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When Ed receives word from his college girlfriend that she's in love with someone else, Ed's world changes in a second. Heartbroken and half-mad, Ed goes for a nighttime walk, but on this lonesome October night, he is not alone. There are others roaming the streets, waiting to show Ed just how different his world can be. Some are enticing, some disturbing--and some are deadly, in search of prey.

Night in the Lonesome October Details

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Author : Richard Laymon

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From Reader Review Night in the Lonesome October for online ebook

Vicki Willis says

Wow... what a crazy book. I loved it. It was strange and scary and tense and terrifying. I was on the edge of my seat the whole time. The characters were bizarre just the way Laymon likes them. The night went from bad to worse to unbelievable. The events were disturbing. This book was like a train wreck I couldn't stop reading. 5 stars from me!

Kaisersoze says

Okay Goodreads, you got me. Ha ha ha! Over 1500 ratings and an average score of 3.87 stars. How did you all organise yourselves to vote so highly? Colour me impressed! I'm even now making sure to switch off my webcam to make sure not a one of you has hacked my PC and is filming my reactions for some kind of Candid Camera special as I construct this review...

Wow. For a Laymon book, this was just plain terrible. A 470 page novel about a 20 year old pining about his girlfriend dumping him and proceeding, because of this, to make one stupid decision after another, and all the time becoming increasingly unlikeable. But this isn't the worst thing about the novel. That "honour" goes to the fact that there is absolutely no narrative drive to the entire thing - at least not until the last 80 or so pages. Until that point we simply follow protagonist Ed around as character after character throws themselves at him and he manages to come across as a cretin by vacillating between them, all the while lamenting in the first person about how hurt and "messed up" he is as he moons over his ex.

No, seriously. That's it.

Occasionally we get a glimpse of a horror novel trying to come out. In one scene, a crazy stalker (no, not Ed, *another* crazy stalker) comes out to play, only to disappear for Ed to spend two-thirds of the book being a douche. Then there's another promising scene about a bunch of (view spoiler).

Normally, I'm a huge fan of Laymon's and I'd heard great things about **Night in the Lonesome October**, but this missed every mark I have - other than being well-written - and then some.

1.5 Reckless Post-Midnight Wanders for **Night in the Lonesome October**.

Sharon says

OMG! What a load of tripe! This is the first Richard Laymon book I have read and by the reviews of his books I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt and assume it's just a dud. If I didn't know any better I would have thought this was written by a 15 year old boy with one hand down his pants the whole time. I found it to be poorly written, there were parts that contradicted itself - Ed leaves his wallet at home but then proceeded to get \$5 out of the same wallet a few pages later - (I must admit I didn't personally pick this up but someone who had previously loaned the book from the library had pointed this out and pencilled it in the

margin), and what the characters did were just plain stupid. Now you're probably thinking "then why not give it 1 star" - that's because despite the fact this book annoyed the crap out of me from the first to last page, unfortunately it held my interest enough to make me want to finish it!

Bill says

Poor ole heartbroken Ed. Out night wandering in the small college town of Wilmington. May want to rethink the whole midnight strolling thang. You don't want to be out after dark in this town with all the night loonies and trolls. You just may get "the works". And you do not want that. Trust me.

Some authors have a certain ease about their writing and their stories seem to float along with little effort. Laymon is like that. Dark, creepy, atmospheric. I wasn't sure where this one was going, but it wasn't about the destination, it was about the journey. 4 Stars and Highly Recommended.

Cody | codysbookshelf says

3.5 stars rounded up!

Richard Laymon does a lot of right here, and he does some wrong. I quite enjoyed the dream-like aspects of the story — the sheer mystery of Ed's nighttime walks — but I did get bogged down a bit by his and Eileen's relationship. That whole thing moved a bit too quickly; it's the cause of my taking eight days to finish this relatively quick book.

Still, this is considered one of Laymon's finest, and it is quite different from his titles that I've read thus far. It feels a bit more nuanced, more atmospheric. This is certainly an ideal read for the autumn season . . . as the title implies.

