



The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim

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The first in a gripping new gothic trilogy from an acclaimed author, for fans of Ken Oppel's This Dark Endeavor and Such Wicked Intent and HBO's Penny Dreadful series.

Edgar Brim is a sensitive orphan who, exposed to horror stories from his father as a young child, is afraid of almost everything and suffers from nightly terrors. His stern new guardian, Mr. Thorne, sends the boy to a gloomy school in Scotland where his dark demons only seem to worsen and he is bullied and ridiculed for his fears. But years later, when sixteen-year-old Edgar finds a journal belonging to his novelist father, he becomes determined to confront his nightmares and the bullies who taunt him. After the horrific death of a schoolmate, Edgar becomes involved with an eccentric society at the urging of a mysterious professor who believes that monsters from famous works of literature are real and whose mandate is to find and destroy these creatures. With the aid of a rag-tag crew of friends, the fear-addled teen sets about on his dark mission, one that begins in the cemetery on the bleak Scottish moors and ends in a spine-chilling climax on the stage of the Royal Lyceum Theatre in London with Henry Irving, the infamous and magnetic actor, and his manager, Bram Stoker, the author of the most frightening and sensational novel of the day, Dracula. Can Edgar Brim truly face his terror and conquer his fears?

The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim Details

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Author : Shane Peacock

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From Reader Review The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim for online ebook

Nicole says

The idea behind *The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim* was interesting - monsters found in literature being real, and Edgar and friends hunting them - but the actually story was lacking. I would give this tale three out of five stars. There were moments when it definitely dragged, and I considered putting it down entirely.

Tiger was my favorite character. Strong willed, brave, and quite interesting - but I wish Peacock had done more to develop the characters. They had potential, but aren't very unique other than their physical descriptions.

Also, the plot of this tale was predictable. You could guess what would happen next quite easily as the story progressed. Reviews warned that the story wasn't up to par, but it sounded like such an interesting premise that I had to give it a try.

I will say that I liked the way Peacock intertwined the tale Edgar was reading in the story with the story Edgar was living. Even more interesting was the way Edgar lived stories - it gave kind of another level to *The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim*. Without that blend, this story would have been much less enjoyable.

Overall this was a one time read, and I do not plan to pick up any other books in this series - based on the first one, it seems they would follow a similar pattern.

Disclaimer: I received this book for free in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own.

Cas Cox says

The title, the book cover, and just the appeal of this entire story is what I liked. If I'm to be honest, this book was hard to engage with I found myself skipping pages to find something more interesting lying in the words, but finding nothing. I really disliked this book, it appeals to the senses of mystery and horror, and then happens to poorly engage with either.

Karissa says

This sounded like something I would absolutely love. However it ended up being hard to engage with and just poorly written at points. The story jumps around quite a bit and was a hard to follow. There were also some things happening in the story that just didn't make sense. Edgar switches between his visions and what is real willy nilly and this makes it hard to actually follow the story at times.

This is one of those books that was just hard to read and I really struggled to stay focused on it and engaged in the story. It also got quite wordy at times and I would find myself skimming paragraphs, then force myself to go back a reread them more carefully only to find that not much had happened....which lead to more

skimming.

The plot ended up being incredibly predictable despite all the twists and turns the author tried to put in; it was just a disappointing read overall.

Overall a disappointing read for me. The story was somewhat confusing and hard to follow and just plain boring at times. I had difficulty staying engaged and was disappointed in how predictable the whole thing was. Not recommended.

Celeste says

When I started reading this I was really excited. Gorgeous cover, great blurb. I was expecting something along the lines of *Supernatural* or *Van Helsing*, but with younger characters and set in a different age. I wasn't entirely disappointed but it didn't meet my expectations either.

In the very first chapter the writing was atmospheric, dark and filled with a foreboding sense of mystery. It starts off with Edgar Brimm and 3 of his companions travelling to a school on the fog filled moors to confront a supernatural being that they suspect is causing trouble. In other words it started off brilliantly. Then the story shifted to Edgars past and continued to shift between past and present throughout. This threw me off at first because I'm an impatient sort and I just wanted to know more about what was going on. The author gets to that eventually and Edgars past is connected to his present problem in a slightly obscure way, which didn't really add anything in my opinion and is tenuous at best.

