



Slender Man

Anonymous

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One man's search for the truth about one of the most intriguing urban legends ever—the modern bogeyman, Slender Man—leads him down a dark, dangerous path in this creepy supernatural fantasy reminiscent of *Night Film*, *House of Leaves*, and *Illuminae*, that will make you question where the line between legend and fact begins

A young man is desperate to find his missing friend . . . desperate enough to resort to the darkest means. But just how much is he willing to pay the Slender Man in order to save her?

Told through a variety of narrative devices, including photos, journal entries, e-mails, articles, and other artifacts, this unique spine-tingling story is a brilliant and terrifying look at one of the most fascinating—and diabolical—mythical figures in modern times.

Slender Man Details

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Author : Anonymous

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From Reader Review Slender Man for online ebook

Michelle says

I have read a couple of books this year that have tipped their hat to the legend of Slender Man. First with Mister Tender's Girl and also with The Tall Man. While those other books deal with teens that commit murder in their undying belief of Slender Man/Mister Tender this is the book that asks the reader to consider what if Slender Man is, in fact, real.

And, Bravo! I don't know who the Anonymous author is but I am a fan of yours whoever you may be.

This book can easily be read within a few hours due to the unique format that it takes. You have journal entries, social media postings, emails, police interviews, private recordings, text messages which all make for an incredibly quick and effective read.

Matt Barker is a wealthy kid that attends a private school in NYC. Unlike his fellow students he's a quiet kid that yearns to become a writer even though his bloodline demands him to be a lawyer. He's never been one for the "in" crowd and basically just keeps to himself. (Side note: I adore Matt!)

Then, Lauren Bailey, a student that attends his school goes missing and it rocks the world of everyone around him. Everyone is left to speculate as to what would make this young and promising girl walk out of her NYC apartment building just past 3am to never be seen again.

What many people at school didn't realize is that Matt and Lauren were very close friends. They had known each other since they were just wee tots as their mothers went to college together. They have maintained their friendship through the years and texted each other frequently. Often giving each other advice and just being a solid support system for one another.

Matt has been experiencing nightmares for quite some time and he is starting to think that they are linked to Lauren's disappearance.

"I think that maybe there are deep things, things that you can't explain with science, that you can't make sense of when the lights are on and you're warm and safe. I think there are wild things in the dark."

Is Matt losing his mind? Will Lauren ever be found? You'll have to read it to find out.

Absolutely perfect for Halloween! Highly recommended!

A huge thank you to Andrew Gibeley @HarperCollins who was kind enough to send me a finished copy in exchange for my honest review!

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

3.5 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <https://bibliosanctum.com/2018/10/30/...>

The origin of Slender Man as a creepypasta internet meme that gained traction on an online forum before

becoming viral and exploding into a worldwide phenomenon has always fascinated me. It's perhaps one of the best modern examples of how a legend or myth might come to life, its genesis and spread happening in real time for all to observe, especially following a series of violent related incidents widely covered by the media. The surreal nature of this now iconic horror figure is what immediately drew me to this book, simply titled *Slender Man* by an author whom, in a very meta touch, has been kept anonymous, which should clue you in as to the style and mood of story you're in for...

In basic terms, *Slender Man* is an epistolary novel comprised of journal entries, emails, text messages, voice transcripts, and other forms of documentation surrounding the life of high school student Matt Barker, who is on a mission to discover the truth of what happened to his friend and classmate Lauren Bailey. The popular teen girl from Riley, an elite New York City high school, went out one night and never returned. Within hours, rumors were flying all over Riley speculating on her whereabouts, though secretly, Matt knows Lauren well enough to know the majority of them have no basis in fact. While the two teens never ran in the same circles at school, they have maintained a close friendship that neither of them advertised publicly, keeping most their correspondence through texts. Lauren had an obsession with dark subjects that, as far as Matt knew, he was the only one she ever shared with, sending with him gruesome stories and pictures that she found online that she thought were funny or interesting.

After days go by with no headway on the police investigation into the disappearance, Matt decides to take matters into his own hands, uncovering a series of strange photoshopped images on Lauren's cloud drive, proving irrefutably that she was drawn to the legend of *Slender Man*. Given how the stories go—that any attention given to *Slender Man* is in fact a foolhardy way to summon the creature or draw its notice—Matt believes his friend is in serious danger, and the terrifying dreams he has almost nightly seem to confirm his bad feelings.

