



Leviathan

Tim Curran

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There's something wrong on Seagull Island. When the atmospheric conditions are right, a doorway opens to a primeval world of monsters. The locals won't talk about it. They live in denial. But that's all about to change. Johnny Horowitz, a much despised member of the paparazzi, has gotten a glimpse of something from prehistory and he isn't going to stop until he gets a photo of it. With Hurricane Amelia bearing down on the island, the doorway to the prehistoric sea is about to be thrown wide and Johnny plans on being there when it opens with camera in hand, regardless of the consequences.

Leviathan Details

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From Reader Review Leviathan for online ebook

? Irena ? says

3.5

With a title like Leviathan and a promising description, I expected more adventure and less thinking and talking.

I hated Johnny Horowitz, a despicable, selfish, greedy little man. Still, he is interesting too. He is one of the least likeable characters I've come across who still managed to hold my attention.

Johnny is on Seagull Island on vacation. At least, he is supposed to be. The island's past, legends and a fenced and forbidden beach won't let him rest. He finds gnawed bones on the beach and everyone he talks to is acting weird. Since the description of the book pretty much tells you everything, it's not a spoiler to say that he gets an opportunity to take a photo of a prehistoric creature. He is the kind of a man ready to step over dead bodies to get what he wants so not even a hurricane is going to stop him.

More than half of the book is Johnny trying to get people to talk to him about that beach and thinking about money.

I didn't care for name dropping (Jean-Claude van Damme and Alec Baldwin were mentioned two times too many) but considering his occupation I guess it was unavoidable.

The faster, action part of the story is somewhere in the last third and it is great.

'Deep in shit, I am.'

Right where you belong, Mr Horowitz.

While I despise the main character, I like this story.

Michael Fierce says

Fully entertaining fast-paced 127 pg novella perfect for a summery day or lonely night.

Could easily be read in one sitting, though it took me two.

Very Tim Curran in theme: a strange anomaly takes place in which monsters or people are transported to a different timezone/world/dimension, of mysterious circumstances, challenging the character(s) involved in one way or another, usually resulting in a transformation of their own selves, for better or for worse.

Will appeal to anyone who loves sea monsters as much as I do, as well as fans of the Primeval TV show(s), the Jurassic Park franchise, and to ALL hungry fans of cryptid horror!

Way to go, Tim!

And thnx to Kimberly for spotlighting it for my eyes to see! :D

Char says

This novella was a blast!

Johnny Horowitz needed to take a vacation. As a full fledged member of the paparazzi, (or as he likes to think of himself, a photo journalist), he was well known by the glitterati and hated by all of them. As such, he was advised by his boss that a forced vacation begins now. Johnny heads to a deserted beach with his camera and his beer and was relaxing quite nicely. Until he found something on the beach. Something that looked like bones. Human bones.

And so begins Johnny's fascination with this particular beach and its secrets. And boy...they are big secrets...straight from the Cretaceous period. This is where Mr. Curran's outstanding descriptive skills kick in. If you've ever read his work, you know what I'm talking about. If you haven't, this novella is a great place to start. Things come out of that sea that defy description, but Mr. Curran's skills kick in to help you picture the scene perfectly. And it's a scary scene.

Actually it's a long series of scary scenes and they rocked!

This novella took just an hour or two to read and what a fun time it was. If you like stories about the sea and/or creature features, this story is for you. Highly recommended!

11811 (Eleven) says

Cretaceously awesome. Maybe more of a 4.5 star read. If you still haven't checked out Tim Curran yet, shame on you.

Dan Schwent says

When tabloid photograph Johnny Horowitz finds gnawed human bones on a remote stretch of beach, he uncovers a decades old secret, a gate to the Cretaceous period. What creatures will come through the gate and will they be Johnny's last chance at the big time?

This is the third book in my Kindle Unlimited Experiment. For the 30 day trial, I'm only reading books that are part of the program and keeping track what the total cost of the books would have been.

It's my opinion that novellas are a great format for ebooks and Tim Curran is the master of the horror novella. Leviathan is a novella about a small town with a tropical storm bearing down on it and a mysterious beach that's fenced off and avoided. Turns out, a gate to the Cretaceous period opens there on nights before storms. After an accidental discovery and some tense moments, Johnny Horowitz seems to think photos of

prehistoric sea reptiles are his ticket to fame and fortune.

Horowitz is a great character, a guy who knows he's not going to live forever and full of regrets, looking for his one last shot at glory. Since this is a horror novel, things don't quite go that way.

Tim Curran's descriptions of prehistoric megafauna are horrifying but still realistic. After all, the creatures he describes really existed. As the tropical storm draws near, the wheels quickly fall off Horowitz' plan and he draws the attention of something orders of magnitude bigger than he ever imagined.

Since this is a novella, that's about all I'm going to give away. Leviathan is a gripping tale best consumed in a sitting or two. 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Current Kindle Unlimited Savings Total: \$13.17.

Bill says

Tim Curran is one of my favorite authors going. The dude cannot write a bad story. That being said this one was not my favorite of his to date. The story itself was entertaining and fast paced, but lacked the typical Curran descriptive prose that all at once could gross you out and make you laugh at the same time. Probably a 3.5 star, but I rounded down to 3 because it just missed something that I can't put my finger on. That may not be entirely fair, but when placed next to some of his other works, it looks about right.

P.S. A good Curran tale still blows away most authors by a fair margin.

