



Son of Slappy

R.L. Stine

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The infamous, Most Wanted Goosebumps characters are out on the loose and they're coming after you! Catch them undead or alive!

Hello dummy! The evil puppet you hate to love is back for a brand new scare.

Jackson Stander is every parent's dream. He doesn't get into trouble, he always does his homework, and he never, ever lies. His teachers all trust him completely. He even volunteers at the local Youth Center. But that was all before Jackson came across an evil ventriloquist dummy. Now he must deal with Slappy and the son of Slappy as they wreak havoc on his family and friends. Jackson will soon see that two Slappy's are not better than one!

Son of Slappy Details

Date : Published January 1st 2013 by Scholastic Inc.

ISBN :

Author : R.L. Stine

Format : Kindle Edition 160 pages

Genre : Horror, Childrens

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From Reader Review Son of Slappy for online ebook

Avad Barakat says

Can I be Son Of Slappy— Loved it.

Christine (KizzieReads) says

Pretty open ended ending. Sequel maybe? My son loved it as per usual. His favorite character is Slappy.

Chrissy says

I really do believe it's easier to be good than bad.

It's something I knew from the time I was a tiny kid.

And then something happened.

Something happened, and I turned bad. I turned very bad. No. Let's tell the truth. I, Jackson Stander, became evil.

And that's what this story is all about....

I remember reading the GOOSEBUMPS series when I was really young, and I really adored them at the time. The two that still stand out in my mind are the one about the haunted mask and the one where the father in the basement became a plant. Those were AWESOME! So, of course, I was excited when I had the opportunity to review a new GOOSEBUMPS read that promised to be a little more scary than those from my youth.

So, in this one, we meet Jackson, a ridiculously well-behaved young boy who tries always to do the right thing. He is a good son, a great student, and even a nice brother -- although his sister, Rachel, always resents that he gets more attention for being the "good" child.

One day, Rachel and Jackson are sent away to their Grandfather's house for a short vacation. As a collector, Grandfather has a little of everything strange and wonderful in his home, including a room full of ventriloquist dolls. He shows one to Jackson, saying that is a reproduction of a very evil doll named Slappy. Slappy could literally be brought to life by reading a special phrase, at which point Slappy would make his owner his slave -- and his tool for spreading evil in the world.

Despite the fact that he is assured that Slappy cannot be brought to life based on the mere fact that he is only a reproduction, Jackson is still curious and wants to say the phrase just once to see what happens. Little did he know what evil (and hilarity) would ensue once this particular chain of events got started....

Not only was SON OF SLAPPY scary (for a younger crowd, I mean), it was disturbing and even really

funny at times. Like, the scene where Jackson threw chocolate all over the walls or the one where the puppet started biting people? Hilarious!

And OMG, that ending! I should have seen it coming -- what a brilliant twist! Be forewarned, though -- this one ends on a HUGE cliffhanger!

So, for those of you who grew up on the GOOSEBUMPS series, you won't want to miss this modern extension, for sure. And for younger kids (who are old enough to not have creepy nightmares about disturbing cackling dolls), this will definitely be a fun read! I will certainly read others in the series in the future! :)

Jose Ramirez says

I think that Son Of Slappy is a good book because it has lots of horror you can feel. There was a kid named Jackson Stander and his sister Rachel are about to make an amazing discovery. But first let me tell u the story from the beginning Jackson was at school then his mom told him and his sister to come she has some important news. Then they both came and thier mom told them this, "im getting rid of you both for spring break you are going to stay with your grandpa. Then they were at thier grandpa's house and then when they went to the house their grand

pa showed them the dummy collecion he had and Jackson wanted one. Then spring break passed by and when Jackson had opened his suitcase he found he had slappy the evil dummy. Then at the end of the story he realized that his sister was the one who made slappy come to life.

Stephanie (Bookish Plans) says

I read this with my 9 year old and out of all the Goosebump books we've read together this one left both of us on the craziest cliffhanger! My son is dying to know what happens next in this story. Goosebump books are always a pleasure to read since my son gets into them so much. It's great to see him WANT to read more because he has to know what's going to happen in the next chapter.....and then the next.