Due to its format, I suspect *Slender Man* will not be a book for everybody, and if you have struggled with epistolary novels in the past, it's possible you may run into similar issues with this one. The style itself is limiting in certain situations, especially when the story calls for descriptive action. Often you end up with awkward moments where the character resorts to oral dictation and info-dumping, ludicrously stating out everything he/she is doing, and we have a few instances of this here where the forced narrative pulled me out of the immersion. One other thing to note is that the book is very Young Adult-oriented—which may end up being a disappointment to those who were hoping for a good scare out of this. *Slender Man* is at times deeply atmospheric and plays with your mind a bit, but for a horror novel, I did not find it scary or even that creepy. The characters' personalities also fit in with the overall YA tone of the story, so expect a certain level of teen angst and other genre clichés like disdainful attitudes towards healthcare workers and law enforcement (or just adults in general).

Despite these caveats, I did have a good time reading the book. While the epistolary style does not always lend itself well to character development, I thought the author did a good job painting Matt Barker as a convincing and sympathetic figure, due to the fact his journal entries make up the bulk of the novel. Matt's emotional state is strongly felt in these entries; we get a good depiction of his confusion, the genuine concern for Lauren, as well as the crushing sense of helplessness and fear as he realizes what he must do to save her. I also enjoyed the creative use of documentation to tell the story, not to mention the sheer variety of sources ranging from newspaper clippings to the Riley school letters sent out to faculty and parents, and even snippets from Whatsapp group chats and Reddit discussion forums. I thought they were a nice touch to give the situation a more "authentic" feel, and the eclectic mix also made this a super quick and addictive read.

All too soon, the book was over, and honestly, if I have one complaint about the ending, it's that it felt rushed and the conclusion was left a little too open. But for a story of this nature about *Slender Man*, perhaps

there was no other way around this issue. The character became a horror phenomenon precisely because of the mystery and ambiguity surrounding its motives, and the novel's ending seems to reflect this limitless potential for speculation and the role of reader imagination. If you don't mind the vagueness, then you'll probably enjoy the enigma, and certainly the unknowns added greatly to the general atmosphere of the story, which was top-notch and was a counterpoint to some of the book's minor weaknesses. Overall a fast and fun read if you're looking for a bit of mood reading for the spooky season!

Helen says

This was pretty cool. I was vaguely aware of the Slender Man phenomena but also kind of glad I didn't know every little thing about it, so this maybe enhanced my enjoyment of the book.

Written in a kind of patchwork narrative comprised of journal entries, text messages and interview transcripts, we observe the incidence of missing teenage girl Lauren, primarily through the eyes of Matt. We get to witness his mental unraveling and this really ramps up the tension. This was a quick read and very much a tale for the modern age, offering something a little different.

Recommended.

Sol ~ TheBookishKing says

I just blew through this whole book in about two and a half hours and WOW.

The beginning bored me to no end and I had a lot of issues but I couldn't put it down at all AND THE ENDING OHMY. It was so creepy to me and I'm so glad I read this!

RTC.

Chandra Claypool (wherethereadergrows) says

I have been fascinated with the Slender Man phenomenon for quite some time. It's amazing how something that started as a contest turned into something oh so real for some crazy individuals... resulting in murder, cult like following and just plain paranoia.

Recently watched the Always Watching: A Marble Hornets Story and so far it's my favorite film re SM. Deliciously creepy and I highly recommend. I was hoping to get that same creep factor in this book but alas, it is YA Horror - though even some YA Horror can give me the chilly bumps. This book took just a little too long to get into the meat of the main part. I realize this is pretty much how the phenomenon happens in these Slenderman sightings to straight crazy journey... I just wanted more SM!!

I loved the way this story was told via different types of entries, interviews, whats app messaging, articles, etc. It made for a quick, entertaining and fascinating read. Ultimately I knew I was going to like this before I even turned the first page.

If you're a lover of Slenderman and have been following this phenomenon in any capacity, I think you're

going to enjoy this read.

Thank you to HarperVoyager for this copy!

