



Halloween Rain

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Around Sunnydale, they say a scarecrow saturated with Halloween rain will come alive and slaughter anyone in sight. (Lovely place, Sunnydale.) Buffy's best friends, Xander and Willow, used to think the tale was nonsense - but after a few adventures with Buffy, they're not so sure.

Even without a maniacal scarecrow, a Sunnydale Halloween is a truly horrific happening. There are enough zombies and vampires about, ready to party hearty and eat some brains, to keep the Slayer and her friends up all night.

And then the rain starts to fall...

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Halloween Rain Details

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Author : Christopher Golden , Nancy Holder

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Whitney says

I found this, along with several other Buffy novels, in the thrift shop and I just couldn't resist.

A fun read, basically fanfiction that got published. It's funny, though, that since this book takes place during the first season of Buffy, it is pre-season-two canon (which establishes that vampires, demons, and monsters all take Halloween night off).

Melissa (Jen & Mel's Book Nook) says

I don't know what it is about these early Buffy books that don't hold my interest, but this one was a drag. This book should have only taken me one sitting to get through, but it literally took me reading it on and off over two weeks! I remember having the same problem when I tried to read this in my early teens. That said, I've read other Buffy books by Christopher Golden (such as The Lost Slayer series) and they've been phenomenal.

Tiffany says

So I wrote a review for this book without finishing it, and it didn't sit well with me. I made myself finish it, and put it from a one star rating to two. It was okay, and I will probably read more of them, but something seems to get lost on paper to me. There are some books that I read and I feel like I'm watching an episode of the show that they're based on. But I don't know about this one. It didn't feel like it for me. It was an interesting concept, but maybe they tried a little too hard with the dialogue.

Natalie says

So this was my first "Buffy" book and I really wasn't sure what to expect (especially as someone who watched the entire series - in addition to the spin-off series *Angel*). And honestly... it was... okay? 8'D

I know that as the first book in a series, you would expect for there to be your usual introduction of characters and their background etc., but I felt that this adaptation was honestly kinda lacking in those essential elements that made the Buffy series, well, *Buffy*!

The background on Samhain and Samhuinn were mildly interesting, and fit well with the time-of-year in which this book was set (...Halloween, duh), and I liked the inclusion of zombies as your kinda low-mid tier villains (essentially drones controlled by the big-bad XD). But I felt that there were a lot of things that just weren't properly fleshed out; from the situation in The Bronze with the vampires, to the situation in the school (and library) with those vampires (view spoiler). Mr O'Leary seemed to be an interesting addition, but again, not really fleshed out all that well (view spoiler).

The defeat of the Big Bad wasn't bad, but again I felt that it could've been fleshed out more and explained better. Just seemed a bit lackluster for a Buffy takedown, y'know? :/

Fratrem Ozomahtli says

Incredibly fun, the authors got the characters down to a tee. I also loved how they went for a story that might have been difficult to do for a live action show; the amount of zombies and the host body of the demon Samhain all would have been either overly cheesy or a lot less detailed but they took advantage of the book format and really gave us a quick, believable Buffy story.

Brit says

A short and Good book. It brought up a sense of nostalgia of being a pre-teen watching this show in the late 90's. And the righting really did make me feel like I was watching the show again. Because the character voices were right on and that made it even better. And my favorite part was that it took place when they were in highschool which was when I liked the show the best. And the Halloween part made it really quirky and fun.

Yoyomaus Die Büchereule says

Zum Inhalt:

Seit Menschengedenken treiben sie ihr Unwesen im Verborgenen - Vampire, Dämonen, unheilvolle Mächte. Doch in jeder Generation gibt es eine Jägerin, deren Aufgabe es ist, diese Höllenbrut zu bekämpfen. Aber warum musste dieser Job ausgerechnet Buffy zufallen, einer jungen, hübschen und - auf den ersten Blick - ganz normale Schülerin? Und so ist Buffy alles andere als glücklich über ihre "Bestimmung" - und das nicht erst, seit bei einer ihrer Jagden die High School ihrer Heimatstadt in Flammen aufging ...

