



The Girl on the Glider

Brian Keene , Keith Minnion (Artist)

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The Girl on the Glider is Brian Keene's take on the traditional, old-fashioned ghost story. This might be Keene's most personal — and powerful — work to date. This book is a must-have for every Keene fan, along with fans of classic horror tales told with a new twist.

The Girl on the Glider Details

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Author : Brian Keene , Keith Minnion (Artist)

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Glenn Rolfe says

(It says hardcover edition, but I just finished the eBook)

Brian Keene has been one of my favorite authors since sometime in 2004 when I picked up *The Rising*. I loved each and every one of his Leisure Books titles and a number of his subsequent releases (*Blood on the Page* is an fantastic collection).

I've had *The Girl on the Glider* on my Kindle since the week I purchased my Kindle (way back in 2013). For one reason or another I never started it. Shame on me.

The Girl on the Glider is a fantastic novella. Keene refers to it as "Meta-Fiction" in the notes.

Pretty much a true story of the writer we all love and the pain and hardships that being that writer brought into his world. On top of that, we have a man reaching the mid-life crisis zone and coming to grips with his own mortality, hell, even with the mortality of those around him. For me, being almost-thirty-nine, I identify with these fears and inner battles Keene describes throughout this story. As a father of three, I know the horror of the "Alphabet Train" as well as I know the struggles and worries of quality time with the wife and kids vs. time writing/promoting.

And wrapped up in all of this is a very cool little ghost story. I think I pretty much agree with Keene that this is one of my favorite pieces he's ever done. It is so honest and so revealing, and that is not always as easy to put to paper for artists as it sounds.

I applaud Keene for this novella. In some way, I'm glad I read it now as opposed to back when I bought it. I don't think I would have understood the gravity of some of these fears and worries back then. I certainly do now.

I give The Girl on the Glider 5 Stars!

Michael says

This is a personal book for Brian and can be for those of us who've been to that house, slept on his couch, and sat on the glider which was haunted. It's also personal because it's not told as a story. It's the author, Brian Keene, telling you what happened to him, his (now ex) wife, and their child. All the names are the same and from the events I can about guess when it all happened. I even found myself mentioned (and not killed...normally Brian kills his friends in his books).

The book is about 100 pages long and, because of the way its presented, it's a very quick read. I read from front to back cover in a little over an hour. In that time I found myself becoming sympathetic to the ghost instead of disturbed by it. This is, of course, because I'm reading the story from a book. Had it happened to me the way it happened to the Keene's I'm sure I'd feel differently. Especially with the way the ghost and the small child seemed to communicate. That's kinda creepy, and I don't even believe in ghosts.

The book was printed as a bonus to give to purchasers of another limited edition book, so there were only enough copies printed to give to buyers. No spares. There's none left sitting in a box at Cemetery Dance Publications. BUT! You can still find them online. Try Ebay. Try Abe Books. You'll pay between \$50 and \$100 dollars for a copy (though if you pay near the high end...make sure you get a numbered copy and not a PC copy), but if you're Brian Keene completist that shouldn't bother you. I know the story won't. It's very entertaining.

Chris says

This book is a five star for me. It might not be for you, I don't know.

I have been reading Brian Keene for a few years now. I have read about 90% of what is out there, minus any special editions. Certainly all of the main books. Also, even though I am not a fiction writer, I am fascinated by the process and the pain of being one. Through Goodreads I have even gotten to know a few very talented writers. I believe that a writer of fiction doesn't just create stories in his or her head and transfer them to the page for our enjoyment. I think that good fiction writers mine their own soul for pain, joy, love and loss and share these experiences with the reader in the form of the story lines and characters in their works. They are their characters. Hemingway said you can't write about war unless you have been on the battlefield. His scenes of war ring so true with the reader simply because they are. They happened. He is processing them, if you will. Keene says that writing is a form of therapy and I know that many authors agree with that statement.

I loved this book for the same reasons I enjoyed Stephen King's "On Writing." It pulls aside the curtain and lets us see how it all works. The practicalities and finances as well as the courage it takes to share that much of yourself with strangers. Also the cost of being a slave to one's muse.

