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"Beware of the one who hides, who watches in the dark!"

Before Jenny Logan even entered the forbidding castle - a replica of the Worthingtons' ancestral home in England - a terrified stranger warned her away. Was the warning real - or just another example of the family's macabre sense of humor? Jenny couldn't be sure. She only knew her summer vacation with her father suddenly became a nightmare when the predatory Sir John Worthington invited them to stay - and his grandsons, the gorgeous Malcolm, his twin Derrick, and their mischievous cousin Wit spun a web of intrigue, romance and deceit around her. She's forced to play by their rules now, and battle the castle's ancient curse, which decrees that she will go mad, or die...or simply disappear...

Silent Stalker Details

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Author : Richie Tankersley Cusick

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From Reader Review Silent Stalker for online ebook

Trisha Gephart says

I loved this when I was a kid and had a pretty intense crush on the character Wit. I apparently was a very lonely nerd.

Sheilah says

I read this as a tween and fell in love with the characters. It is actually a book I have re-read many times since and it is one of my secret pleasures as an adult that I often read this once a year for nostalgia. Great story! It still has a nice visible place on my shelf. It is light horror/thriller. I am not someone who generally enjoys that genre, but this also has plenty of possible romance and festival atmosphere to keep me glued to the pages. And who doesn't love a story with creaky castles!

Mandy says

Jenny is spending some time with her dad who happens to be working which mean she's stuck tagging along with him. This week it's to an old castle with a renaissance fair but her dad hasn't made arrangements on where to stay so he's hoping they can stay at the castle. While driving up to the castle in the rain Jenny's door is thrust open with a warning that she shouldn't go any forward but she didn't listen. Instead at her father's insistence they continue driving up to the castle even planning on seeing if they can stay at the castle while he's writing his piece for the article.

Jenny and her father are staying at the castle only instead of staying in rooms together they have her staying tucked away in a tower. At least she won't be alone there are three guys as well as their father and some help in the castle. Her first night is anything but restful when she's dragged from her bed hunted by the executioner who's said to roam the halls of the castle. While Jenny tries to survive her time at the castle she needs to figure out what the secret the guys are keeping from her is. Will she make it out alive or be the executioners next victim?

It's been at least 10 years since I read Silent Stalker but I still had a general idea how it would play out. It's a fast paced story that is a quick read I had no problem finishing it in a little over an hour. I like the idea of the creepy castle as well as the fair going on it was very unique. A good suspenseful thriller I just wish it wasn't so short now that I'm older I want more. I also found the concept and secrets surrounding the guys a great twist I didn't see it coming. I connected with Jenny to the point that I liked her and didn't want her to die but I just didn't get enough time to really love her. Honestly I enjoyed Silent Stalker it's a perfect book for a quick scare if you have a little downtime because it has a mystery romance and a killer who keeps you on the edge of your seat. Considering it's over twenty years old it's a perfect quick scare. I can only imagine if the author wrote the same kind of books with the modern spin on them. Super curious to check out her newer books.

Strawberri Mystery says

Could this book be anymore boring? I usually like Richie Cusick books, but this one was a big disappointment. In the begging I was hooked from the part when Jenny and her dad arrive at Worthington Hall and a frighten girl burst opened their car door and warns Jenny to leave. She tells Jenny to turn back or she might get killed if she stays. After that the book went straight down hill and made no sense. It was like a guessing game: Who is stalking Jenny? Is it Wit? Or is it the twins Malcom and Derrick who keeps switching places? Or is it Edwyn? Edwyn doesn't even show up in the book until the end and the author never even introduce who Edwyn is. It just a headache and a big ball of confusion. I will be reading "The Mall" next, hopefully its better than this book.

Steen says

This was one of my favourite books growing up. I probably read it about a million times. It also was my favourite by Richie T Cusick. I probably loved it because it had a castle with tons of secret passages and rooms and had this real medieval feel right down to the dungeons and damp and drafty hallways. I think I also had a huge crush on Derrick even though you don't really get to know him very much. I also loved Wit (and still do) - he plays his part well.

I don't think I ever noticed when I was younger that things like why they stuck her up in a tower room if they were afraid for her safety and not in a room that was closer to them (ie the room her dad was supposed to stay in). But for nostalgic purposes I can ignore the unanswered questions :)

Katrina Sutton says

Why I love this book...there is an ancient castle, a renaissance fair happening nearby, a set of attractive twins, and of course, romance and a mystery. The question is who is who and how is Jenny going to figure it out on time? All I have to say, what is not to love?

