



# Corrosion

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## **Corrosion** Jon Bassoff

A mysterious Iraq war veteran with a horribly scarred face...A disturbed young man in a strange mountain town...A masked preacher with a terrible secret... Amidst a firestorm of violence, betrayal and horror, their three worlds will eventually collide in an old mining shack buried deep in the mountains. CORROSION, the shattering debut novel by Jon Bassoff, is equal parts Jim Thompson, Flannery O'Connor and William Faulkner, and an unforgettable journey into the underbelly of crime and passion. Drawn from the darkest corners of the human experience, it is sure to haunt readers for years to come.

## **Corrosion Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by DarkFuse (first published September 29th 2013)

ISBN : 9781937771805

Author : Jon Bassoff

Format : Paperback 252 pages

Genre : Horror, Mystery, Noir, Novels

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# From Reader Review Corrosion for online ebook

## Paul Nelson says

Corrosion is the masterfully written début by Jon Bassoff, a cross between No Country for Old Men and Sin City, but a hell of a lot darker and dirtier.

Written in first person from three perspectives the author mixes tough narrative with disturbing thought and it's a runaway success. Like Cormac McCarthy's No Country for Old Men there are no quotes around the spoken work but it's distinctively clear what's going on and it works really well. First person when done right can be a thrilling reading experience, being inside the mind of a character brings a certain intimacy and conversely, done wrong can kill the interest very quickly. The question is can you stand being in the slightly disturbed minds portrayed in this book, its well worth finding out.

The first character we meet is Joseph Downs an Iraq war veteran, horrifically burnt by an IED, his car breaks down just outside a small Colorado town and he's stuck there for the foreseeable future. While in a bar he violently intervenes in an argument between a woman and her husband and pretty soon she's knocking on his hotel room door, playing Joseph like a cat plays with a mouse and when she hands him a gun, things get plenty serious. Being in the mind of Joseph Downs brought back memories of Marv from Sin City and he is a dark, absorbing and completely consuming character. His thoughts always return back to his ultimate destination, a place known as the Mountain and we see as he resists until he can't stay away.

The second character we meet is Benton Faulk, sometime in the past, a 16 year old boy with a mother on her deathbed and a crazy father desperately trying to save her. It's fascinating to be with this boy as his balance of rational thought slowly wastes away. The third character is the masked Reverend Wells, a preacher who takes a hard-line view on the sinful and it's gripping as we see how these characters are linked together.

What's with Joseph Downs, an undoubtedly brutal past and the desire to get back to the mountain, what extremity is Benton Faulk heading for? And the Reverend, another one with secrets, what's his story?

Highly recommended, the plot is enthralling, the first person narrative puts you right there in the story with these flawed characters and I shall certainly be on the lookout for more from Jon Bassoff.

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## Bill says

“And now, forever, snow falling, wind howling, boots crunching, breath wheezing, devil laughing.”

Extremely creative and dark. Corrosion is a disturbing journey following a small cast of characters and the insanity that envelops them, both before and after, their worlds collide.

Some good turns in this one that kept me on my toes. Brutality. Betrayal. Madness. A super solid debut novel from Jon Bassoff. 4+ Stars. Highly Recommended.

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## Kimberly says

After reading this novel (in one day--yes, it was THAT addictive!), the first thing that came to my mind after my conscious thought returned was "WOW!" However, I noticed that another reviewer already came up with that (LOL!), so I'll try to elaborate a little more.

There isn't much that I can say about the storyline itself without giving away too much. This is an incredible novel that will seep into your very core as you're reading it. And when it does sink in, it will leave you thinking, "how could he have come up with this?"--in a good way! This is a book that demands your attention, and the end payoff when you "get" everything that you've just read is a feeling nothing short of breathtaking. This is superb writing! The minds of the characters are so well developed that I didn't have a moment of "that wouldn't have happened"....everything was just so flawlessly executed that--as a reader--I questioned nothing, and let Jon Bassoff's words take me where they would.

For those of you looking for a deep novel that will completely encompass your life for several hours, this is it.

Highly recommended!

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## Ellen Gail says

Three stars! *Corrosion* is horror noir, a seedy tale of identity and secrets.

Truth time: I almost DNFed this before the halfway mark. The story took it's sweet time to churn, and for a short novel, I struggled to get into it. (Also fair warning: The dialogue is sans quotation marks. Heads up if that's a dealbreaker for you.) However, I'm glad I continued. Perseverance is a virtue, or blahbitty blah blah or something. But this isn't a story about virtue. No. OHHHHH no.