Cover:

Passend zu der Fernseh-Reihe präsentiert sich die Reihe der Buffy-Cover immer mit Abbildungen der Schauspieler. Hier zu sehen ist Buffy, wie sie in ein dickes, antikes Buch schaut - doch recht missmutig - und ihr Wächter, der Bibliothekar Giles, welcher einen belehrenden Blick aufgesetzt hat und mehr aus dem Hintergrund heraus wirkt. Mich persönlich haben die Cover immer angesprochen, da ich ein absoluter Fan der Serie war. Wer die Serie nicht kennt, der wird das Cover nicht sonderlich ansprechend finden. Es ist wirklich eher etwas für die eingefleischten Fans der Serie oder eben noch jenen, die es noch werden wollen - besser spät als nie ;-)

Eigener Eindruck:

Es ist Halloween und alle in Sunnydale freuen sich auf einen schönen Abend voll Parties. Nur Buffy scheint immer auf der Hut zu sein, was nicht zuletzt ihrem Dasein als DIE Jägerin geschuldet ist. Während sich alle Gedanken machen, was sie denn auf dem Kostümfest im "Bronze" - dem angesagten Jugendtreff in Sunnydale - anziehen sollen, erledigt Buffy Nacht für Nacht die lebenden Toten, die sich aus ihren Gräbern erheben.

Besonders Giles - Buffys Wächter - mahnt sie immer wieder zur Vorsicht. Doch Buffy möchte sich auch einmal unter Menschen begeben, schließlich ist sie in Sunnydale eine Außenseiterin und hat nur Xander und Willow als Freunde. So vereinbaren Giles und Buffy, dass sie zwar feiern gehen kann, aber trotzdem auf der Hut sein soll. Und bis auf ein paar Vampire scheint der Abend auch recht ruhig zu verlaufen. Es ist nichts zu

sehen von den Monstern, die angeblich auftauchen, wenn der regen auf eine Vogelscheuche fällt. Doch dann kommt ein scheinbar verwirrter Mann in das "Bronze" und berichtet davon, dass sich die Toten aus ihren Gräbern erheben. Buffy macht sich auf den Weg, um die wandelnden Toten wieder zu Toten zu machen und muss dabei erkennen, dass sich der Geist von Halloween - Samhain, der Kürbiskönig - wohl erhoben hat, um Jagd auf die Jägerin zu machen...

Der zweite Band der Buffy-Buchreihe beinhaltet das Halloweenspecial, welches nie verfilmt wurde! Das heißt für den Leser also ein völlig neues Abenteuer, welches es zu entdecken und zu bestehen gilt. Neben Vampiren muss sich die Jägerin in diesem Band mit Samhain - dem Kürbiskönig - und einer Vielzahl an Zombies herumschlagen. Durch ihren Wächter Giles erfährt man eine Menge rund um die Sage des Halloween-Geistes und über alte Brauchtümer, die einst in dieser Zeit das reich der Toten mit dem der Lebenden verbanden. Das ist ein schöner Einstieg in die Thematik und bereitet den Leser auf den Gegner dieses Bandes vor. Es kommt also, wie es kommen muss und die taffe Buffy und ihre mutigen Freunde müssen sich den Halloweenabend mit allerlei Halbtoten freikämpfen. Da gilt es hinterlistige Vampire auszuschalten und Mitschüler zu retten, es gilt seine eigene Haut zu retten und natürlich die Zombies samt ihrem gruseligen Meister zu besiegen.

Begleitet wird dir spannende und detaillierte Story von allerhand witzigen Sprüchen. Egal in welcher Situation sich die Freunde befinden, sie scheinen immer einen passenden Spruch parat zu haben, was die Story ungemein auflockert und alles jugendlich frisch daher kommen lässt. Es macht einfach Spaß die Geschichte zu lesen und so fliegen die Seiten eigentlich viel zu schnell dahin.