Now the main problem with this book is the basis that there are very few supernatural creatures in the first place. If in this world a total of only three are believed to exist by the main characters then why all the drama. I was expecting a multitude of insidious creatures to exist for our heroes to overcome (though not all in the same book of course). Which brings me to my next point, which is the fact that these supernatural baddies look out for each other, even though they are technically all loners. Why would a vampire care if Grendel is killed exactly? Apart from which Grendel totally had it coming. The ending felt anti-climactic and predictable. Edgar's whole ability of being sucked into a story wasn't really well explored or explained. And his showdown at the theatre with the vampire came off cheesy more than anything else. A bit of a disappointment this. More of a 2.5 star read for me. I didn't hate it but I didn't love it either.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

Jackie says

After his father succumbs to a sudden, early death, Edgar Brim is orphaned and sent to live with the wealthy Thornes, friends of his late mother. Literature has always played an important part in his young life, spurred on his father's musings. He believed, as Edgar now does, that some evil creatures were more than fiction, that in reality, they were borne from fact.

And, so, Edgar now a young man at the *The College of the Moors* in Scotland has nightly, vicious nightmares. He feels shadowy apparitions following him at times. With the death, likely a murder, of a young friend at the school, Edgar sets out to avenge his untimely demise. He now is absolute in his belief of real-life monsters. Along with Professor Lear, an acquaintance of his deceased father, his grandchildren, and a disgraced classmate, Brim intends to rid the land of the monster. But, at what cost? Whose life will be snuffed out? What horrors will all of them be exposed to?

The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim is a creepy, dark horror story. Chilling scenes, foreboding, Gothic landscapes, and intense characters make this a readable scary story. Exceptionally well-written, the reader is almost with them on those gloomy moors or on the hurried streets of London as they track the evil that is following them. You can almost hear the dark, solemn music being cued. Just as Brim's imagination is being haunted by this evilness, the reader's mind will be taken to a dark place.

I give this book 4 1/2 stars as there was one passage that was somewhat confusing, but overall a chilling, creepy tale for those who enjoy a gripping horror story.

Allison Dugan says

I thought this book would be something I would truly like but as I started reading it I couldn't get into the story.

Rachel Seigel says

Fans of Gothic Fiction will love this wonderfully spooky book. My inner Book Nerd also loved the literary references to Stoker, Shelly and Poe.

Erin says

2. 5 stars I feel that there are two ways that I really need to consider the review of this book- as a reader and as a teacher. In the first, I fell in love with the cover and was intrigued by the description. The first chapter sucked me into the story and I snuggled in for a good read. The problem is that my personal reading experience soon descended into a mess of choppy writing and a lengthening list of plot holes. I grew really bored of the continuous appearance and disappearance of Bram Stoker and the fact that it needed to be announced each time. Who cares?

As a teacher, I know that my students love "lots of action" and I think that they would appreciate the continuing unfolding of events that happens in the second and third parts of the novel. Shane Peacock writes many beautiful sentences and creates an atmosphere that is appropriate for a gothic tale. In addition, Peacock mentions classic writers like Mary Shelley and Bram Stoker and as a teacher, I would hope that YA readers would feel interested enough to pursue those older titles in their personal reading choices. It is great to see an author of today pay homage to that period of literature.

Although it didn't satisfy my own literary taste buds, I do think that it would easily grab the attention of a YA reader.

Thanks to NetGalley and Random House of Canada Limited for an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.

Ella says

Ohmigosh, CAN MAY HURRY UP PLEASE??!!

Shannon (enchantedfiction) says

This was more of a 2.5 star for me, but since that's not an option I'll give it 3.

The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim by Shane Peacock is about Edgar (of course) and his unusual night terrors. He has experienced them throughout his childhood, and when his father dies and he must move in with a family friend, he is sent to a school for boys out in Scotland. Here he meets his best friend Tiger, and a professor named Lear who drags him into a society that believes that monsters and villains from literature are, indeed, real. From here they are on the pursuit of a specific monster that has caused a death or two at the college and are well aware that this creature is after them, to silence them.

