



Night Show

Richard Laymon

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'If you've missed Laymon, you've missed a treat' Stephen King.

When he was in high school Tony Johnson locked school beauty Linda Allison in a haunted house for the night. Now he has moved to Hollywood, determined to break into horror movies, and he's forgotten all about her. But Linda is a girl with vengeance in her heart - and she certainly hasn't forgotten him...

Night Show Details

Date : Published October 13th 1994 by Feature (first published 1984)

ISBN : 9780747247821

Author : Richard Laymon

Format : Paperback 279 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Splatterpunk

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From Reader Review Night Show for online ebook

Badseedgirl says

Note: I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I have only read a few of Mr. Laymon's novels, in fact this is the third. I found this one to be lacking compared to The Vampire Show and Amara. What The Vampire Show had, interesting and intriguing subplots, and Amara which had several twisted and convoluting plots intertwined, Late Show just lacks. Without these, there is only sex in Mr. Laymon's books, which would be ok, but even these were not good in this book.

The main characters made terrible choices, that just made no sense. There were two plots, both with female leads, the main plot was about Dani Larson, a special effects artist who make some truly asinine choices when it comes to a stalker, and Linda a high school girl who is seeking revenge on three boys who play a malicious prank on her which inadvertently leads to her being hit by a car.

Neither of the plots make much sense, but of the two, I actually enjoyed Linda's plot better. Revenge is always a good splatterpunk plot devise and one in which Mr. Laymon excelled in. Although not one of his best works, I'm still giving this novel...

2 of 5 stars

Meli says

Night Show is, in typical Laymon fashion, a non-stop thrill ride from start to finish. The tale follows Dani, known in the movie biz as the Queen of Horror Movie Special Effects, as she is relentlessly stalked by a disturbed superfan who calls himself the Chill Master. His enthusiasm for scaring movie audiences seems creepy yet innocent enough at first until the Chill Master keeps showing up to Dani's house at the most opportune times. Will Dani be the Chill Master's next victim? Not as brutally violent and gory as other Laymon reads, but just as much fun.

Bob Milne says

While it is still a decent horror read, Night Show is a rather average, middle-of-the-stacks title from Richard Laymon that does nothing to showcase the man's true splatterpunk madness.

The novel's best scenes are dumped in opening chapter, which sees beautiful young Linda abducted by a carload of teenage punks and left tied up inside the haunted Freeman house, where she is all-too briefly terrorized. There's so much potential here, both in the house and in Linda's slow-burning desire for revenge, but it's left largely unexplored as we switch to the main story. Anticipating King's Misery by almost a full year, it's the story of a Hollywood special effects queen who is stalked by a crazed teenage fan. The problem is, the Chill Master is more sad than scary, and more embarrassment than threat. Despite what little page time she gets, Linda is the far more terrifying of the two.

Either piece could have been interesting as a short story, but they're unnecessarily padded out and awkwardly forced to converge in a climax that's neither as entertaining nor as clever as you'd expect from Laymon. There are several moments of gore, a handful of potential frights, and the requisite amount of sex, but it all feels too basic, too generic. *Night Show* reads like a standard 80s horror novel, which may be fine for some has-been authors, but Laymon has done much better. If you don't believe me, check out *The Cellar*, *The Stake*, or (my personal favorite) *One Rainy Night*.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary ARC of this title from the publisher in exchange for review consideration. This does not in any way affect the honesty or sincerity of my review.

Karl says

“Night Show” is a re-read of a book I originally read back in 1987, as I recall the book was published by “Tor” as a paperback that I had purchased at a Target along with some camping supplies. As far as I recall the book had never been released as a hardcover and now, wowwie zaowie, here is a spiffy deluxe one with additional material that includes story notes by author Richard Laymon, and introduction by Ed Lee.

Though perhaps, all in all, not one of Mr. Laymon’s best book, it was great to take on a camping trip and read out in the woods, if memory serves me, this was my introduction to the works of Richard Laymon (January 14, 1947 – February 14, 2001). When we returned from the camping trip I set about looking for more by the author as he had made an impression on me . so I tracked down a copy of “The Cellar”, this a Warner paperback and also a copy of “The Woods Are Dark” (what a crazy crappy cover) yet decided that this was an author I really enjoyed.