Janelle • She Reads with Cats says

I had so much fun reading this book! Wealthy high school kids, a missing girl, and a supernatural phenomenon are all essential ingredients to a very enjoyable book.

Matt Barker and Lauren Bailey are close friends, have known each other since they were little, and both attend private school in New York. Even though they know each other better than anyone they keep their friendship a secret as Lauren is a popular girl and Matt tends to keep to himself. One day, Lauren has gone missing and was last seen walking out of her apartment building at 3:14 AM. Matt logs into her iCloud account to search through her photos when he comes across a peculiar file. He finds photos of a woodland area and when he looks harder he sees a dark figure in the shadows with strange arms and a pale face. And then Matt's nightmares begin....at 3:14 AM.

This is an epistolary novel which I always enjoy. It's written in journal entries, transcripts, emails, articles, interviews, text messages, social media chats, and recordings. The Slender Man lore interests me to no end so I read this book in just a few hours. Matt is such a great character and the author does a fantastic job capturing his fear, paranoia, and confusion. Although I did not find this book scary and it is light on the supernatural aspect, I thought it was well written, entertaining, suspenseful, and chilling. SLENDER MAN is the perfect book to read for Halloween - and I'm so intrigued with Anonymous.

Lisa says

Review from Tenacious Reader: <http://www.tenaciousreader.com/2018/1...>

OK, this is one seriously addictive and creepy read, and is a perfect pick for Halloween (or any other time of year if you are in the mood). The atmosphere is fantastic, and I love the epistolary style its told in. Fragments of journal entries, text messages, reddit posts, police interviews and recordings are used to lead the reader through a suspenseful mystery. It also makes for a much quicker read, which can be a positive thing when you are anxious to find out what is going on.

The protagonist Matt is our main character and we get a good chunk of the narrative from his journal entries, but we also get information from an assortment of other sources such as text messages, news articles, as well as notes from his psychiatrist to his parents about their sessions.

Matt attends a private school in Manhattan and aspires to be a writer. However, he feels incredible pressure from his dad to become a lawyer (following in both his parents' footsteps). He has an interesting relationship with a childhood friend, Lauren, who is now a very popular girl at his school (he's not popular in case you wondering). They don't exactly intentionally "hide" their on going friendship, but they don't advertise it either, so almost no one realizes they are still friends. They chat through texts regularly and I think they each have parts of themselves that they only show to each other. I enjoyed the fact that these childhood buddies remained close (in a completely platonic way) despite their very different interests and social circles in their

“regular” lives.

When Lauren goes missing, Matt is impacted very deeply. Much more so than anyone realizes. His nightmares, that were already bad, intensify to a point where the question becomes, are these nightmares more than just dreams, is there something super natural going on here that is haunting and terrorizing Matt? And if so, is it possible the same thing happened to Lauren? I was not familiar with the Slender Man urban legend, but the book did a great job of bringing me up to speed and tying it in with Lauren’s disappearance and Matt’s nightmares. The book also captures the high school gossip experience, with online speculation and opinions about everything showing up in chat sessions, teenagers jumping to wild conclusions and spreading their opinions as facts. Actually, that doesn’t seem to just be high school any more, I guess that’s real life in an online world these days. If this type of drama doesn’t work for you, you might not enjoy the book.

If I had to find a criticism, it might be that there were certain passages that seemed to go on longer than I’d have liked. I found myself too anxious to know what happens next to sit patiently through every word, and I am torn on if this is a good thing or a bad thing. I mean, it does show that I was so into the story that I couldn’t wait to get to the details on where the story was headed and that is a huge, huge plus, one that I think outweighs any real negative here. But then I also wonder if that perhaps the balance or order of building suspense versus providing information were a bit off? If there might have been a way to provide both, but structured slightly different so I would not feel a level of impatience in parts of the book? (I’m not a writer or an editor, so I might not be accurate or know what I’m talking about, it’s just a thought).

On another note, I got a kick out of the Reddit conversations, complete with the negative trolls popping in, some people posting nothing useful (and getting downvoted accordingly). Not to mention, some of the usernames were good. Like KJ_Parker_Is_God. It’s a minor thing, but actually added a bit of levity to the story for me, it was a welcome bit of tension relief from time to time to fall into the familiar pattern of reddit conversations. I also want to mention this story was published anonymously and I am quite curious who the author is. They are obviously a fan of the fantasy genre, they are also quite familiar with reddit, so I feel like maybe I might “know” of them from some thing other than this story and I’d love to make the connection. Particularly if they’ve written anything else.