*I was beginning to think that there wasn't a single righteous person in the world. I was beginning to think that everybody had secrets, terrible secrets.*

I hesitate to say too much about the plot? It doesn't rely on huge twists or massive reveals, but I was impressed by the quiet way the main character was allowed to evolve. (view spoiler)

Our main character is **NOT** a nice dude. He's not an antihero, or a villain you can root for. He's a nasty dude who does bad things. His soul is in a constant state of corrosion.

TITLE DROP!

Anyway. Plot wise, the second half was when things really started to click for me. Excellent use of a super extended flashback sequence (I guess that's what you'd call it? Is it even a flashback if it goes on for over a chapter? Cause I mean that's not a flash.)

Really, it's not a scary sort of horror. I wanted to be scared out of my pants (disclaimer: not wearing pants. It's as hot as the devil's ass-crack here), but I found this pretty light on the traditional scares. It's a more gritty, pulpy, bottom of the sand-pit kind of horror story. The fear is in what the characters might do, what people are capable of. It's a very creative and unusual fit into the horror genre, and I appreciate that.

*Memories get mixed up memories change one person remembers it one way somebody else remembers it a different way.*

I'm glad I stuck this out. It took a while, but once I got fully into *Corrosion*, the pages sped on by. It's not my favorite horror novel ever, (and don't ask me to pick one, because oh my god, I could never), but I am glad that I read it.

Horror noir is a genre that has so much to offer, and this strange little book fits right in.

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### **Pete Kahle says**

Brutally beautiful. Sparse and efficient writing. This is one of the best novels I have read in the past few years. Hard to believe it's a first novel. Jon Bassoff is now on my short list of my must-read authors. I can only hope my writing comes close to affecting readers the way this novel has inspired me.

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### **Ms. Nikki says**

I finished this a while ago and I just remember it being confusing due to the no quotes. The prose was original yet chaotic, jumping from here to there with an unnatural, but quick flow.

For me this read stayed too drab and I sometimes lost interest or just wanted to move on. That's not to say that this author is lacking in talent. Far from it.

For a new writer, there was a certain depth to this read that some seasoned writers have yet to accomplish.

Corrosion is a disturbingly dark read that is sure to make you think.

"Memories get mixed up memories change one person remembers it one way somebody else remembers it a different way"

Check out [www.horrorafterdark.com](http://www.horrorafterdark.com) for reviews and more~

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### **Heath Lowrance says**

It's not too often a new novel comes along that you can call "psycho-noir" and not be wildly inaccurate. True psycho-noir is a rare and darkly beautiful thing; well-done psycho-noir even more so.

CORROSION, by Jon Bassoff, is a well-done psycho-noir. No, it's more than that-- it's a bit of a masterpiece, really, probably the best I've read since Allan Guthrie's SLAMMER. It's devious and disturbing, with an underlying sense of dread that keeps your guts in an uproar and absolutely refuses to let you stop reading.

Bassoff tells a sort of a duel story here, first with the horribly disfigured Joseph Downs, an obviously disturbed veteran of the war in Iraq. Joseph gets involved with the wrong woman (a tried-and-true standard starting point for noir stories) and it inevitably leads to violence and depravity. But Bassoff takes a left turn after that, subverting the old noir tropes and focusing on Joseph's fragile psyche after being betrayed.

The second part of CORROSION skips backwards a few years and tells the first-person story of Benton Faulks, a lonely, messed-up kid dealing with his dying mother, a father going slowly insane, and his insatiable lust (love?) for an older woman who wants nothing to do with him. Reading Benton's slow descent into a kind of madness that makes even his father look sane is hard; when Benton begins acting out his fantasies of being a sort of super-hero soldier, it's horrifying.

Savvy readers will probably guess the connection between these two narratives early on. But it's still fascinating to see the way Bassoff plays it out, to see the way he ties the threads together and allows his tale to loop around on itself. Some reviewers have compared his style and his themes to Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner and Jim Thompson, and I suppose that's all true. But Bassoff has a style of his own, obsessions deeper and darker than those three brilliant influences would probably have dared to go.

For true modern psycho-noir, you can't do much better than this one.

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### **11811 (Eleven) says**

This was a dark read and most of the darkness I didn't see coming until BAM! -- Bludgeoned by darkness!!!

The prose was excellent. The no quotes thing may throw some people but it didn't bother me personally. If Cormac McCarthy can get away with it then I see no reason why this guy can't.

Excellent pacing, characters, and a near brilliant story. This got a lot of hype when it was released and it deserves it.