I respect Keene as a writer, and enjoy his books immensely. Those two concepts don't always go hand in hand. There are plenty of great writers who I can't stand reading and plenty of writers that I enjoy despite the fact that they really aren't artists by anyone's standards. Keene is both, in my opinion, and I enjoyed getting to know him a bit better.

5 stars and a favorite for me.

Kaisersoze says

An incredibly personal and (if you'll pardon the expression) haunting novella of a writer and his young family who may be experiencing proof of life after death following the tragic loss of a teenager in an accident at the front of their property. Keene has gone on record as stating most of this novella is true experience, and it really shows. There's a sincerity to the writing that I've not seen matched within the horror genre. For a guy who frequently describes himself (in real life and in this novella) as a "mid list horror writer", this is very, very powerful and deserves to be read by as many people as possible who have been touched by death or worried about their own mortality.

And let's face it. Who doesn't fall into one of those two categories? Present reviewer most definitely included.

5 stars for The Girl on the Glider.

Bill says

This has been acknowledged by reviewers and by the author himself as Keene's best work.

Those of you looking for a horror novel are best suited to look elsewhere, as The Girl on the Glider is mostly an autobiographical tale which is also a ghost story.

There is the odd creepy moment in this, and it is a finely written story, but for the most part there wasn't a whole lot new for me.

Brian Keene started a horror podcast this year, and I listened to about 20 episodes. His podcast is highly personal, and it gives interesting insight into the life of a writer. A writer who has had countless difficulties with publishers who owe him money, who struggles to manage debt, who has health issues, and occasionally winds up sloppy on bourbon by hour's end.

I've since tired of the formula and have stopped listening. Maybe someday I'll go back to it.

Anyways, the point I'm trying to make is that apart from the ghost aspect, a lot of this was a rehash of Brian's life that I had already heard about. And that's fine. If you don't know anything about his life, you are encouraged to read it. It's well written eye-opener to the plights of writers, a pretty good story, and not a huge time commitment.

Ken McKinley says

An autobiographical short-story that Keene serves up and let's us see a brief snippet of a painful and haunted period of his life. In what he describes as 99.9% true, Keene relives a painful period of his life where a car accident outside his house claims the life of a young girl. At first, the events haunt Brian as they mix with the personal turmoil that he was going through at the time. In the end, he learns a valuable lesson. The tale he recounts will cause the hair to stand up on the back of your neck and the way he lets you in and allows you to

take a peek at his personal life is very powerful. I have yet to see an author allow his readers to see this much of themselves, warts and all. It also gives me a new found respect for a writer whose work I already admire. Thank you, Brian.

5 out of 5 stars

You can also follow my reviews at the following links:

<https://kenmckinley.wordpress.com>

<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/5...>

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/A2J1...>

TWITTER - @KenMcKinley5

Kaddi says

I really enjoyed The Girl on the Glider, and as someone who regularly listens to Brian Keene's podcast it is easy to see that many aspects of this book are autobiographical. Perhaps this is why it carries such depth? This is also a ghost story...although not a horror story. A very good book!

Nate says

I loved (and felt relief) when reading the following sentence early on in the narrative..."what I've written so far is nothing more than the incoherent, self-indulgent babblings of a madman."

That's exactly what I was thinking! And then Keene lays out the narrative like a master, bringing the reader along on a journey that is both highly believable and scary as hell. Every time I was afraid there was too much ego, Keene would bring the narrative home in a humbling way that smacks of the way life is. Good stuff, and this is a no-brainer read for Keene fans.

Jonathan Echevarria says

The Girl on the Glider reads like part autobiography and part live journal. In the beginning of this novella the author goes on record to state that working on this helped him through some dark times in his life. At the time Brian Keene reveals that he was having problems with his health, his marriage, and his writing career. Like any talented individual who is passionate about art, we sometimes use those talents as an outlet during difficult times. Sometimes it can pull us through whatever hardships we are facing, like an anti-drug or a therapy session. I understand where Brian Keene is coming from and I also sympathize with his situations. I am also self-employed and while it certainly has its benefits, being self-employed also has some serious drawbacks.

