



The First Scream

R.L. Stine

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Beginning this month is a new Fear Street trilogy that plays into teens' love for amusement parks. A new one is coming to the Fear Street Woods, even though 60 years ago someone tried to build an amusement park in exactly the same spot, and more than a dozen kids got killed before it opened.

Would you open an amusement park on Fear Street? Would you take a risk and go against the ancient curse of the Fear Family?

Dierdre Bradley's father would. He is opening Fear Park in a few days. But he doesn't know someone--or something--will do anything to stop him.

Soon the screams of joy will turn to screams of terror. And Dierdre will be caught in a nightmare right that never ends.

The First Scream Details

Date : Published August 1st 1996 by Simon Spotlight Entertainment (first published January 1st 1996)

ISBN : 9780671529550

Author : R.L. Stine

Format : Paperback 150 pages

Genre : Horror, Young Adult

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From Reader Review The First Scream for online ebook

Drucilla says

[I was a little confused at why Robin turn

Amanda says

I'm sure I read this at some point as a kid, but I didn't really remember it until I was about halfway through it- and even then, I only really remembered it because I recently read a later book from this series that alluded to this one. For a YA book, it's really quite bloody, but it's a great, creepy story and probably one of R.L. Stine's best.

Lazar says

The hatchet scene was really brutal !

kylajaclyn says

I love the girl playing Deirdre on this cover. She is gorgeous.

So I just went on over to Shadyside Snark and saw that their alternate title for this book was part of my moral of the story! So...

Moral(s) of the Story: Don't let 16-year-olds use hatchets. And don't cheat on your significant other.

Body Count: Too many to name... But main characters that perish are Richard Bradley's father, Richard (in 1953) and one of Deirdre's boyfriends, Paul, in present day.

Usual Suspects: The Fear family/curse

Actual Suspects: See above

Glaring Plot Holes: None, unless RL Stine plans to keep it a secret as to how Robin is able to preserve himself at 16 for 60 years. I guess we're just supposed to believe in his powers and not ask questions.

Plot: The majority of the book (up to page 100) takes place in 1953, where the idea for an amusement park at the end of Fear Street is first announced. I am constantly amused that all the bad shit that happens on Fear Street does not dissuade people from living there or trying to build things there. Apparently it is the only street in Shadyside. Robin Fear is in love with Meghan, but Meghan is in love with Richard. RL Stine has no shortage of douchebags up his sleeve, and so of course this book is full of cheating cheaters. Meghan is torn between her "love" for strong, manly, asshole Richard, while also finding herself being drawn to the aloof

Robin Fear.

The first part of the book basically consists of Robin Fear getting weirded out by his father, Nicholas Fear, and pining after Meghan and getting beat up on Richard when he catches the two of them together. Then there are the plans to open Fear Park. Mr. Bradley comes to the Fear house to ask permission. Nicholas steadfastly denies him and even tries to strangle him to death with his mind (I don't know, I didn't write it). Robin stops him, but Nicholas makes his point known - no one will EVER build Fear Park.

Not so fast. Mr. Bradley goes behind Nicholas's back and appeals to the city council, who votes to give up part of the Fear Woods for the park. As they begin work on measuring out the land, the terror abruptly begins. Nicholas and Meghan are strolling through the woods making kissy kissy when they spot a body...

The body of Richard's dad, Mr. Bradley!! He had a mysterious itching break out all over his skin, and he cannot stop scratching himself... so he scratches himself to death! They find his head intact but the rest of his body scratched to the bone. Sick. And kind of awesome.

Robin, of course, suspects that his father is to blame. That's because he is. Nicholas Fear will stop at nothing to prevent this park from being built. Including corrupting his own son. The City Council finally approves for the construction of the park and says that teenagers may apply to work by helping to chop wood for \$1 a day (it is 1935, you know). Robin meets with Meghan and tells her that he wants to help chop wood too. He is scared of his father and his plans.

