



Incident On and Off a Mountain Road

Joe R. Lansdale

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"Easing her back against a tree trunk, she sat and listened, watching for that strange face, fearing it might abruptly burst through the limbs and brush, grinning its horrible teeth, or worse, that he might come up behind her, reach around the tree trunk with his knife and finish her in a bloody instant."

"Incident On and Off a Mountain Road" is one of Joe Lansdale's most popular and terrifying short stories. Adapted for television, it appeared as an episode of Showtime's Masters of Horror series.

Incident On and Off a Mountain Road Details

Date : Published November 20th 2011 by Gere Donovan Press

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Author : Joe R. Lansdale

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From Reader Review Incident On and Off a Mountain Road for online ebook

Keith says

Decided to dip into some Joe R. Lansdale, given that Bubba Ho Tep is one of my all time favourite movies and Don Coscarelli's adaptation of this story for Masters Of Horror was one of my favourite episodes.

The most striking thing reading this is just how faithful and excellent Coscarelli's version was, he clearly stuck very faithfully to the source and the representation of Moon Face was iconic enough that it's difficult to read this without your mind conjuring up images of the MoH episode.

It really is a great short story, Lansdale's style throwing you right in at the deep end and not letting up for one moment. It's quite startlingly intense, and there are moments so dark that they understandably never made it to the tv adaptation.

As my first experience of Lansdale in book-form I'm massively impressed, and will be stocking up on more (with Bubba Ho Tep obviously top of the list).

Angela says

I enjoyed this, it had a very 1970s horror feel to it, by that I mean claustrophobic and intense. Lots of action and some definite creepy and disturbing moments and a nice little twist at the end which I liked.

Godzilla says

After many complaints from my wife about the number of books our house is struggling to contain, I have bought a Kindle.

I was very anti-Kindle, as I love the feel and nuance of books, but for a quiet life I have gone over to the dark side.

I saw this short story as a free offering and snapped it up.

Joe Lansdale rarely disappoints, and this is no exception. It's a taut, tense tale with a real twist in the tail.

His writing is always pacy and punchy, and as a free taster this encapsulates his strengths really well.

David says

This short story is currently free, from Amazon, as it includes the first chapter of a book by the sponsoring publisher.

Which I'll have to get back to later, given how spooked out I was by this story.

Yolanda Sfetsos says

I've had a bad run of *books I can't get into* lately, so I've been reading short stories. This is the latest one.

The night Ellen is driving too fast down a mountain road, she hits a car. When she gets out to make sure the other driver is okay, she finds the car empty. But she's not alone, because a maniac with a knife soon appears...

I *really* enjoyed this one!

Not only is Ellen crafty and not willing to give up--constantly remembering some of the survivalist bullshit her ex talked about--but she's brave af. She might get caught in a cat-and-mouse situation with a hideous killer and discovers some pretty gruesome shit, but she keeps a level head throughout.

Yep, I really liked Ellen.

And if I didn't like her already, I would've cheered for her (oh, hold on, I did!) as soon as that twist hits. Just *that* is worth everything.

Great fast-paced story. Just what I needed right now. :)

Chris says

If this isn't the perfect "strong woman fights off deranged psychopath" story then I don't know what is. Even as I read it I checked off all the standard plot devices (which I won't list because that will ruin the story) but I enjoyed it anyway just because Lansdale is that good. And then he still surprised me with a perfect ending. If you haven't read Lansdale you are really missing out and this story would be a great place to start.

Pat says

Holy Moly! What a fantastic story. I am between reading novels and wanted to read something quick for a change. I borrowed this story from my husband's Kindle library because I have read Joe R. Lansdale's novels and really enjoyed them. Well, all I can say is that this short story is definitely worth the late night read. It is only 33 pages but yet it tells a great tale. If you liked (or remember) Rod Sterling of 'The Twilight Zone' fame, this story would have been one of the top selections.

Zoeytron says

A moonlit night, a psycho with a moon face and a yearning to add to his gruesome family are more than

plenty to carry this short tale of horror. The ending was a bonus. The more I read of Lansdale, the better I like him.

Badseedgirl says

Masters of Horror, season 1, episode 1.

There were 26 episodes of the powerful Showtime series which aired between 2005 to 2007. All of them were based on short stories/ novellas by some of the most influential writers of the genre field. I have made it my mission to hunt these stories down and read them. There are only 26, I mean how hard can it be?!?!