So, overall, I found this to be a great read that was suspenseful and a bit mysterious. I quite enjoyed the style it was told in, and really find my largest complaint is that I don’t know who wrote it.

Barb (Boxermommyreads) says

First I have to admit that as intrigued as I am about the entity of Slender Man, I didn't know a whole lot about him going in. So I did some research and basically learned he is a tall, skinny man (I guessed as much) with no facial features and long stretching arms which resemble snakes or tentacles. I also learned that Slender Man is deeply connected to Lovecraft horror which is no surprise given the tentacle concept. Thus it should be of no surprise to my followers my desire to read this book - TENTACLES! Enough of the history lesson.

When the novel starts out, we learn that Matt Barker is a spoiled troubled rich kid attending a private school in New York. He attends counseling and is tasked with keeping a "diary" which is how we learn much of what is happening to Matt and his friends. One night, one of his good friends, Lauren, walks out of her

apartment building and then goes missing. Law enforcement gets involved and many are speculating about what has happened to Lauren, but only Matt feels there might be something sinister at hand.

One of the best things about this book is its epistolary format. "Slender Man" is told in diary entries, texts, emails, police interviews, recordings and newspaper clippings. There is also a story within a story here and guess what? It works! Because of the formatting, "Slender Man" is a great quick read and one which I devoured in a few hours. And while I really liked Matt, I wish the story had a little more Slender man appearances. Don't get me wrong, there are a few creepy scenes and I will never look at a flock of birds the same. The ending was also fairly creepy even if I did pretty much see it coming.

So overall, this book has great formatting and an interesting enough story, but I needed a tad bit more horror. I also admit that the fact that it is written anonymously adds to the book's mystic (plus, I'll give a big shout-out to anyone who can tell me who actually wrote this tale - curious minds and all). If you like horror set in urban legends and folklore, then I would recommend "Slender Man" for a fast quick enjoyable read. Plus there are still a few days left until Halloween so what better time!

Thanks to Edelweiss and Harper Voyager for a copy of "Slender Man" in exchange for an honest review.

Chris says

This was a very fitting selection from the October My Book Box. It is a story about a missing teen toward via journal entries and texts. It is a House of Leaves set in today of media.

The action centers around Matt who is concerned for his missing friend and classmate, Lauren. Lauren is a popular girl and Matt, not so much. Of course, Matt's outsider status makes him something of a suspect to certain members of the school population, and then there are his nightmares.

Nightmares that may or may not have to do with Slender Man.

The book works because the horror of the book isn't the idea of Slender Man and his possible real existence, but how society views and treats people. The way that Matt's high school classmates are drawn is extremely well done. Though there are bits of the book that are a bit, well strange – who is Brad and why would his mom need anti-depressants because of him? But it is an engrossing and extremely quick read. I started reading it and the only reason I put it down was that, quite frankly, a hyper seventy-pound dog who doesn't get his work is more frightening than Slender Man.

This really does what House of Leaves does but in a less, convoluted, and more real way.

Missy Ansell says

This was a fun quick read. If your into creepypastas or Slender Man in particular, I think you'll like this.

One of Matt's friends disappears in the middle of the night. He doesn't think the police are doing enough to help, so he starts to investigate. He believes that Slender man took her, and that he must save him.

Blair says

Another Slender Man novel for 2018 (there was a film this year too). Unlike *The Tall Man* and *Mister Tender's Girl*, this story doesn't take the real-life murder case as inspiration, and is better for it. The narrator is Matt, a student at an elite, cliquey New York high school – the *Gossip Girl* type that's filled with the kids of celebrities and the very well-off. The plot mainly centres on the disappearance of Matt's friend Lauren, though from the start we are fed hints that something will likely happen to Matt too. The narrative is a montage, composed of various sources: Matt's diary, reports from his therapist, group chats, Reddit posts, interview transcripts and articles. The supernatural element is largely restrained, which works well.