It is very true that writing acts like ones own therapy, the reader can especially see this while reading the novella. Though it is just over sixty pages, you can tell the writer was bleeding his soul out on the paper, leaving him in a very vulnerable state. I admire Brian Keene for the courage that it took to put something so personal out there in the public. As someone who would also like to be a professional writer someday, I can see why his fans admire his honesty even when it could come back to bite him in the ass. Brian Keene doesn't try to pretend to be someone he isn't. In this day and age we could use more role models like him out there in the public, the world would probably be a better place. The man is a hero to every male and female looking to break in to the writing industry.

Essentially this is a story about a writer who is haunted by the death of a girl. While there are some terrifying moments, it's the personal relationships between the writer and his loved ones that build up the tension. If this had been a book about anyone else, I don't know if I would of cared as much. Because I knew about the writer's work and personal history, a lot of what was said in this eBook his close to home for me.

As a fan who has read both Scratch, Halves, and Brian Keene's various other work I have learned a great deal about his personal life. I have taken the time to read Brian's author notes, as well as his personal blog entries he has posted on his website. When I picked up the The Girl on the Glider for the first time, I already knew of the locations, friends, and family members who were mentioned in this eBook. I think it was this accumulated knowledge of Brian Keene's personal life that made this story that much more terrifying. I didn't enjoy seeing someone I admire and care about going through such terrifying situations. (*Despite the fact I knew he would be ok.*) Like I said before I could tell everything was sincere because I knew mostly what Brian was referring to the majority of the time. It's those horror stories that are based on fact that contain the true scary moments.

Overall I give The Girl on the Glider a solid **five out of five** stars. Yes this is a ghost story, however underneath it is so much more, it essentially tells the story of a man trying to save and preserve what is most important to him. It is hard not to enjoy a story like this.

Bill says

*Dear new manuscript that I'm typing on my laptop:
My name is Brian Keene and I am either losing my mind or I am being haunted.
Or both.*

A four star ghost story with a five star autobiographical insight into Brian Keene's writing process and his life as a "mid-list horror novelist."

Angela Crawford says

From the Description:

Considered by many critics to be one of Brian Keene's best works, *The Girl on the Glider* has been long out of print – until now!

The year is 2009, and the world's financial and publishing sectors are in chaos. In the midst of this disarray, a burned-out horror writer finds himself haunted by a variety of ghosts, both real and metaphorical. And as the ghosts increase their attacks, his struggle to make a living quickly becomes a fight to hold on to his family – and his very sanity.

This meta-fictional take on the traditional, old-fashioned ghost story is a deft mix of M.R. James and Hunter S. Thompson, and makes for one of Keene's most personal and powerful novellas.

The Girl On The Glider is a very interesting ghost story. It does have some unsettling and spooky moments but that's not what made it such a great read for me. I loved this story for its autobiographical nature. The glimpse we get of the man behind some truly enjoyable books as he deals with everyday life and struggles with the same hardships we all face. Dealing with lack of money and trying to keep a family together is hard enough without a ghostly presence hanging around your home. While this book isn't the usual type of story you expect from Brian Keene, no zombies, demons or other creatures here. It is one of the most believable true ghost stories I've read. This story touched me more than I would have expected because of the focus on the real fears and flaws we all have. A solid 4 star read.

The Behrg says

Blurring the lines of fiction and non-fiction, Keene has created a quiet masterpiece with this short novella. Intellectually provocative and deceptively honest, this is the type of writing that's rarely achieved by an author, where the auteur's soul (almost) literally bleeds onto the page.

Touching upon the horrifying truths of every day life while balancing the scales with a supernatural ghost story, it would have been so easy to cast a character into this novella that would then tackle some of the emotional and physical ordeals the author was dealing with at the time. Instead, Keene casts himself, opening the door to a mirror where truth and reality and what could be, or could have been, collide.

As an author, this is a must read. But truthfully I would recommend this to just about anyone I know. A haunting story, beautifully told.

Bark says

Price drop today, 8/14/15, Amazon US .99 cents for the Kindle.

Shawn Thornton says

Brian Keene battles some real demons in this excellent novella. Some times the pen really is mightier than the sword.