The first story in the series was "Incident On and Off a Mountain Road." Short, but with brutal intensity, this 30 page story gripes the reader in the absolute horror of a midnight chase through a dark and sinister woods.

This was an excellent start to this series of short stories.

Daniel Drago says

This is one of the best short stories I have read. I am just starting to read Joe Lansdale even though I was first told to read him back in 1992. My mistake it appears. I love that the story moves so fast, doesn't have to explain why Moon Face does what he does and the ending is a great twist i didn't see coming. On my way to read more by Mr. Lansdale.

Highly recommended.

Kat says

I saw the Masters of Horror episode of this story back when it first came out. I watched a few more episodes and didn't like them. From my recollection, this one was the best one I had seen. However, going into this short story I couldn't remember a thing other than a girl running from "some guy" in the woods.

Unfortunately I told someone about 15 minutes before I was to start reading it, that I was reading it, and they ruined the ending for me - probably accidentally. But annoying nevertheless. And well, when you come down to it the story had a lot to do with the ending, so it almost felt like "whats the point". I'm trying not to let it taint my feelings.

I wanted to give the story 3 stars, but I think had the ending not been ruined for me, I would have given it a 4. So, that's what I gave it

The only issue I had with the story was some of it was really hard for me to picture because it was so action filled and I was trying to read it while my husband was loudly watching the Playoffs in the next room. But, that's probably all my fault, not the fault of the writing.

Marvin says

Gere Donovan Press and Amazon are currently offering four short stories by Joe R. Lansdale to Kindle readers for free. The four tales are *The Steel Machine*, *Bullets and Steel*, *Tight Little Stitches on a Dead Man's Back* and this one, *Incident On and Off a Mountain Road*. "Incident" is one of Lansdale's earlier tales and one of his more famous short pieces mainly due to the Don Coscarelli directed episode of the TV series *Masters of Horror*. It is also one of Lansdale's most harrowing, evoking disturbing memories of all those "psycho in the woods" horror films. But there's a nice twist at the end that is pure Lansdale. Highly recommended.

Col says

Blurb, sort of..... In "Incident On and Off a Mountain Road," Lansdale offers readers a heroine who is far more than what she seems. Pursued by a monstrous madman, Ellen calls upon her survival skills and leads readers toward a mind-blowing twist ending.

Another freebie from the Amazon site, which I found while having a browse.

Not my usual bag though I'm familiar with Lansdale's work. I have read a few of his previous horror offerings, *The Drive-In 1 and 2*, but my main enjoyment comes from his Hap and Leonard series, some of which I've read, but all of which I'll be re-visiting.

Hap Collins and Leonard Pine

1. *Savage Season* (1990)
2. *Mucho Mojo* (1994)
3. *The Two-Bear Mambo* (1995)
4. *Bad Chili* (1997)
5. *Rumble Tumble* (1998)
6. *Captains Outrageous* (2001)
7. *Vanilla Ride* (2009)
8. *Devil Red* (2011)
9. *Hyenas* (2011)

Cutting to the chase, did I enjoy it? Would I recommend it to others? Will I find myself thinking about it again in the weeks and days ahead (always the mark of a good book in my opinion)?

Enjoyment factor.....yes, ok – passed some time, I didn't feel like that's an hour or two of my life I'll never get back. The thing with short stories or novellas, a lot of time I don't actually care what happens to the characters, mainly because they are crudely drawn brushstrokes and not fully realised people that I have an interest in.

Would I recommend it to others? I doubt it; if you want to find it it's on Amazon as a freebie.

No- I won't be thinking about this one again.

2.5 out of 5, which I shouldn't complain about as it was a free download.

Read back in October, 2012

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10...>

Wayne Barrett says

I had forgotten that I had already read this as part of a short story collection but it was well worth a re-read. This has all the elements of a great horror short story. No-stop spine tingling action, extremely gruesome details, and a nice finishing twist. If you like horror, ya gotta read this one.

M.E. says

Excellent, violent, horror story

This story is quite violent and graphic so is not for everyone, but the strong female lead was exceptionally well written and the story was fast and intense. Highly recommended for horror fans who are okay with graphic descriptions of death and violence.