Buffy als Protagonistin ist wie immer einfach phänomenal. Obwohl sie quasi fast unbesiegbar ist und die Welt immer wieder vor dem Untergang rettet, muss sie sich mit alltäglichen Problemen wie Schule und Schulzicken herumschlagen. Sie hat einen Außenseiterposten in der Schule, was sie aber nicht wirklich zu stören scheint, denn in Xander und Willow - ebenfalls Außenseiter, aber Kumpel durch und durch - hat sie Freunde gefunden, die ihr wahres Wesen kennen und sie trotzdem noch unterstützen - was will man sich mehr wünschen, als Freunde, die mit einem eine Scooby-Gang gründen? Dass ihre Freunde sich wegen ihr in Gefahr begeben scheint Buffy zusehends zwar immer mehr zu stören, aber trotzdem ist sie immer wieder froh Hilfe von ihnen zu bekommen - auch wenn sie die beiden öfter auch einmal aus dem Schlamassel ziehen muss. Buffy war und ist für mich einfach ein wirklich toller Charakter, den man einfach lieb haben muss. Eben ein Mensch, zwar stark, aber eben auch mit Fehlern und Kanten. Das macht sympathisch.

Empfehlen möchte ich diese Geschichte all jenen, die die Serie "Buffy im Bann der Dämonen" schon gemocht haben oder jenen, die gern Vampirgeschichten lesen. Ihr kommt hier voll und ganz auf eure Kosten, auch wenn hier Romantik zwischen Vampir und Jäger bis dato noch nicht groß geschrieben wird. Aber allein wegen den frechen Sprüchen lohnt es sich allemal. Außerdem bekommt ihr nicht nur Vampire, sondern auch einen Halloween-Geist und eine Portion Zombie zum Nachtisch.

Idee: 5/5

Schreibstil: 5/5

Details: 5/5

Spaß: 5/5

Logik: 5/5

Gesamt: 5/5

Bobby Underwood says

Halloween Rain is fun for fans of the show, and the Halloween setting is seemingly perfect for a Buffy story.

Yet this one isn't quite as good as the premise would suggest because of the execution by the authors. This is one of the very early Buffy books, based on the television series which bridged the gap between kids and adults, making fans at both ends of the spectrum. I really enjoyed *Blooded*, which was also penned by these two authors, Christopher Golden and Nancy Holder, but in *Halloween Rain* they seemed to still be feeling their way into the mood of the show, and the characters. Because of that they've tried to capture the humor and sarcasm much too often — usually through Xander's voice, but sometimes even Buffy's — and it's too much, giving the dialog a strained, trying-too-hard-to-be-funny vibe.

Caveat aside, it's still a pretty fun story, as you would imagine from a story-line centering on a Sunnydale legend about dark magic being released through a scarecrow when it rains on Halloween. But of course this is Sunnydale, so the legend is true. But this year it's worse, because an evil spirit named Samhain, who is the demonic spirit of Halloween, is "that" guy. He is the King of the ancient Druid rituals, and Giles discovers he murdered a slayer in the seventeenth century. Having the Pumpkin King, who can see through the eyes of jack-o'-lanterns, trying to kill Buffy gets a whole lot creepier really quickly. A man named O'Leary who is viewed as the town kook, enters the Bronze while our intrepid trio are there, warning everyone that the dead are being raised. Yep, it's zombies.

There's a bit of vampire action at the Bronze, and a couple of them have the hots for Willow and Xander, but mostly this is Giles and Willow and Xander trying to figure out how to help Buffy fight off zombies and defeat the Pumpkin King before he kills another slayer — Buffy! *Halloween Rain* is enjoyable, but Golden and Holder haven't yet captured that special balance of humor and action the show did, so it's not quite as smooth and fun as it could be for fans. It's definitely worth a read if you're a huge fan and nostalgic about Buffy, but the forced attempts at humor have me giving this one a 3.5. It does move along nicely and comes in at 160 pages, making it a nice tweener between meatier books, however. I'll stick with three stars on this one, because I did like it, and Buffy is never a waste of time, but there are better books in the series to track down.

Marlie says

Definitely not a masterpiece, but it's a fun read.

KP says

This weekend, my childhood collection of Buffy books was given back to me, and so I got right to work on reading them, in chronological order. I was worried that I would be disappointed, as the last time I read this book I was twelve, but it actually held up. The ending was incredibly abrupt, with basically no denouement, and some of the 90s slang didn't feel accurate for the show itself, but otherwise, it was a serviceable novel with a fun plot, and the characters were recognizable. I'm looking forward to reading my way through the rest of my moldy old books.