Bookphile says

Oh, the Internets. Sometimes it's hard for me to remember what life was like before you, when I was doomed to forget all but the slightest of fragments from books I once loved, never to read them again. But now, thanks to one of the massively awesome sides of the Internet--fantastic book lovers who will help you to remember the titles and authors of books about which you only remember a small number of details--I am able to be reunited with the books I ate up when I was but a preteen back in the good ol' days of R.L. Stine and Christopher Pike. I know other ladies of a certain age remember those classics!

I should start off by saying that I just love this book. Seriously, I love it. I've loved it for over twenty years, a love that was strong enough to make me suddenly remember a few obscure details of this book while out taking a walk on a very sunny, beautiful day. In other words, I have no idea what made this book suddenly pop into my head at that time, especially considering it had probably been a good twenty years or so since I'd last read it. It just goes to show you how powerful books can be, how they can stick with you long after you've closed their pages and moved on to other phases in your life. Still, while I did love it as much as I did the first time I read it, some of it likely had to do with the nostalgia factor as, now that I'm older and more experienced, I recognize there are some pretty big flaws with this book. Some spoilers to follow.

For one, Jenny is a bit of a Mary Sue. We know so very little about her, other than the fact that she has blond hair, blue eyes, and a penchant for turkey legs and mildly threatening, handsome guys. I wondered if this lack of character development on her part was deliberate, making it easy for the reader to insert herself in the story, or if it was just oversight. Either way, it does lead to a flawed narrative. It would have been nice to at least know what Jenny's favorite color is, or something. Still, at least Jenny sticks up for herself and shows a little initiative, so we don't have a total damsel in distress scenario here.

The other really HUGE flaw with this book is its treatment of mental illness. I was rather dismayed by the way the other characters treated Nan. That poor girl obviously needed some therapy but, instead, she's kept around as a servant because she doesn't talk back to Sir John. Seriously, if that doesn't make you wince, it should. There are some aspects of this book that give it a sort of Jane Eyre vibe, but this isn't the 1800s anymore. It was rather uncomfortable to read some portions of the book because it did leave a bad taste in my mouth with regard to how a character like Nan was treated.

There are also some really strong points to this novel. For once, I give a huge A+ to the creation of atmosphere. Cusick is so good at it! Between the surreal nature of the medieval fair contrasted against the dilapidated castle, gothic horror doesn't get much better than this. It is a deliciously creepy read with a dash of very mild gore.

I also just love the Worthington family--and it's not just because the brothers are oh-so-dreamy (though they are quite dreamy). I especially love Wit. I think he's a particularly well-drawn character because his mannerisms and the way he speaks are indicative of so much about his personality. I'm also quite fond of the handsome twins who, while not as developed as Wit, still have pretty distinct personalities, as made evident by their roles in the fair. On the whole, the fair is a nice device not just for the atmosphere, but because it makes for some good symbolism, as far as character development goes. However, Jenny's dad gets a big failing grade. What kind of father leaves his daughters in a strange castle with Sir John and his three teenaged (or slightly older) sons? This is not a stellar example of parental responsibility.

This book is like mental ice cream. It's rich and pleasurable but not exactly bursting with healthiness. Still, I enjoy reading purely for enjoyment as much as the next person, so I'm not opposed to the pure pleasure of a delicious book that doesn't necessarily contain a great deal of substance. While the nostalgia factor certainly helps, this is still a book that has a lot of appealing elements blended together into a tasty finished product.

Vicki says

Great setting who doesn't love a spooky castle with hidden passages. Nicely scary and good characters.

Julie_ian_curtis says

epic fail

Ashley says

still one of my favorite novels from my pre-teen days.

Chrissie says

It really isn't all that fair to give this book 2 stars. I liked it in the same way I like campy horror movies. They're just so much fun to make fun of!

So let's get to it, shall we?

Jenny and her dad are driving along the back roads to a castle. (It's a replica of the Worthington's ancestral home in England.) Her dad is a journalist and is doing an article on festivals in America. He has an interview and a tour lined up at this, um, castle.

The moment they drive through the gates (on a foggy and wet night of course) a crazed, dirty, scratched up girl, somehow manages to throw herself *INSIDE* the **moving** car to tell Jenny, "**You're going the wrong way! Don't you know? You'll never come out...never again! He'll like you. I know. You have to leave! Before it's too late!**"

Holy crap batman! The exclamation point is front and center in this book!

Then, the strange, um, deranged (?) girl is yanked out of the car by a pair of black gloved hands and an endless night (yeah, that's not confusing at all.)