Back to “Night Show”, The story starts with busty high schooler Linda Allison who gets kidnapped and locked in a haunted house by three fellow high school boy’s as a prank. As things progress horror movie buff Tony Johnson, naked but for an ax, terrifies young Linda. Tony’s love of movies send him off to Hollywood to become some part of the movie magic. Tony is a bit nuts. Due to Tony’s love of scary movies he becomes awar of Dani Larson a special effects artist that Tony admires. Things go bloody south.

Especially recommended to fans of “Fangoria” magazine or those with fond memories of this book. Perhaps worth it for the extras provided with this hardcover edition.

On reflection upon reading this book almost thirty years later, it holds up pretty well. One can surely see the impact that Mr. Laymon had on other horror writers over the years and the influence he had on the genre.

Three Richard Laymon titles Dark Regions Press will be publishing are *NIGHT SHOW*, *FUNLAND* and *MIDNIGHT’S LAIR*. All three will be published in definitive edition hardcovers in the same formats each illustrated by Malcolm McClinton.

This is copy number 148 of 300 signed numbered copies which are signed by:

James R. Beach - Editor
Steve Gerlach - Afterword
Kelly Laymon - Editor
Edward Lee - Introduction
Malcolm McClinton

Cover and five original interior illustrations by artist Malcolm McClinton.

Michael Fierce says

3 1/2 stars rounded up because, though the subject matter & plot were not as intriguing as other books I've read of his, Richard Laymon is a Master storyteller of Horror, and I couldn't put this down until I finished.

November Is Nyarlathotep says

Review of NIGHT SHOW by Richard Laymon

The more I read of this exceptional author, the more I find to love. NIGHT SHOW is a bifurcated story line, one taking place in New York State, the other in Hollywood, then eventually merging (horrifically, of course). In New York State, a high school girl is abducted and terrorized, escaping only to be hit by a vehicle and collapse into a coma. When she recovers, she has only one purpose, only one mission.

In Hollywood, an up-and-coming special effects designer is badgered by an eighteen-year-old man who claims he is "the Chill Master." She and her new assistant/lover are the target of this boy's attentions, her because he wants to be her apprentice and lover, her boyfriend because he wants him out of the way. While these two plot threads are inextricably playing out, Laymon turns up the heat and keeps it boiling, with horror and fright non-stop, while he continues to deeply characterize the inhabitants of his novel.

Keith Chawgo says

A Story told in two parts. This is a second reprint of the 1994 horror novel by Richard Laymon. First published by Headline Features and described as thus:

High-school prankster Tony Johnson kidnapped school beauty Linda Allison and locked her in a haunted house for the night. Linda didn't see the funny side. Now Tony is in Hollywood and has forgotten all about Linda. But she certainly hasn't forgotten him.

Now it has been made available by Samhain Publishing for a release date of 17 May 2016. They describe the

book as follows:

When the horror becomes real, Dani Larson is the queen of horror movie special effects. Grisly murders and mutilated corpses are all in a day's work for her. Nothing frightens her—not even watching herself torn to pieces on the screen. But now the gore is real, and Dani is terrified. She's being stalked by the Chill Master, a psychopath who wants to be Dani's apprentice, her lover, and eventually...her replacement. Can Dani find a way to survive? Or will this real-life horror movie scare Dani to death?

Richard Laymon is probably the grand daddy of Extreme violence and the splatter punk movement and probably single handedly help create the extreme horror writers that we have today such as Matt Shaw and Tim Miller, to name just a couple.

Starting his writing career in 1980 until his untimely death in 2001, Laymon has written 44 novels plus one that was restored and reissued, 20 Fastbacks, 5 collections and over sixty short stories. Laymon has quite an extensive turn around of material for twenty-one year writing span. When writing at this speed, this at times creates causalities with overused plots, tired characterisations and very often tired and true plot devices that seems to be more paint by numbers than intuitive and well developed.

Laymon writes to a similar themes such as surprising (and often outlandish) plot twists, a sexually depraved villain, portrayal of the heroines as beautiful, strong, and almost Amazonian in stature (despite also being depicted as vulnerable and scantily clad throughout much of the proceedings), pendulous breast and revenge. These are all present in this book and unfortunately, not a lot of thought was brought to the fore when using these trusty themes.

