



Interlopers

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Upset stomachs. The collapse of civilizations. Nervous breakdowns. Blame them on a twist of fate, but archaeologist Cody Westcott knows differently. Something is causing these random acts of badness. Something ancient, something evil, something...*hungry*. We are not alone, but we're about to wish we were....

Interlopers Details

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Author : Alan Dean Foster

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From Reader Review Interlopers for online ebook

Dani Rodriguez says

I really enjoyed it, another way to conceptualize depression. I thought it was a fun story

Jason says

Alan Dean Foster is one of those authors that is about as fickle in his writing as I can imagine. Sometimes his books hit the nail on the head and at other times you feel that he was just collecting a paycheck. With that in mind I went into this book not expecting much after having picked it up second hand. I was expecting an Indiana Jones meets the aliens vibe... and that is exactly **not** what I got.

However, the book wasn't bad at all and I place it up there with some of his best stuff. It surpassed my expectations quite a bit and was a fun, quick and surprising book. Was it well written? It wasn't Moorcock or Sanderson but it wasn't terrible. The characters were believable and human and the villains were otherworldly and lovecraftian without once invoking Lovecraft in any way. Think more "from beyond" than "call of Cthulhu" for instance.

Archaeologist uncovers evidence of other-dimensional predators that have preyed off of humans for thousands of years, then finds a way to actually see them and freaks out. Goes on globe-trotting adventure to vanquish them (although "adventure" might be a bit heavy, there's only two actual fight scenes in the entire book) and to save his wife. There's really not much resolution to the story, but that may be the whole point of a subject like this.

Do I recommend it? It's hard to really **recommend** Foster, but if you have a few spare moments and nothing better to read then, by all means, have a bit of fun with it.

Bryan457 says

Invisible, interdimensional, alien parasites live among us, feeding off of, and causing, negative emotions.

Archaeologist Cody Westcott deciphers an ancient Peruvian text, that describes a potion, which he makes and ingests. This potion gives him the ability to see the alien parasites living among us. When they realize he can see them, they declare all out war on him and his family using human hosts susceptible to evil suggestions.

Peter Tillman says

Archaeologist-in-training Cory Westcott is helping to excavate Apachetarimac, a pre-Inca site high in the Peruvian Andes. He discovers a mysterious sealed cave, full of spectacular Chachapoyan carvings and pictographs, and meets his future wife, beautiful fellow student Kelli Alwydd.

Cory and Kelli finish their Ph.D's, and both win appointments to the faculty of ASU in Tempe, Arizona.

Cory deciphers the recipe for a Chachapoyan shamanistic potion. With the help of an ASU chemist, he brews the stuff and drinks it. Nothing much happens -- he gets terrible stomach cramps -- until he passes the Chemistry building and sees a raging fire in his colleague's lab -- and he starts seeing weird creatures, with teeth & tentacles, in every tree and rock in Tempe. Hungry creatures... that no one else can see!

And, as he finds out, the invisible monsters -- the Interlopers -- can burrow inside a person, to feed on their sorrow, pain, anger, discontent -- and control the victim to produce maximum food-value. Or to eliminate a threat -- as Cory discovers when he's visited by Uthu, a possessed Asian, with a 'friendly' warning to stop his research -- or else.

Possession by invisible aliens, who force the hag-ridden to do horrible things, was a common SF theme in the paranoid 40s and 50s -- and it is still a popular explanation for all the troubles in the world: "the devil made me do it." Interlopers reminds me most of an old Jack Vance novel, Nopalgarth (aka The Brains of Earth -- which is worth looking for if you like this sort of thing). And, of course, the fear of a 'demon-haunted world' dates back to the flickering campfires of prehistory...

Interlopers is competent commercial fiction, and I enjoyed reading it. I particularly liked the explanation for all those horrible sitcoms: the Interlopers hate a good belly-laugh (it gives them indigestion), so they've heavily infiltrated TV and Hollywood, to kill off all the good humour shows. And the globe-trotting scenes are nicely done -- the author is a noted traveller. But the book would have benefitted (sigh) from a more diligent editor, who might have blue-pencilled stuff like (in sketching a senior archaeologist) "beneath his shirt and shorts, small, corded muscles exploded like caramel popcorn." Or, describing a tropical town, "aspects of the old South Seas clung to it like lost adjectives from a novel by Conrad." Sheesh.

The bottom line: Interlopers is a "B" book, decent airplane reading -- but Alan Dean Foster's done better.

My 2001 review: <https://www.sfsite.com/08b/lo110.htm>

Tonya Breck says

While the story had a very interesting premise, I'm not fond of how often Foster repeatedly delivered the same information seemingly every chapter. While I'm all for repeating things in a series once a book to refresh the reader's memory, again and again in the same book says either the writer isn't very good, or assumes his reader is an idiot.

However, I did enjoy Ben Browder reading it. I'll admit, his reading is what kept me listening until the end.

Vadim Gorodetsky says

Reads like a ridiculous B-Movie story that could be made ten or twenty years ago with all the good old tropes included. The premise raises interest at first, but the more is explained the more it crosses from "silly but fun" into "are you kidding me?!Oooph!" territory.