I didn't quite **love** this book like I thought I would (what can I say, I think I prefer Laymon's slasher-gasher stories), but I had a nice time.

Edward Lorn says

The second best book Laymon ever wrote. Nothing what you expect. Utterly terrifying.

***** 5 Stars

E.

Adamus says

Wow!! Definitely my favorite Laymon book so far I think!! This book was filled with so much I suspense & was also sooo funny!! One minute you wanna scream at the book & your flipping pages so quick with suspense you almost get a paper cut then your laughing from what's going on or what's being said. The books story was very well done & I really liked the characters. I felt like I was rite there with them in every scenario. This wasn't the normal slasher type book Laymon does it is a little different, but a lot more unique. I highly recommend to all horror fans!! If you want to read a book that's a big thrill suspense horror novel this is definitely the book!!

Tim says

Das Buch hat sich leider etwas gezogen, die Grundatmosphäre war aber ordentlich. Die Charaktere waren wie immer grandios, gerade dass es sich zum Teil um Literatur Studenten handelte (viele Bezüge zu diversen Werken und Wortspiele) waren echt super. Die Story an sich hätte nur etwas rasanter sein können.

Gianfranco Mancini says

If you like walking alone at night you never know what is going to happen to you... And October's nights are the creepiest ones.

I used working on shifts and sometimes the 3 am night bus simply "vanished" so I had long creepy walks in the cold (often rainy) October nights here in Rome, but luckily nothing happened to me like the ones told in this book.

The whole time I was asking to myself where the hell this Laymon's story was going on, but at the end it just seemed to me that he was just puttin'on words some of his night nightmares and wet dreams.

The result is a great dreamy page-turner tale with really unique characters and a story far away from being predictable at all.

Like Lynch meets Tarantino... With lots of sex and creepy weird events.

One of best Laymon's novels I've read, a perfect Halloween mood tale.

Adam Light says

Strange, atmospheric outing for Laymon. This one was, by no means, a barn burner, but it was absorbing and featured a cast of interesting characters whose motives were never quite concrete.

Definitely a unique story, and one I would recommend to anyone looking to break into Laymon's work. I would not categorize this one as horror.

Esme says

"Night in the Lonesome October" ("Finster") ist nicht so schrecklich wie die anderen Bücher von Richard Laymon, die ich bisher gelesen habe. Es gibt die typischen laymonesken Ingredienzien: wippende Brüste, schwingende Ärsche und einen jugendlichen Held, der mit Dauererektion durch das Buch stolpert. Und ganz viel Splatter, Blut, Folter...

Ed Logan hat Liebeskummer und spaziert in den Oktobernächten durch die kleine Stadt Wilmington. Dabei begegnen ihm nicht nur zwei begehrenswerte Frauen, sondern auch ein Psychopath und unter Brücken hausende Kannibalen.

Die Kleinstadt- und Herbstatmosphäre ist gelungen und die Bewohner, die sich nachts auf den Straßen herumtreiben könnten aus *Twin Peaks* stammen, sind nur etwas skurriler und exzentrischer. Vieles war einfach grotesk überzogen. Die Stimmung ist sehr unheimlich und furchteinflößend. Aber es gibt nichts Übersinnliches, nur Leute, die sich bescheuert verhalten.

Diese Aspekte fand ich gelungen, der Rest ist die übliche Masche: pubertäre Sex- und Gewaltphantasien. Eklig, Krank. Pervers. "Finster" ist ein unterdurchschnittliches Buch und ein besserer Laymon.

mark monday says

UPDATED REVIEW

one late October night, heartbroken college student Ed decides to soothe his troubled soul by taking a long nighttime stroll to Dandi Donuts. and so begins an addiction. with each subsequent evening walk he learns more about the eerie, threatening, hypnotic underside of the sleepy small town of Wilmington. what lurks in Wilmington? well, let's see... a vindictive cycling senior, predators in a van with alluring bait, a sad and scary shut-in clown, cannibalistic homeless people lurking under bridges, a sociopath with the looks of a male model who fixates on Ed and his new lady, and an enticing young miss who makes a practice of sneaking into homes to make herself at home.

