



Fountain Society

Wes Craven

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Hardcover Science Fiction

Fountain Society Details

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From Reader Review Fountain Society for online ebook

Hagan Turier says

Nothing exceptional but managed to exceed my expectations. The characters were well written, however it was ultimately very predictable. Some of the scenarios were a bit ridiculous which I found frustrating, yet it was a rather easy read and provided some light entertainment. Only paid about \$0.30 for it so no complaints. If you're a fan of Wes Craven's movies then give this a read, yet acknowledge that it is quite different tonally. He still manages to work in some horror elements, however more in regards to the value of human life and the actions people are willing to make out of greed.

Haleth says

Si suppone sia un thriller fantascientifico. Dico "si suppone" perchè non sono andata oltre pagina 29.

La lettura procedeva noiosa già dal principio. Quando all'improvviso, a pagina 9:

Vicina all'orgasmo, Elizabeth fu invasa da una strana sensazione: le sembrò di essere la protagonista del Mago di Oz.

Poco dopo, a pagina 29:

A Peter l'aveva detto anche Wolfe: dopo la caduta del muro di Berlino non c'era un politico al mondo a cui importasse qualcosa dei progressi della scienza militare, a meno che ciò non servisse a farlo rieleggere. Peter sapeva che era vero. Ci vuole infatti un vero nemico per continuare a far funzionare le cose. Naturalmente c'erano frange sempre più nutrite di pazzi estremisti opportunamente addestrati, terroristi miliardari e vari stati con armamenti nucleari, per non parlare della caotica e paranoica Russia.

Raccapricciante...

Ora. Tanto per cominciare, una che sta per venire e pensa al *Mago di Oz* non è tanto normale (e sa anche un po' di pedofilia repressa).

Ma che poi un autore, in un libro scritto nel '99, dica una cazzata geopolitica come quella di cui sopra, dopo sole 20 pagine dalla prima, è davvero troppo!

Addio Wes, limitati a scrivere sceneggiature.

tENTATIVELY, cONVENIENCE says

Writing these 'reviews' sometimes creates a sort of potential 'meta-review' in my head. I just wrote one about Arthur C. Clarke's "The Fountains of Paradise" which is shelved next to this bk, "Fountain Society", in my library b/c of "Craven" following "Clarke". Coincidentally, they both have "Fountain" in the title. Maybe I should write a novel called "Craven Paradise" that's all about the sex life of microbes living on both bk jackets.

"The torrid love life of tiny immortal creatures on the elevator to the sky!" screams the advertising copy!

Anyway, I like Wes Craven as a filmmaker & I was pleasantly surprised by reading this novel of his. It's basically a Michael Crichton style thriller but I think it's better b/c I don't really like Crichton. The back cover copy makes it seem more cliché than I remember it as being: "At its center is a sinister plot to confer immortality on a select, elite group of government scientists - a plot of such fiendish, cold brutality and evil that it has been kept secret - including from most of those who might one day benefit from it."

Meagan Houle says

This book has a very interesting premise (covers cloning and so on) but that's where it stops for me. The writing was decent, but the characterization was sort of awkward and lacked conviction. The romance between Elizabeth and Peter, especially, was cringe-worthy in places. Bits of it looked like they'd been lifted out of a Harlequin romance. If you're going to have a romance in a book like this, at least free it from any excess goop.

The plot seemed to drag, and even when there was action, it felt hazy and made me detach. I really think this is a case of "your mileage may vary" but no part of this book did it for me at all.

Aries says

Sarò onesto: questo libro non l'ho comprato né mi è stato regalato. L'ho trovato un po' di tempo fa a casa di mio padre (e sa il cavolo dove l'ha preso lui, visto che sono sicuro non lo leggerebbe mai) e l'ho preso su per curiosità, sebbene fossi titubante a causa dell'autore, Wes Craven (sì, quello di Nightmare e Scream), che magari come regista è in gamba, ma come scrittore non avevo la più pallida idea di come potesse essere. Il fatto quindi che partissi prevenuto è stato piuttosto utile: notoriamente se ci si aspetta poco da qualcosa, tutto quel che ne può venire è una conferma o una bella sorpresa (o almeno così dicono i pessimisti)... in questo caso diciamo che è stata una sorpresa "carina"; in sostanza il libro mi ha fatto buona compagnia ed aveva una giusta dose di pathos, ma non si può certo dire che sia il thriller più sorprendente che si possa leggere: diciamo che di colpi di scena ce ne sono pochi (ed anzi, uno che mi aspettavo non c'è proprio stato) e la vicenda scorre via all'incirca in maniera prevedibile, però il libro è scritto sicuramente bene e questo di trascorrere qualche ora sicuramente non noiosa. L'argomento, poi, aiuta molto: cosa si sarebbe disposti a fare per garantirsi l'immortalità? E cosa saremmo disposti a fare per garantire l'immortalità ad un genio della scienza? Saremmo disposti a "rubare il corpo" di un'altra persona? E se questa fosse un clone? Sicuramente non sarà il libro più bello che leggerete in vita vostra, ma se volete distrarvi un po' potete anche dedicarvi