RedemptionDenied says

I really enjoyed this novella, but it would have been better as a novel. I was left wanting. As soon as you get to the meat of the story; it's over. Finished. The end. Finito.

Johnny Horowitz - a photographer - works freelance for three of the country's leading tabloids, whose job entails taking photos of celebrities at the most inopportune moment, getting that all important shot; when they least, expect it. If there's dirt to be found, Horowitz will find it. I guess getting kicked in the nuts by Jean Claude Van Damme had little effect.

He's supposed to be taking a vacation on Seagull Island; keeping a low profile, but he finds something dirty - on Seagull Island (North Beach) - which is fenced off, with a sign: KEEP OUT SEAGULL ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT. As the fence is down, he's able to gain access to the beach; where he finds human bones. After he retrieves his camera and takes a few shots of his find - he reports his discovery; and surprisingly, the Sergeant taking his statement (Costello), seems disinterested, causing Horowitz to believe - something isn't right, and that he's found something dirty. And he likes his dirt. He's been crawling through it, long enough.

North Beach has no swimmers. No bird life. No tourists. Nothing. Well, almost nothing. Because, when the

atmospheric conditions are right - a gateway opens - to a time, that's long gone.

There's something about Seagull Island - that the locals know about, but don't discuss. They're in denial. But with Hurricane Amelia on its way, the gateway is truly going to open up, wide.

In summation: I didn't like the main character, but - his inner monologue was amusing. Matt Packard was my favourite character. He was funny. This would have been better if the page count was 400+ pages - I think.

Matthew says

Johnny Horowitz is forced to take a vacation from his job as a paparazzi so he goes to Seagull Island to let the uproar from his job die down. Right off the bat, he finds human bones on a closed section of beach and the photojournalist in him can not resist digging deeper after the local police brush it aside and try to warn him away from the beach. While there photographing the bones, he notices his body feeling weird, the sky changing weird colors and a different hue of water. In that water, two sea monsters appear. Hungry, prehistoric sea monsters.

I love creature books and I was one of those kids that was fascinated with dinosaurs. This excellent novella brought back memories from when I was a kid reading and daydreaming about them. Curran is a master at creature features and does a fantastic job with the characters here, both human and prehistoric. There was never a dull moment in the plot and it kept me glued to the book as I couldn't wait to see what happens next. Highly recommended!

Kaisersoze says

Leviathan is, unfortunately, pretty low rent as far as Tim Curran books go. Poorly paced with far too much of the page count dedicated to set up and very little to pay off, and featuring a main character who is difficult to relate to, there is little to recommend **Leviathan** over a bevy of Curran's other amazing works (such as Dead Sea or Blackout). Even his signature prosaic flare is muted here; and the gore factor is extremely limited for a Curran work.

2 Smelly Dinosaurs for **Leviathan**.

Adam Light says

This was a fun monster romp from Curran. Not my favorite from this author, but I still got a big kick out of it.

Hudson says

RATING 3.5

This was a fun read and I “devoured” it in one night. (Sorry, couldn’t help myself!) I am giving this a solid

3.5 rating and would recommend it to horror fans. I feel like I don't read as much current day horror so it was cool to see some modern day references in the book. I also liked the story because it seems to me as though there are not enough monster stories out there! My one problem with this tale is that Mr. Curran takes some liberties with fishing as a whole and specifically the amount of time it takes for one to become an accomplished fisherman. They call it fishing Mr. Curran, not catching.

Bandit says

Wow, this was fun. Technically this is a story about plenty of things, the way mankind needs to leave nature alone, the destructive power of greed, the narrowmindedness of the press, etc. but really this was a story about sea monsters. Prehistoric SEA MONSTERS. How much fun is that? TONS. Curran does a terrific job here. His writing is excellent, very tight pacing and exceptionally vivid imagery, cinematic narration at its best. This is a B Movie extravaganza at its finest. This novella does for beaches what Curran's amazing Underdwelling did for caves. Many thanks to Charlene for hooking me up with this kickass read. Totally awesome. Highly recommended.

Chris says

Pulp sci-fi/horror tale that reminded me of the monster movies that I watched when I was a kid. Imagine Godzilla but much nastier with full on horror elements. Very traditional story, but I found the dimension crossing elements to be very original and more than a little creepy.

Great fun.

Kimberly says

4.5 stars.

I consider Tim Curran to be among the best at writing compelling, novella-length horror. He is able to give us the insight we need to get right into the midst of the action, without bombarding us with hundreds of extra pages of essentially trivial information.

In Leviathan, we have Johnny Horowitz, a much-detested member of the paparazzi known for his compromising photos of celebrities. The characterization here is completely believable. Johnny harbors no illusions about his status or self-worth. He does, however, have a sense of a story brewing as he passes by a deserted beach in a small tourist town, just before a hurricane is about to strike. Relying on his instinct, he uncovers MUCH more than he had ever expected. At one point, an inner dialog that he has within his own mind about settling down and making a "decent" living catering to tourists, wars with his visions of greed and controversy--that of being known for something truly remarkable. Curran sets this up so well, that you can actually FEEL the conversation coursing through his brain.

Enter the monsters--of course. And this is Curran at his finest. He is able to conjure up images of creatures that most of us would never think to envision. This story has everything I've come to expect in a well-written

novella: characterization, atmosphere of dread that just keeps on building, and your vicious threat to humanity.

Recommended!

Ken says

"Leviathan" was a fairly run-of-the-mill monster horror book. As a story it was fine. But, it lacked some of the creativity that I have come to expect from Curran.

3 STARS
