



Long Black Coffin

Tim Curran

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The Long Black Coffin is a '67 GTO. A street-eater and a life-taker. Like an open grave, it's hungry for death.

Vic Tamberlyn committed suicide in it. His son Kurt asphyxiated in it. Maybe there's no connection, but Kurt's best friend, Johnny Breede, doesn't believe it. He begins seeing dark connections, convinced that beneath the skin of the Coffin there beats a black, terrible heart. But it's even worse than he can imagine.

For the Long Black Coffin has a history. And that history will lead Johnny into a web of murder, insanity, and sexual perversion. He'll learn gruesome family secrets that connect a decade-old series of child abductions to a primordial evil that lives on in the car in the form of a sadistic teenage girl.

A girl whose mother was human, but whose father was anything but.

Long Black Coffin Details

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Author : Tim Curran

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From Reader Review Long Black Coffin for online ebook

Ken McKinley says

Damn, damn, damn. Now THAT was how you do horror. Tim Curran's Long Black Coffin actually gave me shivers - yes, shivers - and that's something that hasn't happened in a very long time.

Long Black Coffin is a working class ghost story set in a small town in Wisconsin. Johnny Breede is your typical mid-twenties guy trying to figure out what he wants out of life while he puts in his time down at the lumber yard. He lives with his sister in their parents old house. His mom ran off, long ago, with some swinging dick and his dad sat and drank his life away. Johnny is no dummy. He's intelligent and has street smarts. Him and his buddy, Kurt, like to drink too much, get high too much and ponder life too much. Kurt has his own demons. His abusive old man wrapped his lips around a loaded shot gun, one night, in the front seat of his black 1967 Pontiac GTO and pulled the trigger. When Kurt gets drunk, he tortures himself with wondering why Vic killed himself and, lately, he's been doing it more and more often. In fact, it feels like something in the GTO is calling him.

What makes Long Black Coffin great is the storytelling. Curran does a masterful job telling the story from Johnny's POV. Its a blue-collar, non-nonsense approach that elevates the story to being a 5-star masterpiece. It makes the characters extremely realistic and full of depth. The fact that he can throw in a handful of chills along the way, makes it a fun ride.

5 tires burning rubber out of 5

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...>

Angela Crawford says

The Long Black Coffin is a '67 GTO. A street-eater and a life-taker. Like an open grave, it's hungry for death. Vic Tamberlyn committed suicide in it. His son Kurt asphyxiated in it. Johnny Breede, Kurt's best friend finds out there is much more to the car than meets the eye. Haunted by the ghost of a sadistic girl who may not have been wholly human, can he find answers before it's too late?

I bought this book for two reasons. First I love Tim Curran, his books are usually wonderfully weird and creepy. Second it was compared to Christine, my favorite haunted car. While Long Black Coffin wasn't much like Christine it was a good book. The story moved at a quick pace. It had parts that made me laugh out loud and some parts were cringe worthy.

A quick and enjoyable read, not my favorite work by Tim Curran but definitely worth your time. I would give it 3.5 stars

Sean says

Recently I stumbled on a horror bookclub subscription service put on by this book's publisher, Darkfuse. This was the first novel I have received from the club.

Tim Curran - I've never read anything by him. I have however marked a few of his books on various sites 'to read' and 'wish lists'. I just hadn't gotten around to actually reading him. This novel was the perfect opportunity to remedy that.

Going into this novel I didn't read any kind of summaries, synapses, etc. so I had no clue what type of a story this was going to be.

The Long Black Coffin is a car. Great (stated sarcastically). I have absolutely no interest in cars, wouldn't be able to tell one part from another and well, yawn when people start to discuss them. There have been a few other car type horror stories, one of the more famous ones being Stephen King's Christine. I found that novel okay but nothing special so was a little worried.

