



Midnight's Lair

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Mordock's Cave is one of the spectacular wonders of the world, a place where thousands of sightseers every year take an awe-inspiring boat trip on a lake deep beneath the earth's surface to marvel at Nature's handiwork. But the darkness is also the home of things Nature never intended - things violent, bestial, and obscenely evil. When a sudden power failure incapacitates the elevator to the surface, a group of tourists is trapped in the underground depths. Cold and scared, without lights or food, their only hope is to find an escape route through the sealed-off end of the cavern. But their explorations uncover a nest of horrors that has lain hidden for generations, and their idyllic underground journey becomes a nightmare trip through hell, as they find themselves battling for survival against the creatures of the abyss....

Midnight's Lair Details

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Author : Richard Kelly , Richard Laymon

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From Reader Review Midnight's Lair for online ebook

DJMikeG says

3.5 out of 5 stars. Yet another lean, mean killing machine of a horror novel from Richard Laymon. This one wastes no time getting to the scary stuff, and it keeps getting more twisted and insane as it chugs along. Not the first time I've read Laymon and said to myself, "damn, this would make a great movie." If you are frightened by creepy hotels, caves, and darkness, this is a must-read. Or maybe not, as it will scare the hell out of you! I would recommend reading this book without reading the summary that is on the back of the book. The events unfold in an extremely unpredictable fashion, and the less you know about the story, the better. People on a cavern tour are trapped there after a power outage and the book is by Richard Laymon. That is all you need to know! Highly recommended.

Michael Fierce says

Never suspected this would turn out to be one of my fave Richard Laymon books but I've read it at least 3 times and loved it every time.

Helen says

Laymon can sometimes be a little hit or miss, but this one is most definitely a hit. A Fantastic premise, tourists trapped in caverns on a tour, but the back story of the location and the twisted family behind it bolsters the plot even more. Plenty of typical Laymon over-the-top blood, gore and violence, and a satisfying conclusion to top it off. A fabulous, trashy horror read, I loved it!

John says

MIDNIGHT'S LAIR is an entertaining read that doesn't give a crap how fundamentally stupid it is. Laymon gleefully delivers his particular brand of action-packed, gore-soaked, sex-starved storytelling, and it's difficult to determine whether his target audience is either incredibly cynical adolescents or incredibly adolescent-minded adults. A little bit of both, I suspect.

I suppose that, at 33-years-old, I fall squarely into the latter camp.

MIDNIGHT'S LAIR comes across like a less interesting version of the movie THE DESCENT (one of my faves!). Though, in all fairness, it was Laymon's idea first. The man is definitely skilled at coming up with some pretty twisted storylines. And he's a certifiable genius at finding reasons for keeping his main characters in various states of undress throughout the entirety of his stories. You'd think it was all a person could do just to keep their clothes on. Considering that we're talking about a horror novel which takes place in a cave over the course of a single afternoon, it's amazing how many characters find themselves in newfound romantic entanglements, thereby allowing Laymon to depict the occasional grope scene. It's also amazing how often Laymon finds occasion to use the word "rump" (seriously, more than twenty times). I doubt that's a word often employed by most "extreme horror" authors, who I suspect would probably go with something more edgy, like "fanny" or "caboose."

MIDNIGHT'S LAIR is certainly not for the faint-of-heart (cannibals, serial killers, and rapists, oh my!), but it's just too dumb to be considered shocking or offensive. It is kinda fun, though, in a undiscerning, superficial kind of way.

Evans Light says

Psycho meets The Woods are Dark...underground.

Although this book wasn't a complete disaster, and did contain a few classic Laymon gross-outs, overall the story was thin and not particularly well told.

The initial set up promised more than the plot delivered, so for those new to Laymon I'd recommend starting elsewhere.

Bandit says

Trapped in a cave with a bunch of strangers, retired stuntman, horny teens, horny folks in their 20s and...some other surprises...this is an adventure as only Laymon could write it. There is just something so fun about his books, his pacing is always spot on, makes for quick reads. Sold in US as a suspense book, this one doesn't in fact have any supernatural horrors, just the sort humans are capable of. Deeply claustrophobic and thoroughly entertaining. Highly recommended.

Mark says

Working in an enclosed environment - an underground cave system, converted for tourism - and ramping up the claustrophobia all the time, this is a gripping read. The monsters, perhaps, are a bit unlikely (I kept expecting one of them to say "Mind the gap!"), but not too bad for all that.