The Night Show starts out promising enough with a girl being abducted by three men and taken to a quote unquote haunted house in the small upstate town in New York State. After being tied up and slapped about, Linda escapes only to be hit by a car and go into the coma.

The action then shifts to Dani, top of her game, special effects artist whose passion is working on stalk and slash horror films and her new relationship with her special effects assistant. All is going well as their relationship is so new so the sex is great and their love is explosive until Tony starts stalking and throwing himself after Dani in a sleazy manner making Dani uncomfortable. So uncomfortable, that she still tries to stay friendly with him.

The story then jumps back and forth from Linda getting revenge and Dani noticing things are not quite right with Tony. This is where the story starts to come apart at the seams unfortunately.

The book suffers from wafer thin characters and logic is apparently missing from any of the main characters. The secondary characters are pretty much non existence and plot devices are very forced.

This is basically pulp fiction at its worse but there are some glimmers of hope as this is a real page turner and if you are able to sustain belief in logics and plot devices, you should be able to finish this in one sitting.

Night Show is a fun rollercoaster ride that takes you from point A to point B but you will need to ensure you are on autopilot as it is basically an extremely bad B movie without a good editor.

This is not one of Laymon's best. To experience Laymon at his best, try The Beast House trilogy or The Travelling Vampire Show. Laymon had some exciting books out there but unfortunately, this one is probably not the best place to start. Tired and ridiculous formula that is not very well thought out. He wrote this in his

sleep.

Edward Lorn says

Night Show was one of the only Laymon novels I had not read. That is no longer the case. Unfortunately, I'm left with a feeling that I should have ignored this one when I saw it on NetGalley. Alas, I requested a copy for review, and was provided one. So here we go...

This book isn't very good. In fact, it's probably down there in the bottom five of Laymon's work. I am and always will be a huge fan of Dick's (may he rest in peace), but like every prolific author in existence, he produced several stinkers in his time. This is no *Island*, *Night in the Lonesome October*, *In the Dark*, or *The Traveling Vampire Show*. This one is more along the lines of the foolishness that is *Darkness, Tell Us* and *Amara*.

There's two things going on in this book, and neither one of them is very plausible or interesting. You have Stalker McPanty-Sniffer who is invited in by the woman he is stalking in the attempt to make him go away (this is some of that old bullshit known as forced plot progression, where idiot characters react in idiotic ways for the sake of the storyline, because without them being idiots, the story would simply stall and die), while on the other hand we have a chick seeking revenge for someone making her piss herself. Okay, she got hit by a car too, but she seems far more concerned with the fact that someone made her yellow her panties. This isn't a huge affront, as Laymon does this kinda story often. But at least in his other books you have the nutso sex and violence to distract you.

I think what pissed me off the most in this book was the lack of wow or ewww factor. You have all of the Laymon staples here: gratuitously-described sex, batshit crazy baddies, and terrific, realistic dialogue. But we're missing all the over-the-top blood and gore. This book felt nerfed. For those of you who are not familiar with the term "nerfed" here's the definition that came up when I used my incomparable Google prowess:

"Nerf is a term that means to be rendered ineffective or less effective by a change in the rules or game system. The term nerf is based on Non-Expanding Recreational Foam, a substance used to make toy weapons. To nerf could be translated as "turn a real weapon into a toy weapon"."

Got it? Well, that's what this book felt like - nerfed Laymon. Every time I felt something big coming, some amazing feat of debauchery or gory fuckery, Laymon pulled his punch. Every fucking time. The ending was the biggest culprit. What a fucking let down. Sigh...

And finally, Laymon's sex scenes suck, and this one is packed full of them. They're laughable at best. There, I said it. The cat's out of the bag. I bet that bag feels empty now. It felt so full and complete when the cat was there. Whatever will that bag do without that cat inside her...

In summation: There are far better Laymon books out there. I listed four of my favorites above, so check those out. For those of you looking for Laymon-Lite, this is the book you should read. Hardcore Laymon fans need not apply.

Final Judgment: Like a Michael Bay movie without explosions.

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Chery says

I miss Richard Laymon...

NIGHT SHOW was first published in 1984. I read it back then (and thought I was so cool to be reading this cutting-edge fiction) and just read it again. Layton was known for his outrageous, bloody, gutty, balls to the wall stories. This one is actually kind of mild compared to some of his others - QUAKE comes to mind.