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### **Mark Matthews says**

Fantastic. Unforgettable. A bit mesmerizing. Corrosion is an incredible piece of work. It is a Darkfuse title, which means it is automatically going to be good, but for me, this was a step above. I picked it up on the kindle select program, and so glad I did. The voices of the characters pop from the page. Rich in detail, in setting, in character, plot twists, and with a unique narration that hit its mark with me. I couldn't help but think of what effort this must have taken to write. There is a message in here that spoke to me about how the presumed back story of a character can completely change your perspective. In the field of mental health therapy, there is a technique known as "Narrative Therapy", where one changes the narrative of their own personal history in order to rewrite themselves and give themselves a new identity. Well, this takes that to new dark depths.

There is not so much horror here as there is terror and tension and a brilliant touch of nihilism. Fans of Rust Cohle from True Detective, take note. (Sidenote: Matthew McConaughey, why oh why did you do those nauseating Lincoln Mercury commercials! I take back all those wonderful things I said and even thought about you.)

Back to the praise for the author (who I do not believe has done a car commercial).

I want to be in one of Bassoff's English lit classes to listen in on a lecture someday. (I am pretty sure that, from my author stalking, that is what he does for his day job.) There are so many sentences in Corrosion that I highlighted on my kindle that made me go "Damn! That is brilliant", in both their simplicity and complexity. Any one of them could have made a whole novel, but there were dozens. For example this one: "And then silence, God hanging from a noose."

I've got a pretty big man-crush on Jon Bassoff at this point, if you couldn't tell. I plan to sneak into his house, and gather up the scrap sentences from his novels that he wrote but edited out (because I am sure they are lying all over his floor somewhere and that even these sentences are incredible.) Then, I am piecing them together for my own work. Pretty soon, BAMN! My name is Jon Bassoff. I am from Colorado, and I write Mountain Goth and I teach English and I may even put up a goodreads profile someday. (since it seems the real Jon Bassoff has not).

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## **Frank Errington says**

I've long been a believer in strong opening lines and Jon Bassoff delivers in this, his first published novel. "I was less than 20 miles from the Mountain when the engine gave out, smoke billowed from the hood, and Red Sovine stopped singing."

Corrosion is full of good writing and features one of the most twisted, demented protagonists I've ever encountered. I truly believe we are a product of our environment, "And the boy, eight maybe nine years old, cowlick in his hair, grinning goofily, unaware of his future, unaware of the death and despair that would surround him for the rest of his days, unaware of the sickness that would destroy his mother, the corrosion of her body, the corrosion of his father's mind, the corrosion of his own soul."

As I read Corrosion, my mind kept coming back to the new HBO series "True Detective." It's gritty, it's real, and it pulls no punches. The writer asks, "Truth? What is truth?" When is the truth also not the truth? "My name is Joseph Downs. I served my country proudly."

I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of Corrosion especially when the author took us back seven years in Part Two and then tied it all together in Part Three and Part Four was just like a big slice of pie with your coffee.

I certainly look forward to more from Jon Bassoff. Corrosion is available now from Darkfuse Press in both paperback and ebook formats through Amazon.com.

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## **Steve Weddle says**

CORROSION falls into a broad category called "psycho noir," a dark novel in which a severely damaged protagonist does terrible things, justifying them to himself and to the reader. The stand-out that comes to mind is Jim Thompson's THE KILLER INSIDE ME, which I also enjoyed.

Where CORROSION separates itself from Thompson's book -- and most others -- is in its dealing with individual identity. What shapes a person -- in the case, a man? How does he define himself? What motivates him? How can he change?

This was an amazing book, one that sucked you right in and let you fall through the darkness. You can feel completely unmoored reading this, but never lost. Adrift, but not unguided.

The rhythm of the writing, the lines and characters, the pacing, all these technical aspects assure you that you're in the hands of a talented writer. About that, there can be no doubt.

CORROSION was a painful, brilliant read and I look for more from Bassoff.

Highly recommended.

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### **Kim (Wistfulskimmies Book Reviews) says**

This is the story of Joseph Downs. He is on the way to the Mountains when his pickup breaks down. He is forced to seek refuge in the nearest town while his truck is fixed. Horribly scarred while doing service in Iraq- peoples reactions to him are varied. But is Joseph all he seems?

This was a truly unique book. I must admit it took me a while to get used to the strange narrative but once I did, there was no stopping me. The story was gritty, and visceral and will stay with me for a long time I think. That's partly why I have left this review for a couple of days, as I was still inwardly digesting the story. I loved the characters, they had an edge and a rawness that appealed to me. The pace was unrelenting, and forced me to read it in three sittings! All in all, this is a belter of a debut, and would be thrilled to read more from this author.