NickFB says

If there was a 100 star rating this would be 100 starts best goosebumps book I ever read! Had me sucked into the book so much I read at recess. I know I always say I like the ending but this oh my the ending scares me it's so good

Abbie says

Well that was unexpected. Slappy was ten times bad in this book and I was appalled at how nasty Jackson became once he was under Slappy's control. That ending was great! I couldn't have asked for anything more devious.

Maximilian Lee says

I don't think this book was that good because I think goosebumps are supposed to be scary but this book was very NOT "scary" >_< ?. It was very NOT scary because I don't get how one tiny little ventriloquist doll can be so "scary."

Sasha S says

he was evel and i liked it alot but he is scary that is why the book is called goose bumps

Josiah says

Slappy lives! Not only that, but he seems to have gained new powers since his last book, *Slappy New Year!* Fun as it was getting R.L. Stine's evil ventriloquist dummy back for yet another go-round, *Slappy New Year!* strictly adhered to the basic script of most Slappy books preceding it, rehashing the glory days of *Goosebumps* yore rather than breaking new ground. *Son of Slappy* is more like *Slappy's Nightmare* from the *Goosebumps 2000* series, turning our perception of the Slappy premise upside down so we don't know what to expect. Twelve-year-old Jackson Stander sure has no clue what's headed his way when he comes into possession of a dummy purported to be the notorious Slappy. Jackson and his younger sister, Rachel, find the dummy while staying several days with their grandfather. Grandpa Whitman's house is stuffed with rare old collectibles, including a room of famous puppets. The Slappy legend creeps Jackson out when he hears it, but Grandpa Whitman assures him there's no cause for alarm: this is only a replica dummy, dubbed Son of Slappy. Jackson would love to have Son of Slappy to learn ventriloquism with and maybe perform for the younger kids in the Youth Center he volunteers at regularly, but regrettably leaves it behind with Grandpa Whitman when he returns home with Rachel.

When Jackson unpacks his bags, the Son of Slappy puppet is there. Did Grandpa Whitman intend it as a gift? Jackson wants to keep the dummy, but the warnings of Grandpa Whitman's property caretaker, Edgar, that this *is* the real Slappy and he's as dangerous as ever, give him pause. Jackson always plays by the rules, unlike his sister, and has no desire to play with fire. Then one night the spirit of the sadistic ventriloquist dummy overtakes him, in a way not seen in any previous book about Slappy. The dummy has developed a way to bend others to his wicked will, and uses it to force Jackson into perpetrating mischief that would ordinarily horrify him. The motivation is all Slappy's, but it's Jackson's helpless body desecrating property and insulting his friends and family. The only hope of reversing his disastrous course is to figure out a way to neutralize Slappy before he takes over Jackson's life permanently...a goal which may turn out to be impossible.

I appreciate the innovations R.L. Stine brings to this book. Slappy isn't the direct culprit this time, it's Jackson, which adds dimension to his plight of trying to convince his parents that a wooden puppet is the true villain. *Son of Slappy* doesn't live up to the spine-tingling excellence of the original *Night of the Living Dummy* or *Night of the Living Dummy II*, but it's entertaining. Slappy undeniably is at his most powerful here, and if he retains his mind-control abilities into future episodes, I'll be curious to see whether anyone can counteract them. If there's a face of the *Goosebumps* franchise (other than R.L. Stine), it's Slappy, so it's

always interesting to read a new book featuring him. Die-hard fans should absolutely give *Son of Slappy* a go.

Candyreads says

Before I read this book I had an incline that it would be similar to the previous Goosebumps novels including Slappy, were the book would be a huge build up to the end were he would have the final three chapters in the spotlight, a fight will occur after an attempt to rid him and then a twist would end the book. However, this book was slightly different because not only did we get to see a bit into Slappy's background but also his 'powers' in this book and what his capabilities are.