What this most reminded me of was not anything in the horror genre but the thriller *Reconstructing Amelia*, which is another patchwork narrative and which also investigates the life of a girl attending an elite New York school. Like that book, it feels very much like a 'guilty pleasure', but a superior example of one. I wonder whether the anonymous author is a newcomer or someone who's previously been published – either way, they've done a sterling job with the source material.

TinyLetter | Twitter | Instagram | Tumblr

Emily says

"Some things that are fictions are also real. Stories can take on lives of their own. Things that are made up can still hurt you."

I first heard about the upcoming Slender Man book at the very beginning of this year when Books in the Freezer talked about new releases on their podcast. I immediately requested a copy, and the book release kept getting pushed back. This month I received an e-mail from the publisher asking if I wanted to review it, and I was so excited!

I am happy to say that I had a lot of fun reading this book. This is an epistolary novel, which I tend to enjoy. I have not seen the new movie yet, but I was able to tell from other reviews that this book is not connected to the movie storyline. It's mainly set at a fancy high school in New York, so it has a bit of a *Gossip Girl* vibe, which I liked.

At some points, the diary entries are do feel a bit drawn out and long, but I never lost interest in the story. This book is not perfect, but it's an enjoyable YA horror/mystery novel. I wish there would have been a little more of the actual Slender Man character in the novel, but it was still a good read.

Paul says

The story may have a little more spook and thrill than scare, but it is one that is definitely recommended. A Halloween-perfect book that looks at teenage friendships, the anonymity of the internet, and an urban myth that continues to unnerve and affright.

For the full review: <https://paulspicks.blog/2018/10/14/sl...>

Kayleigh D'Andilly says

Gripped me in the beginning due to the unique format of the story. However as it the book progressed I found my interest wavering, and I realised that I had lost hope that this was going to deliver a good scare, the book just wasn't horror to me. Not nearly enough slenderman in a book named after him.

FanFiAddict says

3.5+/5 Stars

First off, I want to thank the publisher and author (who shall remain nameless) for an advanced reading copy of Slender Man in exchange for an honest review. Receiving this ARC does not influence my thoughts or opinions on the novel.

Are you familiar with Slender Man? This fictional supernatural character originated online as a creepypasta internet meme and just continued to grow from there (books, video games, movies, etc.) Stories of this modern bogeyman typically feature him stalking, even abducting, people, particularly kids. But it isn't all fun and games as some readers of his fiction have been connected to violent acts, like for instance, the near-fatal stabbing of a 12-year old girl in Wisconsin.

But enough about Slender Man's roots.

This book is about a young man named Matt Barker; I say about, but it is more of a first-hand account through his many journal entries, audio recordings, police interrogations, newspaper articles, and online chat sessions. His friend, Lauren Bailey, has disappeared, which has set the rumor mill amok throughout their school and pushes Matt to find answers. Through these multiple story fragments, the realization that Matt is dealing with a supernatural being hits home quickly and the only choice he has is to go after Slender Man head-on.

I rather liked that this was written as an epistolary novel, which makes for quick and easy read. It truly brings our modern culture into focus, with use of text messages, phone apps, and reddit to bring multiple points of view into the story without having to give each individual character a thorough story arc. In other words, it gives just enough life to secondary characters to make it believable. To be honest, I'm sort of glad those secondary characters didn't get a ton of the spotlight as most of this felt like Gossip Girl in a horror setting (and yes, my wife watches Gossip Girl so I'm aware of what it is). Rich teens, richer parents, and gossip being spread like butter on toast. All that being said, Matt's audio recordings had me eating every bit of this book. The author does a phenomenal job inserting raw emotion/fear into each and every minute of the recordings, perfectly capturing the emotional, and physical, toll SM has on Matt.

Those that are looking for a novel that is all about Slender Man won't find it here. Those that are looking for a tie-in novel with the movie(s) are also sadly mistaken. But if you want a novel that will chill you right down to the marrow, leaving you gasping for breathe, its perfect.

Though it was quite a slow-burn, slogging a bit in the beginning until all of the supernatural elements culminate into a super creepy, goosebump-inducing ending, it makes for a fantastic Halloween read. It probably isn't enough to have you keeping the lights on at night, but it'll make you think twice about camping out in the woods.