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### **Dianne says**

Ever had one of those recurring nightmares that sometimes incorporates slightly different elements? That's kind of what **Corrosion** by debut author Jon Bassoff is like. A horribly scarred war veteran saves a damsel in distress, and then does the unthinkable in the name of "love," only to be rejected by said damsel. A young man leaves his isolated mountain home in search of his father, a mental patient. A curbside preacher in a mask warns of the horrors of eternal damnation. What do they have in common? Each has past issues that have created a slight blip on their mental radar. Each has sinned, been rejected, and may actually be a part of each other in a twisted and "dog-eat-dog" way.

Jon Bassoff built a bleak world around each of his characters, dingy towns, dingy hotel rooms, satellite characters that feel unkempt, slightly slimy and damaged. I felt I was crawling through the underbelly of life. Each section of the book featured one of the three above mentioned personalities. All revere the word of God, is that coincidence or something else? Are these lost souls dealing with their own Hell on Earth? I



would suggest you buckle in for this one, because the twists that creep up on you could give you whiplash trying to absorb it all! Mr. Bassoff's mind is a creative and fertile ground for the dark and strangely haunting. You've been warned!

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Author's Website

Amazon

*For more reviews check out Tome Tender's Book Blog or find us on Facebook.*

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## Anish Kohli says

***Choices aren't made. There is no free will.***

Maybe that's the truth, because I thought I was making a conscious choice while I picked up this book, it was actually providence, smiling upon me and blessing me with a BRILLIANT piece of storytelling that I so desperately wanted. There is no free will, indeed.

In my relentless pursuit of a SPINE TINGLING horror novel, trolling the web, I came across this one guy's Blog, who divined Corrosion as one of THE BEST HORROR book in the recent times. Well, that and the GR description of the book were enough to pique my interest and I picked it up.

While it is NOT a horror novel per se, it definitely is Horrifying because it reinforces the idea that ***Monsters don't sleep under your bed, they sleep inside your Head.***

Written in the 1st person, this debut novel from Jon Bassoff is an absolute masterpiece. So well written that it has no flaws. The writing style is smooth as silk. The characters are well shaped and they jump off of the pages. The writer will reel you in and get you hooked hopelessly, without you realizing. For me, a new and budding SK fan, Jon's style of writing seemed pretty close to SK and it's a good thing as it gets you really into the thick of things.

I can't really tell you much of the story without ruining it but here is the lay out.

The story follows 3 different characters in different timelines.

2010: Joseph Downs, a military veteran stuck in a town due to car troubles, where he unwittingly gets involved in something with someone that will bring his world crashing down.

2003: Benton Faulk, a young boy living in the mountains, is dealing with his personal losses which are upsetting his fragile psyche.

2011: Reverend Wells, a masked preacher and devout follower of the good lord above, holds strong opinions regarding sin and sinners.

The author brings these characters and timelines together and coalesces the story in a seamless manner, fashioning out of the darkest recesses of his mind, one of the BEST stories I've read.

***The cruelty of Man is only equaled by the cruelty of God.***

This is the singular truth that rings loud and clear throughout the book. The author takes on the dark side of things and deals with them magnificently. Take the author's hand and descend into a world of rot and ruin, madness and misery and pain and suffering.

I have personally found, that the best of authors, at times are quite unable to justify the title of the book in terms of story, but NOT Jon and NOT Corrosion.

This is actually a story that talks about corrosion. Talks about the corrosion of soul and mind. Of how much or how little it takes to tip us over the edge. Of how sometimes life kicks you in the teeth. When your demons take control and express themselves. When madness seeps through the barriers of sanity. The lack of the morality and of what is left when stripped of the very thing that makes us human.

Calls to mind a dialogue of the beloved Joker, “ ***Madness is like Gravity, all you need is a little Push.*** ”  
Hallelujah to that.

Don't miss out on this splendid piece of writing

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## **Mike says**

For his first book Jon hit this one out of the park. I enjoyed this book a lot, with the twist and turns of the story. And how smooth the story flowed. It's going to be hard for Jon to top this one with his next book. But I'm looking forward to it. I don't want to say anything about the story and spoil it for someone. Just that you need to read it. I have been really impressed by these new authors that DarkFuse been publishing. I rarely give out 5 stars, only to books that totally blow me away. That being said I gave Corrosion 4 1/2 stars.

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