Okay, so this sounded like it would be a super awesome story. I was excited to read it during October with Halloween and all, since it felt like it had those spooky elements that are fun during this time of year. But I was a bit disappointed. There were definitely times that I was sucked into the story and wanted to know what happened next, but there were other times that I was ready for the story to move at a faster pace. The first chapter pulled me in, and I wanted to know what was going to happen next. But the first sentence of the next chapter brought me back to sixteen years before this particular instance happened, and I had to wait until a good portion into the book to get back to that particular instance. I think it would have been stronger if the first chapter had been put into chronological order and the story should have started when Edgar was a child. It just felt like it took an absurdly long time to get back to where the story had initially started, and I found it a little difficult to get through to the more interesting parts of the story.

There were also things that irritated me about the story itself. The fact that they believed everyone was the creature they were on the lookout for and every time they were wrong. I understand that if you were put into a real situation like this everyone would seem suspicious, but the way they were just waving their guns around in people's faces that they thought was the creature was a little uncalled for. I also wanted more explanation for things that never happened. I didn't really see a connection with the hag to what was going on in the rest of the story. She seemed so important in the first half of the story, then kind of fell off the face of the earth, only to come back during the play when Edgar found out who the vampire was. But they didn't really talk about her besides the fact that since Edgar saw her sometimes, he was meant to be part of the society that Lear brought him to.

I also wish that something had happened to one of them before the last chapter of the book. That sounds dark, but it would have made the whole thing more realistic. They all felt like they were part of it because Lear had confessed to them specifically about killing Grendel, but Lear was the only one who really understood what was at stake. I wish that something had happened to him earlier to make the others realize that it was totally real and there were consequences to their mission. It was hard to believe that they were all that invested when it was never really proven to them besides Lear's word.

I also felt like the story the vampire gave, which we never found out who he actually was, was pieced together and wasn't very believable. He never explained how he knew Grendel, it just said that he had heard about it and then found it on the moors, which seemed unlikely. Then he went on to say the reason he was on the British Isles was because he was trying to find Lear, which also didn't make sense because how did he find out that it was Lear who had killed him? I guess because he had already been trading places with Driver? It just didn't seem plausible to me.

I personally will not be continuing with this series as I found it to be pretty mediocre and boring at times.

The continual jump to conclusions of who was the creature was and continually being wrong, as well as seemingly bringing this character of the vampire out of nowhere just didn't sit well with me and make me want to know what happens next.

Jenna (lostwithinwords) says

This review was first published at Fictional Neverland

I received a free eARC of this book in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim was a book that started off with all the right things, yet somehow managed to fall off the tracks. It was disappointing really, when after the 50% mark, my interest for the story immediately dwindled. **I found myself unknowingly skimming large paragraphs of description that I no longer had interest in and though I was determined to finish the book, it was honestly quite a real struggle.** Nevertheless, it was still worth the read, covering a whole variety of historical figures and the stigma surrounding this time.

"You must fight your fears. Do not be afraid." He had never said it out loud. But when he did, it sounded marvelous. It sounded like the truth.

By far my favourite thing about this book was the setting. By now you should all know that I am a historical junkie and that the more developed the world building, the better. **Though I wasn't and still am not completely acquainted with this time frame, the world were still super intriguing to read about.** The story takes place in historical Scotland, and the descriptions Peacock uses immediately enhanced the gothic undertones. **Alongside the setting itself, we are also both directly and indirectly introduced to a variety of famous historical figures including William Shakespeare, Edgar Allen Poe, Henry Irving, and Bram Stoker.** They were for the most part well developed and steadily followed through with their supposed characteristics. *(With some minor tweaks here and there of course)* **Eerie, dark yet somehow full of hope, the world building of TDMOEB was the one and only thing I could constantly count on.**

"When you fight a man," says Tiger to Lucy, "hit him where it matters and hit him hard."