Certain literary techniques are employed and then completely abandoned. Characters are stereotypes and get no development, though with a simplistic story, there's no need for that. The resolution at the end feels unearned and anticlimactic. It just ends, as would a pilot to a TV series end - closing the immediate plot, but leaving enough open for an overreaching story arc.

Also, I got lured into it with the Ben Browder, of "Farscape" and "Stargate SG-1" fame, on the mic in the

audio version. Boy, was that a mistake. Ben phones it in, literally, reading quickly with no punctuation, rushing the job to cash that cheque.

This is a decent filler or a time waster when nothing better is available, but really not worth a good reader's time.

Katharina Gerlach says

This was an interesting read. For me, it was pure fantasy and I was quite irritated when I found it listed in SciFi. On second thoughts, the genre fits too.

There were a few places where events were not fitting properly (like the kazoo or the easy hospital discharge mentioned in a previous review), but I wasn't bothered all that much by it. I liked the worldbuilding too much.

Worldbuilding is Foster's greatest strength, imho. I liked the way he interwove the interlopers with our everyday world. Recommended for readers of mythology-enhanced fantasy/SciFi

Nick says

I found the plot holes to be very frustrating. This was not Foster's best work, by far. Contrary to the premise as implied in the opening chapters, infection is absurdly easy, and humans have pretty much no chance of winning. Also, he makes sloppy mistakes in the writing, in key scenes. Just try "blowing really hard" into a kazoo to make a loud sound, for example. Go ahead...we'll just wait right here until you notice the problem. It wouldn't be a big deal, except the sound mattered in the story.

The hospital scenes were similarly clumsy and difficult to believe, especially the hospital's willingness to instantly discharge a coma patient on the day of awakening. The powers and abilities of the Interlopers kept changing, and the power displayed near the hospital, of massive illusion, should mean Game Over for humanity.

Very disappointing novel with interesting characters.

Nancy says

I couldn't put this book down and really enjoyed reading it. I think it may be one of those books that is difficult to label with a specific genre. It has some science fiction, some fantasy, and some horror. Now, I'm not a horror fan and I'm not as avid a reader of fiction as some but I still really enjoyed it. It was different than anything I've ever read before which made it all the more interesting for me.

Shawlbright says

In my opinion 85% really good/interesting 5% I really wish Foster had explained more about one thing or another 10% disappointed by the plot devices used to end the story. still in my opinion worth a quick read.

Randy says

Author Alan Dean Foster is equally adept at world building science fiction, like his Humanx Commonwealth novels, or small personal near future tales. INTERLOPERS fits into that later category.

Archeologist Coschocton "Cody" Westcott discovers, along with his future wife Kelli Alwydd, discover hidden chambers below the temple they are excavating filled with all sorts of carving and symbols on the walls. They photograph all of it for later research, both making careers out of it.

Later, married and teaching in Arizona, Cody deciphers one set of symbols for some sort of formula. A chemist friend helps him mix it up and Cody samples it.

A whole new word opens up for him. And not a nice one.

He can see Those Who Abide, the Interlopers, who live in natural objects: trees, rock, and such, until a human touches them, invading the body. He witnesses a girl vomit, a man turn violent and kick his dog, two women crash their bikes together just to warn him off.

Only he can see them and does what he can to prevent them infecting people. But he must do more.

What are they? There must be others that know of them. How can they be stopped?

Foster has a style that pulls one into the story and won't let go.

Michel says

I love Alan Dean Foster. Even when one of his books does not seem very promising, I always get hooked after 10 to 30 pages... Not this one :(I'm giving up after one third. Very boring, stupid plot, lifeless characters.. Well Alan is allowed to have a day off!

MB says

I can never pass a box of books at a yard sale that says "25 cents each" or, be still my heart, "10 cents each."

And so I came into possession of Interlopers.

It was a pretty good read, although I'm not sure I understand what puts it in the realm of science fiction instead of the realm of horror.

I had a somewhat hard time believing the main character would actually make and drink the concoction that allows him to see the Interlopers. What happens once he can see them is to be expected--they don't want to be seen, they just want to make humanity as miserable as possible so they can feed off the negative energy.

Of course, the primary female character is infected, so she must be rescued. Because we can't have women

actually contribute to solving the problem. Been there, read that.

An amusing and entertaining read, but I probably won't ever reread it.

Rhiannon says

I would normally have rated this a 4, due to the convoluted ending and various opportunities missed in the plot (ie. when he returns, it is autumn, so what would happen if a leaf falls on you with an interloper in it?) But, it did make me think. Due to the very original concept - not surprising for Foster - and the way it seems to explain everything we humans do that is not productive - I had to rate it a 5. For some reason, the idea made me laugh at mistakes I made today and hope for a better world. Irrational? Maybe so, but fiction is not so much about escapism for me as it is a way to deal with reality and think outside the box. This book helped.

ps. Also, I liked that the wife got to be a hero, too, in the end.

Penny says

Alan Dean Foster almost always writes what I like. After the first 75 pages I still didn't care about the characters and saw the story going somewhere I didn't want to go. So I stopped reading. Just not to my taste.