The book starts off by introducing two characters, Jackson, who is a goodie-goodie and does his best to do the 'right thing' in every situation because he honestly believes that it's the right thing to do. Then there is his older sister who is the complete opposite, she is portrayed as a troublemaker and she is actually naughty enough to awaken Slappy despite knowing the consequences that may follow. As Slappy awakens he forces Jackson into becoming his son. When Jackson refuses to do bad things he is told to do, Slappy unleashes his powers on him, possessing him, forcing Jackson into doing evil things such as painting his friends kitchen with chocolate cake mix and hiding the test answers from a teacher, blaming it on other possibilities.

The book then has a build up to a YC event which purpose is to help raise money to keep the nursery open which Jackson would volunteer to visit on Saturdays. His plan was to perform with Slappy, doing a comedy act on stage with him. Following through, Jackson had a plan to stop Slappy once and for all by reading out the words on the card again hoping that it will reverse the effect as before and send him to sleep. When he was on stage and attempted this he had realised that the card was blank, front and back which meant that Slappy was still alive and he could still possess Jackson, and he did, whilst ON STAGE. After a few crude insults from Slappy to the audience he proceeded to call up a young volunteer. Slappy bit the volunteer and then possessed Jackson, stopping him from standing up to help. A teacher appears on stage to stop the incident but through possession, Jackson bit the teacher as well.

Throughout the book Jackson has a reputation to try and keep whilst being watched carefully by his parents who begin to threaten him with doctors as they assume he's crazy. Jackson has to avoid social situations as Slappy will possess him every time, insulting people who are around him and making more mischief.

Later on in the book, Jackson is awoken one night to find his sister talking in her room. Curious he creeps out of bed. Eavesdropping, he listens into a conversation between his sister and Slappy and he finds out that his troublemaking sister was the one who replaces the card for a decoy, ruining Jackson's plans to stop Slappy once and for all. Jackson's sister knew that Slappy was alive all along but she plays it smart, denying the truth to her parents, making Jackson look crazy. After a short conversation between the two we find out that she is Slappy's adopted daughter.

This book is highly recommended for Slappy fans and he is portrayed more evil/villainous. As always the chapters are roughly three pages long and it leaves you hanging before a new chapter, peaking your curiosity and making you want to read more. That is what I love about the Goosebumps novels, R.L Stine is not afraid to let the bad guys win and that is what makes his material special.

Ravyn Karasu says

Slappy is my all-time favorite character in the Goosebumps series. Anything he is significantly in, I seek it out. This is such a complex character and every book tends to add on something new about the character. That being said, now to review this one.

I've not read a Goosebumps book since "Slappy's Nightmare," which was a little strange but still very delightful. However, I have to say "Son of Slappy" is currently (as of this post) my least favorite of the Slappy books. This book felt somewhat strange and out of place from the very beginning. I'm not sure what it was, but it just didn't feel...right. Slappy just felt very different and out of character. He was barely even in the story, said very little, was actually rather annoying, acquired a new adverb (tinny. Stine, what's up with that?), and his motivation was out of left field. I mean, at least in "Bride of the Living Dummy" he had a misconstrued motive. I'm not even sure what Slappy was hoping to achieve in this one. It felt like it just wasn't part of the canon. We learned rather little about his character. It just wasn't...SLAPPY. He just didn't make sense and it seems so weird for him to practically be an entirely different character altogether. I just didn't get it and this was, as of the time of this post, the weakest storyline of the Slappy books.

HOWEVER, all of that being said, it's not a terrible book. I would say that "Son of Slappy" is a good read for someone who has never read the other Slappy books. It feels like a stand-alone story and not part of an ongoing venture of one character. If anything, Slappy (after reading NotLD 1-3, Bride of the Living Dummy, and Slappy's Nightmare) is just not the same character and it's the first in the Slappy books I've read where very little is added on to his complex character aside from a new voice. Granted, we can argue the differences in Slappy's character is the up-in-the-air notion that this is not the same Slappy, but a copy (after all, the words are supposed to bring pretty much ANY dummy to life, if we are to believe the previous books).

