonist with a distinct yet wholly unobtrusive voice. There is no overwriting here, because a drinking buddy recounting a serious, intimate story does not overwrite—and that's essentially Joe's role here.

And the special effects? Moore's descriptions are vague, ambiguous—that is to say, perfectly in keeping with Lovecraftian tradition, which only ensures that the reader's imagination does most of the heavy lifting and, well, are there any better special effects than those in an avid horror reader's mind? I would certainly hope

not.

In short, with *Deeper*, Moore has given me everything I wished I'd gotten from *Dagon*. I only wish it had been available to Gordon when he was shopping for a screenplay. Maybe next time.

Paul Hollis says

Deeper is a entertaining blend of ghost story and Lovecraftian monsters from the deep. Moore does everything right with this one: great depth of character; great set up; it's tightly written and has some genuinely scary chills.

Adam Wilson says

Please don't be discouraged by my three-star rating of *Deeper* by James A. Moore. This was a very fun book in a lot of ways that I will explain, but first I will quickly

say that it didn't receive a higher rating from me because it really was nothing new to me. If you have read other novels about exploring the ocean and finding some

crazy critters down there you have basically read *Deeper*, but that is like me saying if you have read one zombie novel you have read them all. The closest novel to this

one for me is *Natural Selection* by Dave Freedman. I will say though that despite *Deeper* adding a new coat of paint to something that didn't really need it, it does its

job of being fun and entertaining almost perfectly. The book is told in first-person and I loved Joe, our narrator. He is constantly asking us questions to make us see

things his way. "Ever been...? Ever seen...? Ever had...?" I loved this for some reason. The book made me feel as if I were listening to a man edging towards old age

telling me this story in a shack near the ocean through which the wind howls and where pellets of saltwater spray hits your face. (Think of the shack from *Harry Potter*

and the *Sorcerer's/Philosopher's Stone* to get the idea). The atmosphere is very well done but it is occasionally demolished by the dry humor of Joe's narration. Because

of this, the scenery was creepy, but the monsters themselves were almost comical, like a film where the background is realistic while the monsters resemble people

wearing cheap fish suits. So, the point I am making badly is that *Deeper* is a B-movie in book form. Absolutely nothing wrong with that. It was fun and I read it in less

than a day. I just wouldn't plan on being scared or being too blown away.

Edward H. Busse, III says

A fun read by Mr. Moore. I liked the main character very much and the other characters were well developed and believable. The main "villain"...or "villains" I should say...were very unpleasant and that was a good thing. The book was well written - no gaps in the story, the action was believable, etc. The style of Mr. Moore's writing really put me in the action and I could smell the smells, envision the boats and "villains" and feel the environment. OVERALL/BOTTOM LINE: a fun book that you can enjoy.

Randy Evans says

This is the first book I've read by Mr. Moore and I knew from looking at the cover it was going to be a horror story. Now I like horror stories but like any other type of book it has to have a good plot and characters that seem real and likable which to my delight it did have. Like most readers I have a list of authors of which I read everything they write but as we all know those authors don't write near as fast as we read so like many when that time comes and we have to find a new author to add to the list sometimes picking one is based on the cover art. While I liked the cover I wasn't expecting a very good read under it. I was wrong so you really can't judge a book by its cover. Many may be surprised by the story hidden under this cover.

Jason Golomb says

I'd read some really positive reviews of this novel, both from Amazon and elsewhere, and I thought it would make for a fun and light Lovecraftian horror/thriller. It was light, and there's no denying author James Moore's connection to the Lovecraft collective mythos, but it just wasn't a good novel.

The characters were flat, the story was bland and predictable, and there was no pull of the reader into the grander vision of what makes Lovecraft-style stories so (capital G) "Grand".

This would be fine if you're looking for an inexpensive, quick 2-3 day read, with monsters, some mystery and a connective tissue to the world of H.P. The plot flows quickly enough and the writing is capable. I'm extremely respectful and envious of the craft of writing, but potential readers of this work should beware.

Mya says

Undersea horrors with a little Lovecraft seasoning is what I got out of this novel. While I was looking for a good B-Creature Feature read, what I got was a little bit more. I say a little bit, because this tale focuses in on one man, a simple sailor who gets caught up in a web of danger that um...some folk would have seen coming a mile away. This is not a deep, introspective read and the main character is not the brightest bulb, yet, I still kinda felt for him. Sure taking a charter out to waters with notoriously bad rumors surrounding them, mysterious passengers keeping too many secrets and any aquatic life with close resemblances to humanoid structures are all bad ideas, but the main character is a hearty one, one of those New England types that brave the Goliath of the sea and laugh at its fury and bloodshed.