Richard Laymon, Richard Laymon! you wrote a good one! what a happy relief to finally find the book to justify my increasingly inexcusable desire to return to his trashy, sleazy worlds again and again. Night in Lonesome October is appealing and didn't inspire the usual guilt or feelings of squirmy *dirty*ness. Ed is a likeable (and increasingly feckless) hero who tries to do the right thing, nurses petty feelings of anger towards the lass who dumped him, is realistically horny (as opposed to the over-the-top uber-horniness of most Laymon teen protagonists), and his increasingly addictive behavior in exploring the disturbing underworld of the town around him is portrayed with interesting, often frustrating realism. and the ongoing

motifs of nudity and voyeurism in Laymon's novels are handled with a lot more intelligence here - and in a way that rather expertly places the protagonist and the reader in the same shoes. very Hitchcock! very Blue Velvet!

the novel delivers genuine chills in set-piece after set-piece, from the creepy exploration of various silent homes to the image of a silent lumbering figure climbing over a fence on the edge of a ballpark at midnight to an increasingly threatening conversation with a lunatic to an ill-judged decision to have a little moonlit sex under a bridge. this was a genuinely tense novel.

it is also, per standard Laymon, a microscopic narrative. although it takes place over the course of several days, we are often in Ed's head on a minute-by-minute basis. although this can get a bit tedious at times, happily, it mainly works. it is all so *you are there now*.

i was also pleased at how Laymon handles his gay character. as is probably clear from my reviews, i'm a queer and so i am often rather thensitive to how queer supporting characters are portrayed. at first the hero's frenemy Kirkus was straight-up stereotype and i was annoyed. he's swishy and he speaks in some kind of affected Noel Coward voice and he is constantly predatory towards our hero's apparently hot little bod. but then we get Kirkus' horrifying backstory and i was rather blown away by just how tough Laymon decided to be when depicting how bad it can get for young queers. kudos! no punches pulled, and even better, the punches thrown land in surprisingly ambiguous and troubling places. and after this revelation... Kirkus is still the same pretentious, pathetic, and rather creepy guy, one who acts in an even more predatory style. it doesn't matter - Kirkus became real, to me and to Ed, and his move from asshole to assholish friend felt well-earned. oh and spoiler: he also saves the day, so there's that.

okay this review is really too long for its enjoyable but minor subject matter, so i'll just close out by saying that if you are a Laymon fan and if any of the above makes you think that this atypical Laymon offering lacks the typical Laymon excesses of torture, rape, sadism, and excessive blood-is-everywhere type violence... well, i guess don't worry. the climax has all of that, sicko.

YE OLDE PLACEHOLDER REVIEW

'tis the season...

13 TALES OF TERROR: BOOK 12

i had a dream last night... a dream that Richard Laymon actually wrote a good book. not just a fun and pulpy trash rollercoaster that made me feel ashamed and dirty afterwards, but a novel of value. eerie, unpredictable, and surprisingly thoughtful. a protagonist who actually felt real and a journey that was strange and disturbing and grotesque... but somehow not cheap. not typical Laymon. it was not just a dream - it was a nightmare! a beautiful nightmare. i woke up tangled in my sweat-soaked sheets, confused and off-balance, wanting to dive back into the dream and finish that strange trip. but instead i had a cigarette; it's best to draw out these kinds of pleasures.

now here are some special Halloween visuals for your viewing pleasure:

(view spoiler)

Vicky says

Really weird but in a good way.

Ben Loory says

laymon's books are basically like cheap 80s slasher movies, only for some reason you actually care about the characters. they're quick and mean and dreamlike and more than a little sick. i'd be delighted to be able to write books like these.

Melissa says

I think I liked this book so much because I am a night wanderer too. I love to walk at night. Always have and always will. Of course, I don't go messing about under bridges or slipping into the homes of people I don't know!