Curran takes a long time to really develop his characters. Heck, by the time what I feel was the 'true' story came out, I honestly felt like I knew the whole bloody town and all of its citizens that the story takes place in. After finishing this novel, upon reflection I am just amazed that he was able to get the whole town's personalities and story across in what isn't that large of a book. Upon looking at reviews for this author it seems like that is his specialty, really great character development.

It's because of this character development that I really didn't know what was coming. By the time the story takes its mandatory horrific twist, I'd been lulled into a sense of secured realism with the characters but then... ghosts and stuff are introduced.

Initially the supernatural elements had their shock value but that ended quickly for me. Then for a period of time I had some difficulty suspending my disbelief. I'm just not a huge fan of ghost stories, I'm not used to reading them, and have a difficult time believing them (yet I'll fall for virtually anything else, killer puppets, monsters, madmen, et. al: who knows why?). Eventually though, the author develops the supernatural element as strongly as he has already done for his 'human' characters and it all comes together.

I find it odd that the author developed his human characters with such detail and then when the supernatural elements arrive he just slaps us across the face with it. Sure he catches up with the supernatural development over the rest of the book, however it drastically changed the mood of the book in the middle. The mood corrects itself though after the initial supernatural introduction chapters. Maybe it was a good thing though. Curran drags us along TWICE through this novel to really get to know two sets of characters and it ends up being a ton of fun.

When it all came together I loved it. You can see the detail the author put into this work with various small hints and foreshadowing littered throughout the novel. Long Black Coffin is really well written and I look forward to reading more Tim Curran.

Cats of Ulthar says

Review of Long Black Coffin by Tim Curran

5 stars

Writing a first-person narrative, and making it work properly and flow smoothly, is not an easy task. Not every writer can do it. Tim Curran does, immensely well. There wasn't a dropped stitch in this complex, multiply-motivated novel, which is completely viewed through the perspective of twenty-three-year-old Johnny (or as some friends call him, "Johnny Breed"). Johnny is a young man with a sad past, a sorry present, and not much concern about the future; until the death of his best friend for life, Kurt Tamberlyn. His world spirals downward, and yes, "spiral" is the operative word, because it is not a straight, down to the bottom of the barrel, leap; rather, it is curse upon fault upon death upon pain and suffering, piled up and running over.

Central to the story is the problem of the beauteous, gorgeous, desirable, muscle car beloved of Kurt's abuser father Vic: the '67 GTO, black outside and black-hearted within. Vic ended his life in the GTO seven years ago; now Kurt's ended inside it also. Kurt's mother Stella won't have anything to do with it, and wants it sold. Johnny thinks, "it's just a car-a death car, granted; but no more." How wrong he is he will soon discover; and in the process of that discovery, will upend secrets carried for fifteen years and even farther back into the past. "Long Black Coffin" is a novel I shall not soon forget, if ever.

Justin says

Well, you can officially add ghost stories to the types of novels that Tim Curran is a master of. This one was my first official title since joining the darkfuse kindle club late last month and I hate to say that the subscription is going to be all downhill from here but it is really going to be hard to top this one. At least until Sow is released anyway. This wasn't nearly as gory as some of his novels but for a ghost story it was pretty dark and violent, it was a great story with a lot of great characters in it. Even the minor characters were well developed but despite that it was a fast read and I never once thought to myself "ok enough character development when does the action start". Tim did a great job setting the mood as usual and there really isn't anything I disliked about this novel.

Bandit says

Up till now I've only read Curran's novellas and I was happy to discover that in long form he certainly doesn't disappoint. Killer cars everywhere now have a competition. This is exactly what horror ought to be, well written, fun, scary. Riveting read, I couldn't put it down, got through the whole book in one evening and that's nearly 400 pages. Curran doesn't cut corners, he creates a backstory, he fleshes out characters, he really develops the plot, it's a pleasure to read. Thanks, Nikki. There is a lot of explicit graphic sexual content for those who mind, but it's actually plot integral unlike in many genre books. Very fun ride. Highly recommended.