Andrew says

This was another one of my random gambles and I must admit that I quite enjoyed it - the storyline was certainly different and well thought out although once you realised what was going on there were few real surprises. The book I guess owing to its author read easily and with a good pace although I will admit at times the characters did feel like they were falling in to their own stereotypes.

That said the book was fun to read and I would happily recommend it to others who want a thriller to pass the time. Sadly it appears that this is the only unique novel by Wes Craven - but if he does write any more in the future I will give them a go.

Rita says

LOVED IT! I love the movies, etc and was not sure if the book would live up to that. It did! The topic is probably not that new or unique but the book has some twisting and turns that caught me up! I will not say I was on the edge of my seat but I did have an intense drive to see where the book was leading! Great dialogue. Great scenes and description! Refreshingly eerie without being goofy, hoe-hum or forced. Read it.

Crabby McGrouchpants says

Shockingly well-informed, even those who are primed to expect Craven to draw off his humanities professor background will be pleasantly surprised by how up-to-speed and able-to-integrate-into-the-narrative he is about black ops, covert governmental projects, and the drives and desires of those scientists and military types seeking to climb up the ladder and who also risk losing sight of their ideals — c.f. the Oppenheimer "Shiva, destroyer of worlds" quote (which is duly mentioned, once, but not harped on; couldn't really be *far* from these scientists' minds, now could it?).

This is the part of the review where one starts to make high praise "on the level of Le Carré or DeLillo or Pynchon" in comparison, but really, the one author who this really strikes me as being surprisingly not unlike is Bruce Sterling, whose *Zenith Angle* plunges the reader right into a narrative along the lines of these same Governmental High-Stakes parameters, not just as window-dressing or sidelong references to further some Jason Bourne narrative (although, also, natch., some John Shirley pieces and William Gibson novels come to mind when reading this).

What a wake-up! And the storyline keeps you turning pages, neither lost or bogged down in details nor having to swallow some '50s-era bogus speculative shit, and without lacking *real* suspenseful corners to turn as the narrative unfolds. You'll get a headful and heartfelt: the plot hinges simultaneously upon such devices as pressing old age, lifelong marriages, and love pairings that just don't fit In the Real World.

Way to go, Wes! Would that this was more well-received when it came out. The corny cover probably didn't help, but whatever.

Octavio Villalpando says

Tenía mucha curiosidad por leer esta novelita de uno de los directores clásicos del cine de horror, Wes Craven. Un buen amigo tuvo a bien facilitármela y me dí manos a la obra. Sabía que se trataba de una obra de Ciencia Ficción, y a decir verdad, no esperaba demasiado. Para mi sorpresa, la cosa empezó bastante bien: la trama se planteó de una forma interesante, se nos presentaron personajes atractivos, y en apariencia la historia daba para algo muy interesante. Sin embargo, tras la primera mitad, creo que a Craven le ganó el estilo cinematográfico más que el literario que debía de cuidar. Obviamente se trata de medios distintos y no es posible hacer avanzar un relato a través de un medio con los recursos del otro, y aquí parece que así fue. La historia se vuelve muy predecible y se desperdician algunas oportunidades que, en un escritor con un mayor colmillo, no se hubieran dejado pasar de largo. Como sea, se trata de un esfuerzo bastante entretenido, lo cierto es que se lee de una forma muy rápida, y a pesar de lo predecible del desenlace de la historia, no se

pierde nunca el interés de ver como acaba.

Lamentablemente, no puede aplicar el "mejor suerte para la otra". Como sea, el lugar de Wes Craven en la historia de la cultura popular del horror no podrá ser negado jamás con nada.