Okay so "Deeper" is a page-turning beach read and far different from anything I have read by Mr. Moore but it is still entertaining and packed with quality surprises and I did enjoy it.

Jseger9000 says

Deeper sounded like just my kind of horror story. A captain is hired at the end of the season to take a professor and his students on a thirty day trip to explore some underwater caves. Deeper is James A. Moore's sequel to H.P. Lovecraft's The Shadow Over Innsmouth. Surely that's a goldmine for a horror story.

Unfortunately, the author just doesn't do much with it. The book is poorly written. He constantly tells what is happening, but he never shows what is happening. As a result, the book never seemed to connect with me.

The book is narrated by a New England sea captain, yet he was never given a distinctive voice. There were no 'little details' or real nautical slang that would have shown me that the author did his homework and would have made the captain a believable character. An entire novel where the captain never says 'port', 'starboard', 'berth' or 'head'? He never sounded like a captain or for that matter, even a New Englander. All of the characters really were pretty flat, two dimensional and interchangeable.

The biggest sin of the book though is that it just isn't scary. If Mr. Moore is going to write a Lovecraft inspired story he should also learn to carry off some Lovecraft-style cosmic dread. Nobody in this story seemed to understand that they were in a horror story. At one point, the crew have an encounter with a fisherman. Yet nobody seemed to be particularly freaked out by it. There was none of the awe and wonder that you would expect at the discovery of another sentient humanoid race. No fear, terror or looming madness. Nothing.

At 270 pages, this was a fairly short book, but I felt no connection to the characters or any spark to the events of the story. For such a short book, it really felt like a slog. Ultimately the biggest problem with Deeper is that it just lacked depth.

Paula says

I thought this one might be a four star book because Moore does a great blend of monster/ghost/Lovecraft story, but the penultimate portion of the book was a bit too much like an action movie. I do plan to read some of his other books.

Dark Recesses says

DEEPER

By James Moore

Necessary Evil Press

Reviewed by Nickolas Cook

The Cthulhu Mythos have come a long way since Lovecraft's day. We genre fans have seen them pass through the testosterone fueled pages of Robert E. Howard, passed off to a man who crept up on them, ever

quiet and horrific, Ramsey Campbell, and then to Brian Lumley, a writer who's added so much depth to them that he's almost recreated Lovecraft's world of shadowy hidden interdimensional monster gods.

And now along comes the talented and prolific James Moore to catch us up on what ever happened to that dreaded and fishy town of Innsmouth.

Captain Joe Bierdan has the misfortune to contract out his boat to a team of scientists who want to investigate the strange happenings off the coast of Golden Cove, Massachusetts. Along with his shipmate, Charlie, a rugged womanizer, and a variety of characters intent on finding the truth of Golden Cove's horrifying past, they set sail for a month of frolicking in its fog bound waters. What they find beneath the cove's icy waves will be pretty easy to guess for any fan of Lovecraft's classic stories. But as is usual with Moore, the story moves along at a good clip and is full of interesting twists.

Writing in first person is always a risky venture for a horror author. You know the protagonist is never in any real danger or else there'd be no one to tell the story. So, on a fundamental level, the suspense in *DEEPER* has been deferred, somewhat, for a darn good story. Joe lives, okay? But it's the hell he survives that makes this worth the read.

With a firm grasp of the craft, Moore gathers Lovecraft's legacy into his capable hands and makes it his own by adding a few new touches to the Innsmouth cycle- including a genius turn at giving the man-fish creatures the ability to communicate through images and sensations. There is tension aplenty within the plot between Joe and his immature shipmate, a zealous scientist, and a pair of television parapsychologist out to prove the cove haunted by more than Lovecraft's fishy men. The diving research is solid; the descriptive passages will freeze you to the bone; and the end will grab you by the throat. Moore manages to even inject of a bit of action movie esthetic into *DEEPER*, something that no other Lovecraft story has been able to do since Lumley's first *Titus Crow* adventures.

As with all of Moore's works, the story is all about the characters and how they react to their situation. Even in a shared world such as this, he goes a long way in making up for Lovecraft's total lack of regard for living, breathing characters.

All in all, this is a welcome addition to the Cthulhu Mythos...hopefully not James Moore's only venture into them.

--Nickolas Cook.

Kurt Criscione says

Moore takes a few pages from HPL and introduces us to the Horror of the Deep Ones and their ancient city off the New England coast.