Her dad chalks it up to a, "**They sure do know how to put on a show here!**" Then a, "**Close that door will ya..**"

They drive closer to the castle (across a freaking drawbridge) and stop inside a courtyard. There isn't a soul in sight. Jenny wants to find a motel and come back tomorrow to interview "Sir John" because it's late and she has more sense than her dad.

But do we think that will actually happen?

Of course not.

Yawning doorways, and trees clawing up to the sky, as well as, invincible cliffs carved out of the depths of night await them, and apparently, a thunderstorm too. The moment they step out of their car, lightning hits a tree, causing it to fall, and it conveniently crushes their car.

Then her dad vanishes.

Jenny, standing in the rain, like a drowned rat, with her dad gone, does what anyone else would do in this situation. She walks towards the burned out torches (torches?!) and seeks shelter from the rain.

Now we meet a new character: Malcolm (with windswept hair and cheekbones) and a twisted sense of humor. He grabs her, holds her tight, comments on her beating heart and says they torture trespassers. Then he gallantly calls her, "my lady," and bows to her.

Umm...? What the hell?

He says that he's joking about the torturing thing, but, "**you might be surprised at how enjoyable some**

tortures can be."

O-kay. Hello Mr. Grey! (By the way, he's dressed in a billowy white shirt and black pants. No. I'm not kidding.)

Jenny is now ushered inside the castle, escorted by Malcolm. Except, Malcolm rushes ahead, leaving her alone in the darkness and then we have a lot of ellipses.

example:

"Malcolm..." her voice sank to a whisper. "Please don't leave me..."

There was a stirring of shadows...

Stale air over her face...

Then Malcolm screams her name. **"Jenny! Jenny! Where are you!"**

And que the panic attack from Jenny who becomes hysterical. Malcolm soothes her fears, embraces her, and tells her it's just her imagination and drafts. Yes. You read that right. Drafts. (There will be a lot of drafts in this book.)

So Malcolm finally manages to escort her into the dinning room where apparently her father has been having dinner with Sir John. **"Jenny," he says, "Oh. Have you been outside this whole time?"**

I know, right? Her dad is just sitting there having dinner with Sir John like he's been there for ages and ages. Her dad is a terrible father. Terrible.

Because it's late, because there are no hotel rooms available in town, because their car has a tree on it, Jenny's dad asks to stay the night. An awkward silence fills the room. Finally, Sir John agrees and suggests Jenny should stay in "the tower."

The Tower? Oh that sounds comfy.

So Jenny is escorted up *and up and up* the narrow staircase to her room for the night - the Tower. And what are the odds of Jenny making it through the night in her Tower-room without any incident? Not good folks, not good.

And this is pretty much how the book continues. It's fun. It's campy as hell, but it's fun.

If this sounds entertaining to you, then by all means, crack open the book, and while you're at it, keep an eye out for the fall down the stairs, the gypsy tent, and a trip to the dungeon. It's all so enjoyable.

Dottie Scalzi-Sauers says

wishing it was a five star rating.

I'm a huge fan of Richie Tankersley Cusick. I have read quit a few of her books with no disappointment. Unfortunately, I honestly have to say this is the first. Not that the story wasn't worth reading, I just had a very

hard time getting into it, getting through it and finishing it. I still think it worthy of at least three stars, only because it's RTC. I'm still and always will be a big fan!!!

Tia says

I love Cusick's books, but this one was my least favorite. I just think that not everything was explained, and you're completely in the dark as to what's going on the whole time.

Andrew says

I was definitely NOT expecting there to be a jester in this book, but I just loved the surprise. His name is Wit, and is my favorite character; I fell in love with him.

Jenny Logan has been shanghai'd to assist her father, Ed, in writing a 'feature on fairs and festivals in America' and staying at the Worthington Mansion. Upon arriving, he begins to feel like the real story is the Mansion itself.

Jenny seems paranoid along with feeling incredibly forced into coming with her father. Since her parents got a divorce, she'd barely seen him, and yet her mother thought sending her with him was a good idea (makes you wonder what she's up to, the mother).

She hears this voice in the car that doesn't seem to belong to her father. At the Mansion, Malcolm Worthington mistakes her for an intruder after her father carelessly leaves her behind by the car without making sure she knows the way. Malcolm is a twin to Derrick Worthington.

It's a very captivating story right from the beginning, although written in a somewhat dramatic way that I just loved. It is now one of my faves.

Amber says

I ABSOLUTELY love Cusick she has always been my favorite author to date. Since most of her books are young adult I pick them up when I am in the mood for a quick read or re-read, however this was my first time reading this one of hers and I loved it! I love how in all of her books you are kind of left in the dark and just tuning pages as quick as you can to find out who the killer is!