There's a couple of storylines in this tale, one about Linda, a teenage girl that gets locked in a haunted house and gets the piss scared out of her, then rushing headlong into an accident.

Then there's Dani, a movie special FX artist, who is being followed around by a strange teenage boy who calls himself the Chill Master.

There's plenty of horror in this short book, especially when you consider the time period it was written in. The story holds up pretty well for having been written over 30 years ago. I found myself jumping a couple of times during the story - and that doesn't happen often.

NOTE: I received this book from Samhain Publishing through Net Galley in exchange for my honest review.

Irene says

This was a quick and creepy read.

One night a disturbed youth who gets off on scaring people decides it would be great fun to lock a girl in the local "haunted" house as a prank. Something goes wrong and now this girl is out for revenge.

Meanwhile this disturbed young man has moved on to stalking Dani, a horror movie special effects expert. He insinuates himself into her life with dire consequences.

A fun and suspenseful read.

I received an advance copy for review.

Kate says

4.5*

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Dani makes her living doing horror movie special effects, she's an expert in scaring an audience but ends up on the receiving end of unwanted attention from someone who calls himself the Chill Master. Is he a misguided young man or something more sinister?

I've apparently already read this book in a much earlier edition but I couldn't remember anything about the story so it was great to read something 'new' from Laymon. The storyline is classic Laymon with perhaps slightly less deviant sex and it's not that heavy on the gore or depravity.

Dani is a fairly likeable character but at times she was extremely frustrating, especially with choices she made about her unwanted companion. At times she knowingly put herself in danger even though her gut told her not to take the actions she did. Normally I love the strong female characters in Laymon's stories but Dani felt a little weaker and far too dependent on her new love interest.

The story was split into two story arcs that came together at the end. The other story arc was just as engaging and didn't feel tacked on just for the sake of it. I also love tales of revenge so this part for me was really enjoyable.

I'm not sure how the new Samhain edition differs to the old editions as the page count seems to be less but I found it a fast, tight read that I felt compelled to finish in a day.

Great fun and makes me miss Laymon even more.

Kimberly says

THE NIGHT SHOW, by Richard Laymon is not one of his more "over the top" books in terms of gratuitous gore and rape scenes. That's not to say that there wasn't any--just not as much as fans of his are accustomed to seeing.

The story itself was very straightforward--two separate plot lines, but each ultimately linked by a common factor. The main part of the story concerns Dani Larson--a woman who makes gory special effects for movies, and a star-struck admirer, Tony, who decides he belongs alongside her (regardless of several glaring obstacles, such as: A.) she has a boyfriend, and B.) he is a psychotic egomaniac).

I really wanted to like this book much more than I did. Ultimately, the ridiculously STUPID decisions that Dani makes turned a creepy story into one that held no credence for me whatsoever. **SPOILER ALERT:** Honestly, if a creepy kid was stalking you and telling you how much you were meant to be together, would you keep inviting him into your home, or call the police? It was those moments that took me completely out of the book.

Before that began, I felt that the characterization was enough to get us acquainted with the key players, and the position Dani was in would have terrified me.

The alternate part of the story, unfortunately, just never felt authentic to me. It was a bit too "forced" to be believable from anyone who wasn't under psychiatric care. I just never could get into the extremes that particular character was treading in--especially in light of the situation that caused her desire for revenge in the first place.

Overall, some good moments, but not--in my humble opinion--one of Laymon's better works.

I received an e-copy of this book through NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Bandit says

Classic Laymon, albeit considerably less sexually deviant as some of his work. No rape for one thing. No bestiality. Both leads are fairly capable females. I loved the fact that it has to do with horror movies. Still plenty of T & A and horny teenagers and scares, but relatively tame comparing to some of Laymon's work. Entertaining and very quick read and glorious Steve Crisp's cover, which makes UK published Laymon books such a treat. Definitely recommended.

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

Review Excerpt: : I don't feel that *Night Show* is one of Laymon's better works. While I was initially drawn to it, by around the halfway point, I had no interest in continuing to read it. I wasn't adverse to what I was reading; I just found it entirely too easy to walk away from and my attention was constantly being diverted as it seemed to settle into a rut of the same things happening in different form repeatedly.

Disclaimer: I received a copy from this book from the publisher for review consideration.

For a full review, please click [here](#) to be directed to Scifi and Scary's Book Reviews Blog.