So, I honestly don't know exactly why or how everything went completely downhill. And by downhill I mean a 180 degrees change in the mere span of a couple pages. **One moment, I was enjoying being consumed within the story and the next, I found myself wanting to skim read or even put down the book.** I had already read some mixed reviews on Goodreads and much to my skepticism they turned out to be 100% true. **The first half of the book is great really, the setting is wonderful, the writing a little too tense but manageable, and the plot compelling.** But then after the 50% mark, I became extremely bored. But then after the 50% mark, I became extremely bored. **I have nothing against slow books mind you, but I do start to develop a problem when absolutely nothing happens within a fantasy/ mystery/ horror novel.** And that's what exactly happened. The cast members were trying to go on their quest, but then something happens. They try again and another thing happens. This cycle right here repeated about 5 times before I officially started banging my head on the wall. **It was beyond words frustrating and I wanted to put the dang book down multiple times.** Alas I pulled through, hoping for some amazing action and yet again I was disappointed. **Everything about the climax to the resolution was extremely anticlimactic and it just frustrated me to no end.** When I was finally done, I took a deep breathe of relief... But guess what? This is apparently only the start of a series :O **And no, before you ask, I will unfortunately not be continuing on the rest of the books.**

Overall, The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim was a pretty big disappointment. Though I had no expectations going into the novel, the initial chapters had me incredibly compelled. Unfortunately, Peacock couldn't continue on the 4.5 star track and soon enough, it fell down extremely fast. **That being said, I would still recommend this book to readers who enjoy a gothic atmosphere and those who do not mind continuously slow paced books.**

"Who would have known that such a thing, not even a real thing, just a feeling, could mean so much in someone's life?"

Note: All quotations are taken from the uncorrected proof and may differ from the finished copy. They're subject to change.

Nicola Mansfield says

I adored the author's Boy Sherlock series and was delighted to hear about this new series. High Victorian Gothic horror and mystery abound in this tale set in approx. the same timeframe as the Sherlock books. Victorian era, but this time mostly set in the Scottish highlands. Very dark and eerie. The paranormal elements come from a boy who can literally feel the emotion and action in tales of fiction. He finds out there are others like him and that the monsters are real. The literary connections make the plot even more exciting for book lovers. "Frankenstein" and Polidori's "The Vampyre" are spoken of a great deal, while Goethe's "Faust" and "Dracula" become main plot elements. Bram Stoker is himself a secondary character as is a famous stage actor of the time. I found the story highly atmospheric and entertaining. The pace was a little slow, but it was a great beginning to a new series.

nat. (semi-hiatus) says

I appreciated it's dark and dreary atmosphere but I felt like it was a lot of telling about the monsters and not enough showing until obviously the very end and that encounter was sort of awkward.

Dawn says

While "The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim" begins compellingly enough, and I quickly became captivated by the story and the characters, the mystery lost more and more of its allure and spark in the last half, and continued to fizzle until the ending, which wasn't horrible but didn't dazzle me, either. That said, I would pick up another book - if there were to be one - about Edgar Brim's continuing dark missions, because I really liked Edgar, his dad, Allen, his friends the Thornes, Tiger, Lear (professor), Jon and Lucy, and Edgar's transformation from a reserved boy who shies away from a challenge to a brave young man who faces his fears. The mystery (mission) had interesting intentions, but my favorite parts of the book involved Edgar's youngest years, his years at school and the friends/enemies he made there. Despite getting bored halfway through with what felt like an overly extended hunt for answers that offered some nice misdirections and dead ends, but ultimately felt like a too-long wild goose chase leading nowhere, the book offers some nice food for thought regarding monsters, literature, fear, courage, friendship, and a fun little dig at the danger of gossip and believing everything you hear/read.

Although I wasn't completely satisfied with "The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim," I wouldn't say "Don't read

it." It has its merits; I liked it well enough to try another in the future if there is one; and some readers who enjoy a longer chase will surely find a more perfect read here.

EmilyViolet says

This one wasn't for me.

I'm not sure what turned me off exactly. I think it was the style of writing, it made me feel very removed from the plot and characters, preventing any bonds forming for me.

I struggled through the last half of this book. I skimmed it. I can't really recall what happened, to be honest. It no longer felt important.

2 stars, because it had potential.
