



# University

*Bentley Little*

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Reluctantly returning for another semester at UC, campus editor Jim Parker and library assistant Faith Pullen are alarmed by a series of bloody accidents that seem to be linked to an eerie and sinister force.

## University Details

Date : Published January 1st 1995 by Signet (first published January 1st 1994)

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Author : Bentley Little

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## From Reader Review University for online ebook

### Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says

Bentley Little does it yet again with University...although unfortunately there are more flaws here than some of his other works.

Two students going to a college begin trapped in a desperate struggle to unwrap a mystery that's killing their fellow students and threatening their existence. I don't wish to give away more of the plot than that, as it may put a hamper on the story if you read it yourself.

The atmosphere is cold, dark, and depressing. Brutality is evident all around, and Little does not play around with subtlety's. Jim Parker is a great character. He's three dimensional and focused. It was interesting for me, an adult woman, to see through the eyes of a college student male. He appeared stable and reacted the way I figured most would. His life was interesting and that made it even more fun. He had his own classic sets of internal struggles.

Faith Pullen's life comes off a bit harsher but she has that strong sense of self that I admire. She's enjoyable to read about because, not only does she come across as genuine, she comes across as a survivor. Yucky about her mom and what the woman does with sodas!

The pace wasn't boring or uneven and it came across as well orchestrated overall. Again Bentley Little is dark. Except this time he's a bit too unbalanced for my tastes. Some the gore was a bit too excessive, the violence a little unnecessary -- to where they became the focal points more than the story itself.

University is worth a read but it's nothing as shattering as his other works. Many books leave a taste in my mouth when they are unpleasant -- and usually this is a good aftertaste. This one, however, didn't agree with my taste buds as well. It just came across a little too senseless and exploitative, not concentrating as much on story and shock factor.

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### DJMikeG says

I'm a big fan of Bentley Little, but I really did not like this book. It isn't suspenseful or scary or smart or funny, unlike many of his other books. I remain a fan, and I know that his stuff is really love it or hate it, and I happened to hate this one. I'll continue to read him, but this book stunk.

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### mark monday says

Bentley Little: subverter of iconic institutions. while other authors with equally prolific tendencies are often content to jump from creature to creature, Little not only re-visits both well-known and more obscure threats (in addition to haunted houses and vampires, his topics include maenads and an invisible man)... but he will often make a point of satirically locating many of his horrors in the most everyday of places. other subversions have included department stores, resorts, the postal service, and the insurance industry. this book's banal locus of evil is Higher Education.

University posits a reality where universities are actually sentient beings, with each student and staff member

acting as just one cell of a greater organism. unfortunately for the novel's cast, the particular organism that they're a part of is deeply psychotic. the idea is an interesting one and creates many democratic opportunities for both horror and irony, as the mindlessly reactionary, the complacently liberal, the tediously conformist, and the superficially rebellious are all enjoyably skewered throughout the novel.

characterizations are shallow but sympathetic and the narrative is built on a sometimes too-wide canvas. as always with the author, sex - whether as an act of love, lust, or horror - is presented in such a matter-of-fact way (far removed from the gloating, juvenile lasciviousness of Edward Lee or Richard Laymon), that the act itself carries about as much mystery and complexity as eating or sleeping. it is a surprising and refreshing point of view, particularly given the conspicuously high amount of sex present throughout the author's works.

overall, another worthy entry in the author's on-going mission: Take Down The Establishment, One Institution At A Time. go get 'em, Bentley!

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### **Lee says**

I don't give spoilers in my reviews, so if you haven't read this early novel of Little, you need to try it. When the local college turns evil (meaning the campus and buildings) and most of the students/faculty start acting out their inner personalities...campus life turns morbid...vicious and deadly. With that, it's a good gory horror tale.

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### **Alice says**

This is, hands down, the worst book I have ever read. I am definitely no prude, and no stranger to horror fiction, but I found the graphic sexual violence in this book excessive and disturbing. And the plot devolved into sheer stupidity. I have had this book on the shelf for several years and recently discovered it. I should have left it on the shelf or donated it to the library. Bentley Little is definitely not for me.

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### **Anselie says**

The first real horror I read as a teen... Freaky stuff.

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### **Shockwave says**

Very Bizarre book, but very interesting.

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### **Rochelle says**

This was one I couldn't even finish. It is the only book I've ever thrown into the trash.

### **William says**

3 1/2 stars

Without doubt the craziest book i have ever read and i have read a lot of Bentley Little.I'm serious there are parts of this book once read you can't unread.LOL!!!  
I did enjoy it though and will definitely be reading more of him.