To be honest, even the main character felt strange. Jackson is not a terrible character. If anything, he's actually really nicely written and you can't help but really feel sorry for him once Slappy comes along. Rachel is actually a very annoying character, though I think that was somewhat the point. It just felt like there was less story and this book was a collection of whining characters and a Slappy that was just like "I'm too old for this crap." Okay, seriously, if Slappy had actually said that in the book, that would have made this whole thing totally awesome. Just that one line would have made this book awesome.

But, please, let me clarify that the book, on its own, is a good book. It just kinda has its own little thing going on that just feels really different from other Goosebumps books, and especially the Slappy books. It's just very...different. If it was a stand-alone book, it would have probably gotten a higher rating from me. As it stands though, since it is part of an ongoing character arc of sorts (Slappy books, to this point, seemed to build off of each other to make Slappy a more and more real character, while this one felt like it made him a lot LESS of a real character. And his insults were just...really really lame. Granted, he was always kinda cheesy on his insults, but, this was just...groaners galore), it just didn't feel as strong as the others and Slappy was just not as good of a character.

Is there anything (from a major Slappy fan) that really stands out as good? Yes. The ending. And I don't mean that in a sarcastic way. The ending was actually rather satisfying. It still had the open-endedness that Stine is known for in his Goosebumps books, and while that can work or not work in each book, depending on the preference of the reader, the ending of this one did offer me a little something I needed. I just needed SOMETHING to redeem Slappy for me, and that was the ending. I won't give it away, but when I read it, I just felt a little bit of ease, as I felt like I had gotten a little bit of something I had been wanting out of the

character for years. It's not HUGE on its own, but to me, it stuck out and made me rather happy, even if it was just so little. It was just the RIGHT thing to do with Slappy in this book and it is very much appreciated. It made him feel a little more real in a story where he just felt otherwise.

So, long story short: It's an okay book. Good read on its own. As another book in the SERIES of Slappy books, this is the weakest one.

Weathervane says

It tickles me when Stine subverts his previous pet-tropes and patterns. No exception here. The protagonist is a "goody-goody" of most contemptible sort -- to onlookers with less social grace; or, frequently, more assertion. Jackson invites scorn knowingly with his claim that to do good is "easier" than to do bad, establishing him as a porcelain doll on counter's edge. In the early *Goosebumps* universe these characters served invariably as villains, foils to our imperfect, therefore relatable, everyday heroes -- scan *Be Careful What You Wish For!* and *You Can't Scare Me!* for two prime examples. Part of the sick pleasure came with the grinding twist near tales' exit, as the heroes we cheer are so rudely, gleefully shut down, this time irredeemably. Such gave Stine a mean-spiritedness unlike other childrens' stories save old-country fairy tale, a cruelty at which the kid me delighted back in the day. Here, that inevitable "twist" produces almost a wholesome smile. After all, Jackson is the kind of character Stine always primed the reader to root against, and why not? Someone who has everything, doesn't do anything wrong, is not suffering; and it's only right for a reader to demand the character's due penance for the sake of entertainment. Better that the secondary antagonist, his sister, who throws in with Slappy, is exactly the model of the typical *Goosebumps* protagonist -- troublemaker, angry at her brother's angelicism, who wants desperately to see him lowered a notch. Were the book from her perspective, her alliance with Slappy would, in final twist, prove Faustian, and *she* would take the closing fall instead of Jackson. Lucky for her Stine decided to mix it up -- or at least didn't write a page more!

(Tangential -- I wonder if Slappy's appearance or voice have changed any throughout the many series. Stine isn't exactly a stickler when it comes to his own canon. Moreover, have his powers changed at all? He has complete control over Jackson here and I wonder what the actual actions are which break his spell. Just the magic words again?)

Fatima Weasley says

La verdad, siempre que empiezo un libro Goosebumps me dan una flojera, pero lo sigo leyendo porque los finales siempre son los mejores, puede estar muy aburrido el libro pero las ultimas 30 paginas van a ser lo mejor, las ultimas 2 paginas son la mejor parte del libro.

Danna says

One of the best Stine books in a while. I was thoroughly surprised at the twists he implemented in here. He took his own well-written cliches involving Slappy and turned them on head. The Most Wanted sect of Goosebumps books are simply delightful.