Chris says

After his best friend unwittingly commits suicide in his late father's '67 GTO, Johnny Breede begins to try and make sense of the senseless...which irrevocably leads him down a very dark road full of death, sadism, and horror beyond imagining. But as Johnny begins to piece things together, along with embarking on a torrid affair with Kurt's mother, Stella, he soon realizes the price to pay may be more than he can afford.

Tim Curran is one of my favorites, period, and while this novel took a little while to get going, once it did, much like that GTO's supercharged engine...look out!

Highly recommended!

Ms. Nikki says

3.5 Stars

A story of a dysfunctional family that has lost 2 of its members while being in a black GTO that sits in the garage. The story starts out slow, real slow, and builds to a somewhat intense conclusion with a family friend trying to put a stop to the madness that seems to be linked to this family. The why's and what-for are given to us at very strategic moments making this a one-sitting read for me. Great descriptions and creepiness from Curran as usual. Not really horrific. Recommended~

Megan says

I received this book via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

After Kurt dies of asphyxiation in an old '67 GTO, also known as The Coffin, the same car his father shot himself in his best friend Johnny is left wondering, realizing all of this seems too coincidental. While cleaning out his friend's room because his mother has completely given up he starts coming upon things that could only be said to be paranormal occurrences. As Johnny starts looking into the history of the car and his best friend's family he finds himself pulled deeper into the haunting of a strange woman with red hair, and a car which survives on the blood sacrifice of others.

This book overall was very creepy and sinister. I can't say that it scared me and I wasn't able to sleep but it was very disturbing. I personally didn't enjoy the beginning of the book where all Johnny and Kurt did was party and get drunk, witness fights, and just BS about life. That being said the book started out slowly for me but after Kurt dies the story picks up and races towards the finish. The storyline was original where a car was the main focal point involved in the haunting of the family. There were some parts of the horror aspect that had been done before but with the originality of the main plot they didn't seem like old tricks. None of the characters are overall likable but ironically that is why I liked the characters. All of them were broken whether it be through death of family members, drugs, alcoholism, or their past, they all had skeletons in their closets (some literally)!

There were several things about this book that irked me. The main problem I had was the graphic sex scenes.

I have never understood why ghosts in a lot of horror books/movies are obsessed with sex. Later in the book it is semi-explained that blood and sex go together for this crazy women but it felt overdone at points and sometimes totally pointless. Several times the character Johnny wakes up to Stella/the "ghost" giving him sexual pleasures... I didn't feel like these scenes were necessary especially since they occurred after a very graphic sex scene a page before. That point goes into the videotape that Johnny finds. It was, for lack of a better term, messed up. It made sense by the end of the story why this tape existed and the meaning behind it but it just seemed weak to the plot and without it the story would have still progressed as needed.

And then the main thing that bothered me. I feel like the author of this book has never actually smelled what a dead, decomposing body smells like but likes to describe what it smells like constantly throughout the book. How this women died and even with all the forest elements... that is NOT what death smells like, trust me. Especially the point when Johnny is having sex with a person that turns into a decomposing corpse it is a nauseating smell not one that keeps you turned on. Also just as a side note, it may happen I don't know, but I have never seen a dead body with moss growing out of its butt. Moss grows very slowly and with all the bugs it probably isn't even probable for it to grow until it is just skeletal remains. This wasn't even a plot point and just was a side note but it just bothered me the whole book. Sorry that was just a gripe of a forensic person there.

There were also many good things about this book though. Besides the sex part of the haunting I thought it was very well done. The violence and the whole connection to the forest was creative and the flash backs to the young girl I found very interesting and thought provoking when thinking about the rest of the book. I also liked how the child disappearances mentioned at the beginning of the book added into how sadistic and creepy the haunted spirit was. I will admit when Johnny first finds the tape and changes his mind about the spirit I was worried, the spirit tried to scare and almost kill you several times when you tried to gain possession and watch the tape but now you think it's all because you need to help the spirit find peace? Luckily that was not where the story was headed and Johnny found that out the hard way.