Loucy says

Je ne suis toujours pas fan du style d'écriture et je trouve toujours la série bien meilleure que les livres, mais j'ai adoré découvrir une aventure inédite de Buffy.
Point positif par rapport à la série : les livres nous font partager les pensées des personnages.

Point négatif : certaines choses sont très différentes. Exemples : Giles, l'observateur de Buffy dans la série, est appelé son gardien dans le livre. La description physique des vampires ne correspond pas à leur aspect visuel dans la série. Dans celle-ci, leur visage est certes déformé quand ils sont transformés, mais il n'est pas répugnant. Tandis que dans le livre, leur visage transformé est décrit comme étant en lambeau/putréfié (beurk).

Mais ça n'a pas trop gâché mon plaisir de me replonger dans cet univers ! Je lirai bien sûr la suite.

Marina (rinareviewsbks) says

Like most "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" Novels, I really liked this book. I guess it is because I am such a big fan for the television series and any work that is done by Joss Whedon. I found this book to be full of humor, which made it a lot better than what I expected. It was differently not a serious vampire novel but, more of an action chick flick. The characters were super fun. I loved Buffy because she was such a fun, but down to earth personality even though she was a slayer by night. Another character I just couldn't get enough of was Xander, he too is really funny and he made a very light atmosphere around the plot.

Another great thing about the book was that the plot took place around Halloween and gave its own version on what creatures come out during the twitching hour. I am surprised that it took me so long to read, which I didn't expect. But, then again I wasn't drawn to reading it all the time.

Plot Summary:

The story takes place in Sunnydale, California during Halloween. There is a legend that on Halloween if it rains then scarecrows come to life and haunt the streets. All the other night creatures are deadly afraid of them. When Buffy realizes that her nights have been slow she begins to wonder if something is going on with the creatures that live on the Hellmouth. Then, her friends Willow and Xander tell her a story of the Scarecrows coming to life if it rains on Halloween. To Buffy's great disappointment rain starts to fall and a scarecrow is missing from a crop field. The creatures beneath the ground start to rise, and a creepy voice is calling Buffy's name from the crop fields. Buffy's night is just about to get interesting.

I give the plot a 3/5 because I felt it was a little too predictable as to what is going to happen next.

Characters:

The reason I kept on reading the book was because of the characters. They brought a lot of humor to the story.

Buffy, which is the main character is a really strong female lead, although at times she is afraid she doesn't let anything hold her back.

Xander, he is super funny and is the smartest character, but he just keeps you entertained throughout the novel.

Willow, I find her to be a weaker female character but, I love that she portrays a really smart and interested in learning type of character which you don't see too often.

Giles, he is one of my favorite characters of all time, apart from being British which adds to his personality. He is very educated and acts not only as a watcher to Buffy but as a father figure that she can look up to.

I loved the characters. 5/5

Overall it was a fast and fun read.

Chelsea says

I love the Buffy novels simply because I love the show and there aren't enough episodes for me so these wee stories keep me going in between my re watches of the first 3 seasons (the best seasons!).

This novel had the characters down, the witty banter of Buffy and Willow and Xander, the scary demons and monsters and some badass action. All in all, a pretty decent story and set during my favourite time of the year? Hell yeah!

Jose says

This isn't the most exciting Buffy novel, but it fits nicely with the timeline of Season 1. I can totally see this happening within Season 1's chronology. If it were an episode it would probably be among the first season's best, and a middling entry when looking at the series as a whole. Recommended for Buffy fans in general.

TheMadHatter says

Actual Rating: 2.5 Stars.

A lovely friend gave me a box of Buffy books and I grab one out every few months to read. They are typically very light reading at around 200-300 pages.

This one wasn't a particularly good book and you would really have to LOVE the tv show (which I do) to get anything at all out of it. Halloween demon, zombies, and lots of witty dialogue. In fact, there was almost too much witty dialogue in that the authors went over the top to make every line out of the character's mouth funny, sarcastic, witty etc.

I have yet to read one of these books that stands out as anything more than pretty average fan fiction, but they do take me back to the show which is always good and this one was not based on any episode so was at least a unique (if somewhat dull) story.