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### **Holly says**

A typical formulaic Bentley Little. A powerful entity has grown out of control and over-the-top bad weirdness and bloody mayhem ensue.....blah blah blah. A person should only read one Bentley Little book every five years to avoid redundancy.

My reason for reading this book was phenomena going on at a nearby university town. It is thankfully on the other side of our county line and there is a twenty mile buffer zone between here and there.....but there just seems to be way too much violent crime in that community. For instance, our county just saw it's third murder in the last fifty years.....the nearby university town can have 3 murders in six months. I also once did a comparison of statistics.....the University of Michigan is four times the size of our local, and had 0 murders in Ann Arbor during the same time frame in which our local university town had 5 murders. Interesting, too, because the locals are aware of it (they get all touchy if you bring it up) but prefer to pretend it isn't happening in their community.

I doubt that Bentley Little's solution is applicable, but still, you never know.

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### **Nick says**

The best pulp horror novel of all-time. It is gleefully horrific and moves from one brutal shock to another with no regard for the readers gag reflex or sanity. Little seems to care little for characterization or anything else of literary merit that can slow down a narrative of pure carnage. Pure brilliance.

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### **Kurt Reichenbaugh says**

Very graphic and wild. Good kick-ass style horror.

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### **Jenn says**

I like Bentley Little. He's a good horror writer. But I didn't like this one. Excessive use of violent rapes doesn't make for a good book. I get that a lot of older horror had sex themes. I get that the same older horror was written for little 16 year old boys who never leave their basements. This just didn't cut it for me and I

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was rather disappointed.

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## Melki says

*We have to kill the university. Before it kills us.*

Bentley Little seems to be a beloved author among horror fans, though this book left me scratching my head as to why.

Early on, one of the characters mentions that it's possible to become inured to violence and horror. Then Little sets out to prove it by cranking out scene after scene of vile activity for no other reason than to shock and titillate. Something happens on almost every page - in addition to orgies on the lawn, we have a professor who invites his party guests to partake of his amazingly flexible wife's charms, a couple swims in a pool of blood, there are race riots, murders, suicides, and I lost count of all the rapes . . . There's so much that *indeed*, I did become inured. And bored. Yup - another page, another atrocity. By the time we get to the author's BIG AWFUL THING - (view spoiler) - I was saying, "Yeah. Whatever. Let's just get this over with."

It's really hard to be moved by and concerned about someone's death when that character was introduced only a few sentences earlier. *Say "Hi!" to Betsy everyone! And now we're removing her skin.* Seriously. The whole book is like that. There's not a lot of rhyme or reason here. On the one hand, you've got the university inside the heads of kids who are already unstable, making them do all sorts of disgusting things to, and with their fellow students. Then you've also got killer vines and attacking squirrels. Uh-huh.

Squirrels.

It's a shame, because there are some genuinely creepy moments to be had. If Little had chosen suspense over gore (and gotten rid of the marauding squirrels), who knows what kind of book this might have been.

I was curious enough to want to see how it ended - (view spoiler), and that's the only reason it gets two stars instead of one. The good thing about reading a book like this is that it will make the next one seem *that much better*.

Plus, no dogs were raped.

So, there's that.

I guess.

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## Autumn says

I read a short story collection of Little's recently and though I found them less than well-written, I thought I would give one of his novels a try.

I was not impressed. It seems Little relies almost entirely on shock value to disturb readers. I'm not the sort of person who is easily disturbed, and I will admit this subject matter did not disturb me (I've read worse in accounts of actual crimes) - that is not where my problems lie. What *was* disturbing, however, was that it

seemed to me that this novel was a series of vignettes intended to make the reader squirm and think how disgusting or awful or perverse it was. All I could think was that there were more of these various 'shocking' scenarios than there was of the story - and they weren't even that shocking to me, so my hopes for a well-structured novel were dashed by the time I was a quarter of the way through the book.

I realize horror stories are a lot about shock, but I thought this was trying too hard. If Little wanted to disturb his readers, he could write *better* instead of writing about yet another (view spoiler) I didn't even consider it a relevant part of the story: it was just frustrating.

The characters were shallow, two-dimensional people that seemed all too aware of their own existence as stereotypes (view spoiler), and yet not self-aware in the way that can be rather amusing instead of incredibly annoying.

The dialogue was mediocre at best. I consider character dialogue good if I can tell who is speaking without reading their name. The problem here was that every character sounded the same, with the exception of an extremely minor character late in the book - and only because he used a few foreign phrases.

The writing itself (grammatically and otherwise) was not very good - this I can forgive, but only for the simple reasons that I did not expect it to be and that after a point the lack of involvement in the plot was more worrying than the lack of respect Little gives to proper grammar.

I brought this home from the library for light reading, but even as extremely light reading goes, this was not worthwhile.

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