Overall I will give this book a solid 3/5 stars. It is a good horror novel and would recommend it for when you want a chilling story but not one that will keep you up at night.

Pamellia says

What a book!

I greatly enjoyed it.

I gave it 5 stars, because I really liked it and thought it was amazing.

The story moved along without ever leaving the reader behind. I like the short chapters. The writing, superb! The best I've read from Curran and I've read a lot of his work.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes horror or just wants to take a wild and crazy ride with a black GTO!! Whoa, whoa!!

Maxine Marsh says

"I don't think there was a kid in town who wasn't scared, who didn't lay awake in their bed at night watching the shadows moving against the walls and wondering when a grinning moon-pallid face would peer through their window and lay its claws against the glass."

Kim (Wistfulskimmies Book Reviews) says

This is the story of Johnny Breede. A young man whose life isn't really going anywhere, content to goof around and get drunk and high with his best friend Kurt. That is until Kurt winds up dead, asphyxiated in his father's GTO. That same car that his father killed himself in some years previously. Now an evil has been unleashed and Johnny must piece together the mystery before anyone else dies. A mystery that will involve Kurt's family, the woods, Johnny's boss, some missing children and a malevolent entity connected with the car. Can Johnny solve the puzzle or are more people doomed to die?

This was quite creepy. It was a book that I shall be thinking about for quite some time I think. I enjoyed it very much, this being the second book I have read from this author. The characters were all well-rounded, but not really likeable in the conventional sense. They were all wasters but somehow I was invested in finding out more about them. The paranormal aspect of the story was introduced and handled well. Be warned though, some scenes are quite graphic, both gorily and sexually. Not for the faint hearted! If I have one gripe though, it is the car. Supposedly the focal point of the story, I would have liked more back story to it. This is another fine offering from DarkFuse, and I recommend it for a creepy, stay-with-you ghost story.

Karl says

My latest obsession with an author seems to be Tim Curran. For those that have not encountered Mr. Curran and his writing, he snuggly fits into that horror category of the seventies and eighties horror writer style. The book I just finished "The long Black Coffin" was published around 2012 by DarkFuse.

"The Long Black Coffin" refers to a car, a 1967 GTO also known as a "Goat". If one assumes this is a thinly disguised version of Stephen King's "Christine" then one must think again. This is a novel about a drug and alcohol addled young man from a broken home in Minnesota named Johnny Brede. Over the years the small town where Johnny lives has been troubled by the abduction and disappearance of several young children.

A word of warning needs to be added, as the book contains strong and violent sexual content, and also to an extent includes the copious drug use that takes place all across communities across the country. This is one point where Mr. Curran is at his strongest, he tells his story no holds barred, in a similar manor that Jim Thompson did for the fifties and sixties., and this book is not for everyone.

The only drawback which stood out was a constant feeling of a certain amount of repetition of events and many chapters ending on a strong note of impending doom.

To the best of my count, Mr. Curran has written fifty or sixty books under his own name and pen names, all of which could be filed under the Horror category.

This copy of the hardcover is marked PC of 100 copies printed and is signed by Tim Curran.

Bill says

This one idles for the first half or so and then Curran kicks it into gear and this mother f*cker burns some serious rubber and takes off like a bullet.

A possessed, crazy, blood-thirsty, cursed, masochistic, evil entity bullet. Yep. Curran.

Could have used a haircut in the first half, but once it got going it was a crazy ride. A solid 4 Stars and Highly Recommended, as always from this author.

11811 (Eleven) says

I never reviewed this one. You should all read it. My work here is done.

I got a three way tie for my favorite Curran novel locked with this one, Fear Me and Dead Sea. This one's still haunting me after two years so I may line up for a reread. Hell, I may reread all three.
