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Abandon



Synopsis

On Christmas Day in 1893, every man, woman, and child in a remote gold-mining town disappeared, belongings forsaken, meals left to freeze in vacant cabinsâ ”and not a single bone was ever found. One hundred sixteen years later, two backcountry guides are hired by a history professor and his journalist daughter to lead them to the abandoned mining town so they can learn what happened. Recently, a similar party had also attempted to explore the town and was never heard from again. Now the area is believed to be haunted. This crew is about to discover, twenty miles from civilization with a blizzard bearing down, that they are not alone, and the past is very much alive. Revised edition: This edition of Abandon includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

A lot of the other reviews discuss story details and plot. What I want to talk about is the writing itself. I'm 43 years old and I started reading Stephen King over 30 years ago. He's been my favorite author my whole life, and no one has come close to being comparable in my eyes. Until now. Blake Crouch has hooked me from the first page of every single one of his books. Where another reviewer complained about the description of the weather, I will praise it. Sitting by the pool in 105 degree

heat, I could feel the cold on my skin. I hoped and prayed that the snow would stop so that our protagonists could find their way to freedom and safety. Rather than just writing about how white the snow was and how cold the wind was, Crouch managed to turn the storm into just as much a villain as the actual villains in the book. Some say it was too gory. I say hogwash. Again, King has long been my favorite author. I don't mind gore. In this book, there are two or three graphic descriptions of bodily injuries, but the way they are carried out goes to show more about the frame of mind that the characters were in than any other words could do. There are reviews that say it was hard to care about the characters? In the final showdown, one that I never saw coming, I literally held my breath and turned the page as fast as I could because I was so worried that it would not end well for the character on the run. And let me tell you, when that ending came, I just... Well, I'll let you see for yourself. In short, Blake Crouch may not be as polished and experienced as those he's helped up against in comparison, but I have no doubt that it won't be long before his name WILL be mentioned alongside Stephen King and other great writers.

I really did not care for this novel. I didn't actively dislike it, but I certainly didn't enjoy it. I'll try to keep the spoilers to a minimum, but I'll say up front that my biggest gripe is that this story is absolutely not horror. Initially, I assumed that I had simply incorrectly categorized it as such, but the author and publisher do a lot to give the impression that it is more than just a suspense/thriller - the abandoned town, the missing inhabitants, the paranormal investigators, etc. If you go in expecting horror, you'll probably be disappointed like I was. I kept hoping that maybe, just maybe the zombie townsfolk or ancient evil in the mine or *anything* would show up forcing the heroes and bad guys to work together... but it never happened. With the story itself, I felt the storylines between the past and present just had way too many coincidental parallels and similarities. I often felt like I was reading each portion of the same story twice - once in the past and once in the present. Bouncing back and forth to reveal the backstory as the protagonist and the other members of her party made their discoveries was a nice touch, but things just seemed too much the same between past and present. As far as the characters, they really just didn't seem to have much... well, character. Many times, I had to reread passages to determine who was speaking during dialogue exchanges because everyone sounded essentially the same. Abigail, the protagonist, was simply so bland and vanilla and had so little impact on the story that she seemed to just be cruising through. She never really had or used any knowledge or insight into anything going on and simply followed directions and guidance given to her by other characters who popped in and out of her story.

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