Mark Dubovec says

Wes Craven, writer and director of some of the best horror movies ever, creates an interesting sci fi scenario but gets bogged down in a predictable run-from-the-government-conspiracy chase plot and one-note, uninteresting characters. The book is at its most interesting when the main character, Dr. Peter Jance, has his brain placed in the body of a younger, healthier clone of himself and begins questioning who he is, but Craven gives away too much too soon, and the reader is left waiting for the characters to catch up.

Amanda says

Never in a million years would I associate Wes Craven with this book. It's so not what I'm used to from him, which is usually along the horror route. But this? Completely unexpected, and not in a good way. Too predictable, not engaging enough. He should have stuck to what he's good at: horror, and all the screams that come with it.

Lauretta says

Un'altra fanta-storia sugli orrori che possono derivare dalla genetica. Scontata, forzata, brutta.

Katie says

It wasn't great, but it wasn't bad. The story was somewhat predictable in that I knew what was going to happen, but I didn't know HOW it would happen. Some parts are a bit drawn out, but I think he did that to make the story more believable. There was an opportunity for the characters to get much more philosophical than they did, thereby letting us get to know them a little better - which would have been nice. Still, not a bad read. Here are a few excerpts:

"The laws of nature exist because our brains can imagine them. And improve upon them. WE'RE evolution's quantum leap. We labored through trial and error for millions of years until we invented OURSELVES! We go from biplanes to lunar landing craft in a single lifetime now, and if it can be thought of, it can be done. And WILL be done."

"Death was the ultimate emperor w/o clothes. If they blasted him to atoms today, his atoms would merge with those of other poor bastards, roaches, lost species, burned rain forests and the endless compost heap of passing humanity and reassemble in a millennium or two into the stuff of stars and brave new worlds somewhere else. There was no death."

"If you continue in this vein, I'll amputate your thumbs and big toes so that you'll reel through the rest of your life like a drunken orangutan."

Matt Garcia says

Fountain Society is an adequate techno thriller written by my favorite horror director. Although it was a decent read, the book tended to feel a bit laborious to get through in the middle section. Wes Craven certainly conducted a thorough amount of research in order to orchestrate this novel however I felt that the scientific jargon employed in the novel, at times, became a bit redundant and cumbersome. The characters were also a bit one dimensional although enjoyable. In summation, a decent thriller but I must say I expected a tad more from a master of the macabre like Craven. 3.5 stars

John says

In light of the recent passing of Wes Craven, I decided to finally get around to reading this, his one and only novel.

This is one of those books where the first half and the second half are two completely different animals. The first half is really slow, but Craven does an expert job at setting up a fairly ludicrous scenario and I was surprised at how well-researched and deftly handled the scientific elements were. The whole notion of body-switching has grown tiresome in recent years, but, back when this book first came out in 1999, it was still a novel enough concept, especially when being accomplished through science rather than magic. THE FOUNTAIN SOCIETY is written with a level of artistry not generally found in books by Hollywood personalities, as well as an unusual degree of assuredness for a debut effort, even considering Craven's long, successful career in storytelling.

After a smart but rather dull first half, however, the book begins to pick up in excitement while simultaneously plummeting in intelligence. This part of the book is EXACTLY the sort of storytelling I expect from Hollywood celebrities: predictable, cliché, and heavily reliant on luck/coincidence. The whole thing starts to feel like a script for a B-movie, especially in the way that the bad guys always remain exactly one step behind. Even when the good guys do something really stupid, the bad guys always show up just a moment too late. All this action and running around may serve to make the story more exciting, but it also makes it a whole lot less interesting.

Another problem with the book is that the characters are unlikable. On the one hand, you've got an old married couple who are complicit in the murder of an innocent man; on the other hand, you've got the innocent man's girlfriend, who is surprisingly OK with her lover's body being taken over by someone else. Gee, who to root for?

I also had a problem with the outrageous lengths to which Craven takes the whole concept of "muscle memory" (for lack of a better term). At one point, a character who knows nothing about aviation is somehow able to take-off, fly, and land a plane simply because he is using the body (but not the brain) of a former pilot. Sound plausible?

THE FOUNTAIN SOCIETY lays the foundation for a great story it never actually delivers. When Wes Craven attempts to inject excitement into the proceedings, he does so at the expense of brains. I give it four stars for the first half and two for the second.