Veeral says

There is a sub-genre of horror called splatterpunk, and Laymon is supposedly considered a master of it by its fans. If that is the case, and he is indeed one of the best, I wonder if I'll venture ever again into the world of splatterpunk.

Now just read the description of this book on Goodreads. Sounds more than intriguing, right? Unfortunately, I thought the same.

The only thing that this book cares about is sex. Everyone in it is obsessed with it.

People are dying around you, but you are aroused. You might die at any moment, but the only thing you want to do is to rape someone.

And what's worse, a sex maniac trapped in the caves along with others is an underage teenage boy, whose only desire is to rape the heroine, even though he knows what is waiting for them in the caves.

This book should be avoided at all costs.

Amy says

What a wild ride! Thanks to this book, I will never again visit a cave, let alone check into a motel by myself like Amy Lawson. Midnight's Lair is 253 pages of suspense and terror, a short one for Laymon, and just when I thought it was over... If you are claustrophobic, you might want to avoid this one.

Shane says

I've yet to read a Richard Laymon novel I didn't enjoy. This one had a great claustrophobic atmosphere to it, being set in caves beneath a hotel. A group of visitors get stuck in the caves when the elevators are put out of action by a fire in the hotel above and have to wait it out in the hope of being rescued. Part of the group goes off to try and get out through a blocked off section of the caves, but they all soon wish they'd left well alone. Being a Richard Laymon novel, the creep factor of one of the characters (more than one in fact) is off the scale. Kyle is the son of the owner of the hotel and caves beneath, and he's a true perv, lusting after Darcy, one of the guides, before attempting to rape another young woman (just a girl really), and then mistaking her for his own Mum even as he's on top of her.

It's all very fast paced and quite unnerving, but if you've read this author before then you'll know what to expect, and if you haven't, this wouldn't be a bad place to start.

Very good.

Warren Stalley says

When a group of tourists led by young guide Darcy Raines become trapped in an underground cave system little do they know that their troubles are only just beginning in this fast paced horror novel from Richard Laymon. The early part of the novel concentrates on building suspense and terror, while the second half begins to reveal the true unimaginable horror of Mordock's cavern leading to a murderous climax. Laced with sex and horror and told in an easy going style this book has a winning formula that can't really go wrong. By alternating between events on the surface and those underground the author keeps things in perspective and heightens the drama. To conclude Midnight's Lair is a fast paced horror novel loaded with sexual overtones and violence which I'd recommend to any curious horror fan looking for a quick fix.

Michael says

A blowtorch of a story from Richard Laymon.

A tour group gets trapped in the subterranean Mordock's Cave, beneath the hotel of the same name, when a fire breaks out in the hotel and cuts the power to the elevators that lead down to the cave. The guides decide to try and get out by tearing down Ely's Wall - a wall erected by the hotel's owner at the time almost 70 years

previously to block off the chasm in which his wife was reported to have fallen in and perished. Little do the guides/guests realize what lurks behind the wall...

Yeah, I didn't get into any details - however, the reason I ticked-off the spoiler tag is because as anyone who has read Laymon before knows... he's about as fond of having his characters survive to the end of the story as George R.R. Martin would later show to be - surprisingly, *Midnight's Lair* has one of his more uplifting endings.

Ben Loory says

what can i say? it's a richard laymon book. it's either perfect, or a piece of garbage, or maybe both, or neither... in any case, i feel like a junkie forever trying to recapture that first time; first time being when i read *The Cellar* with no idea what i was getting myself into... none of his other books have ever matched up to that, but that might just be because i got used to them... which seriously is a frightening thought. in any case, don't read this unless you're into rape and murder. and cannibalism, don't forget cannibalism.

Adamus says

Wow once again another great book from Laymon! This is definite in my top 5 favorite books of his I read so far. This was one of his earlier books & it was just filled with suspense. There was never a dull moment in this book & the suspense never let off. The characters were all very likable & the story was very interesting. Even the back story's were great. It's another book of his that's so good that you wish he was still alive writing & entertaining us. Highly recommend to any horror fans specially Laymon fans!

Chris says

The caverns below the Mordock Hotel have been a popular tourist attraction for years, but what people don't know is the sinister goings on that goes back decades. When a tour group is stranded below, after the power goes out and elevators to the surface stop working, they decide to try and find another way out. But there's others in the caverns with them. And they are very hungry.

While a lean novel, *MIDNIGHT'S LAIR* was pure, unadulterated Laymon fun. A definite must read.