It is clear not only to me, but to you, I'm sure, that giving 16 year olds hatchets to chop wood is a very, very bad idea. But I guess Stine was only thinking about his latest level of depravity. So everyone shows up in work clothes, including Meghan and Richard, and they start chopping the wood. Robin appears a couple hours later completely breathless. Richard gets jealous, again, and starts to swing at Robin...

...But instead of hitting Robin, he hits a nearby fat kid straight through the gut with his hatchet (hmmm, that sounds very suspiciously like something that would happen in Sweet Valley). All of a sudden, the words turn into the Hunger Games with hatchets and the kids start chopping each other up left and right. Purple mist swirls all around the scene. I've got to hand it to RL: that's a really fucked up scene for teenagers to be reading. And it's also better than quite a lot of Stephen King's ideas.

After this, of course, plans are scrapped for Fear Park for the next sixty years. Which brings us to present day (errr... 1996).

Deirdre Bradley, like Meghan before her, is also a cheat. She thinks the guy that likes her, Paul, is great, but she's two-timing him with Rob. She ditches Paul to be with Rob and vice versa. The park has been built (with a few hundred deaths along the way), but now the new Mr. Bradley has decided to give the park a free test run to the public. Way to lose even more money!! So Paul and Deirdre are exploring the park, and they ride the Ferris Wheel and the Inferno rollercoaster. Deirdre tells Paul she will meet him at the Hatchet Reenactment show later that night. Yes, Mr. Bradley thinks it's a spectacular idea to reenact a bunch of teens hacking each other to death. Rob sneaks into the showing (he told Deirdre he'd be at home) and sees Paul and her together. He doesn't like it so much. The next day Deirdre has plans to meet Paul, but her guilt is getting the best of her (as well it should). When Paul doesn't show up, she figures he is down at the Ferris Wheel where he is supposed to be working. Well, he is there. Sort of.

The Ferris Wheel is running, but Paul is nowhere in sight. Not in plain sight, anyway. Deirdre discovers Paul's body hacked up under the Ferris Wheel. His head has been separated from his body. Miraculously Rob

comes to the rescue and envelops Deirdre in a hug. Due to the death of Paul and the ongoing investigation of his death, the official opening of Fear Park is expected to be delayed for several weeks. When it opens, Mr. Bradley has promised Rob (real name Robin Fear!!) a job within the park. He seems more ecstatic than he should be...

To be continued!!

I love amusement parks, ya'll. Perfect time of year for these books.

Alex says

[why would Nicholas be trying to bring Ruth back from the dead? He hated her! (hide spoiler)]

Kaitlynh says

I thought it was a really great book. It had a great plot through the entire book. It had such a twist in the middle of the book. This seemed like a really awesome book. It's really good how descriptive the book is about the gory parts. There wasn't too much romance which I think is really good. I like how it really puts the image into your mind what happens in the book. This is a really good book.

Catomaosays

it takes me inside the book like im really there!! love it i am reading this again and again i read all three the first one the second and the last one!!

Hannah Hungate says

The first book is definitely the best of the trio! The amount of time spent in the past makes for an interesting story, but I found the characters of the past to be far more sympathetic than the ones of present day.

MorteTorment(Unofficial World's Fastest Reader) says

Just plain amazing! R. L Stine's best work, along with Fear Hall. If you're still into Young Adult (which I'm not anymore) I highly recommend it!

Kathleen says

Great start! Only the people in the discription come in the last part of the book.. When the book allready

went on for 3/4. That should be another discription on the back of the book. Besides that lovely start :)

Stacey says

One of my favorites as a young teenager!

Ivy says

Quite good. RIP everyone who died. Why are the women drawn to Robin? Hope the park will open soon. It would sort of be cool if Fear Street actually existed.

Hussain says

The hatchet scene in this book still gives me the chills.

Shelley says

I forgot how fun R.L. Stine books are too read. The are so simply written, but so entertaining. Basic horror at it's best!

Amber says

Fear park and Cataluna were my top 2 favorite series from R.L. Stine I just loved them soooooooooo good :)
