



Black Lightning

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For five years Seattle journalist Anne Jeffers has pursued the horrifying story of a sadistic serial killer's bloody reign, capture, trial, and appeal--crusading to keep the wheels of justice churning toward the electric chair. Now the day of execution has come. A convicted killer will meet his end. Anne believes her long nightmare is over. But she's dead wrong. . . .

Within days, a similar murder stuns the city. As the butcher stalks his next victims, creeping ever closer to her, Anne is seized by an icy unease, a haunting sense of connection to these unspeakable crimes. And, relentlessly, she hears the eerie echo of the dead man's last words to her: "Today won't end it. How will you feel, Anne? When I'm dead, and it all starts again, how will you feel?"

Black Lightning Details

Date : Published June 1st 1996 by Ballantine Books (first published 1995)

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Author : John Saul

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From Reader Review Black Lightning for online ebook

Dustin Crazy little brown owl says

One of my favorite John Saul books - disturbing and twisted. I think the subject matter is very interesting :-)

William says

I really enjoyed this book right up to the end and then found the ending very disappointing. I almost downgraded it to a three because of the ending. I found the premise to be pretty good but not original (serial killer executed at the same time a man dies and is revived from a heart attack.) There is lots of action and graphic description to please the not so faint of heart.

Suzan Poisner says

ok writing. Didn't like the supernatural theme/ending.

Mike says

Pretty dumb....after I got done reading this, I had this dual thought - this was a pretty dumb story, and I was pretty dumb for thinking it was going to go any other direction.

Can't go into much detail as the story is pretty much based around a few key machinations, but it combines a decent serial killer novel with some dumb supernatural piece parts, and it pulls the hated "all of a sudden it's over" sort of thing very oddly (and almost in a "we could have a sequel" sort of way which was even odder).

Left me pretty cold.

Joyce Wagner says

Fast paced read - really no thinking needed.

Jeffrey Baker says

This is one seriously creepy book. Very graphic disturbing images of mutilation and murder. A haunting trip inside the mind of someone with multiple personalities. Which is a result of the killer being executed the same time another man is revived from a heart attack. It gets carried away sometimes when Saul goes into such intricate detail about the inner thoughts of the characters, but that actually made me laugh at times when the serial killer thought every little thing he did like turning on the news at a certain hour would tip his

neighbors that he's the killer. All in all this is a very dark disturbing novel which I found excellent.

Stefan Schulz says

Sometimes blurbs do a fantastic job to a book, even if the real story is rather flat and turn out to be longish but boring. May be it's the plot of John Saul's *Black Lightning*, which has been told many times already. Right after the first chapter I was fairly sure how the book is going to end. I must admit, that Saul's writing is good and it reads quite easy, so after some more chapters I was of hope that the book would surprise me and give an unexpected turn. Not so.

This is a decent read, but very predictable story.

Justin Benz says

In line with a lot of the other reviews here, I thought this was an interesting, well-paced, and well-developed story until the last handful of chapters, where everything started to feel rushed and slapdash. After reading the last few pages, I found myself wondering if the author ran out of time writing the book and/or wrote himself into a corner.

Laura says

This book is pretty intense & scared the crap out of me. Do not read if you are alone in your house late at night. I highly recommend it!

Linda says

A serial killer is executed at noon in Seattle, and reporter Ann Jeffers is covering the highly controversial event. Across the country, at exactly the same moment, Anne's husband suffers an all but fatal heart attack, requiring multiple efforts at resuscitation. Anne flies home, relieved to discover that Glen will recover. When he's well enough to go home, Anne rejoices, but little by little, it becomes evident that this is not the man she married. The doctor reassures her that some personality changes are to be expected, but Glen sure is acting weird. Meanwhile, although the killer is now dead, there seems to be a copycat starting his own rampage, following the same MO. Did they execute the wrong man?

There are some very gruesome scenes in *Black Lightning*, and if grisly were all it takes to make a thriller, *Black Lightning* would be a winner. But much more is required, and this novel misses the mark. Yes, mutilated bodies are discovered, all people that the Jefferses know, and the police think the killings are carried out by more than one person. So far so good. But Saul stretches credulity to the breaking point, and doesn't do it well. Creepy does not equal suspenseful, and in sections, *Black Lightning* is almost laughable, especially at the end. Preposterous.

Jack says

Shmeh... an ok read that at one point reminded me of a silly online comic/graphic "novella" (?) i read once. A man is possessed by someone recently deceased. at some point someone actually says something like "I thought something like this would happen..." (REALLY? You entertained that thought?)

There were some interesting twists and explanations that were mentioned, provided entertainment and background in a productive way, which is bonus. The flow of the story is fairly well, until the end.

Anywho, the ending was rather weak and very unsatisfying. The protagonist's possessed husband dies, but that's okay, because he was no longer the man she married, and, oh, there's recently the divorced investigator there for the rebound. Just effing great.

Overall, a pretty good story (with some good stuff, not mentioned here)

Trisha says

Saul does a good job keeping pace with authors like Stephen King and Dean Koontz in regard to suspense, but so far I am unimpressed with the endings.

Carol Brannigan says

The premise itself was good. It was lacking in some of the hows. I had the book figured about half way through and kept hoping for the how which never came. I liked the book but its not the best by the author.

Victoria Martinez says

WOW! This was the first book I have read of John Saul's and I fell in love with his style. This book scared me! I love ghost stories and watching scary movies but to actually read something that was written so thrilling was chilling. This is a book I will read again and again.

Andrea says

I really enjoyed this book. Lots of twists and turns and it kept me turning the pages as fast as I could! :)
