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John R. Little

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Cindy McKay is Seattle's beloved radio personality. She has fifty thousand friends she talks to every day, but the one secret she can never share is the horror of her personal life.

There seems to be no escape, until she finds the hidden wonders on the dark side of the Internet. Maybe there is freedom from the daily suffering she faithfully endures.

But, when everything is anonymous, who can Cindy really trust? She quickly finds that nothing is what it seems, and the solution she had hoped for makes her current problems seem like passing dreams.

Cindy has opened the door to DarkNet, and in doing so has unleashed a true nightmare.

DarkNet Details

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Author : John R. Little

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Genre : Thriller, Horror

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From Reader Review DarkNet for online ebook

Laurel Heidtman says

I enjoyed this book, although there were a few things about the character of the villain that didn't seem believable--like why he would do what he did for more money when he already had access to plenty. I would have thought he'd have done the evil deed he did (I'm trying not to give spoilers here so I have to speak in generalities) long before. Regardless, he was definitely scary, as are the dark parts of the deep net in reality. This book is a good thriller, but not for the faint of heart. If you like books that make you shudder and keep you from falling asleep, though, then this is the book for you.

Anthony says

This book would have been better if the author hadn't tried to blend in elements of the darker side of the Internet. More focus should have been put on the sociopath antagonist, who is portrayed superficially. The ending felt rushed, and was not convincing.

Tony Molloy says

This wasn't what I was expecting it to be, from the title and summary and is far more horror than SF/Tech, which is my usual reading. Having said that it's got plenty of suspense and twists and isn't a dull read. If you like stories dealing with human monsters this is for you

Steve says

A short, punchy, fast-paced, sometimes shocking story that draws on contemporary anxieties related to the internet. Unsophisticated but a good read. Had me unwilling to put it down until I had finished. Good escapist entertainment.

Releanna says

I had to stop reading the book shortly after the events with the cat. I just cannot stomach the cruelties happening in the book.

That is, of course, not to say that the book is at fault, that is just my stomach. It seems that I expected something different, I don't know.

I think that the book is very, very well written and the characters are very convincing.

Frank Errington says

4.5 of 5 Stars Review copy

Wow. I've been reading some very dark stuff lately and Darknet is one of the bleakest so far. I may have to go watch a few episodes of "My Little Pony" or something to create a bit of balance in my life.

On the surface, the internet may seem like all fun and games, but then there's Darknet: a seedy underbelly to the web, where anything can be had for a price and presumably with complete anonymity.

Seattle radio personality, Cindy McKay, known to her 50,000 listeners as Cin, loves her job and is good at it. Her home life is another story. Although she loves her 10-year-old daughter, Avril, with all of her being, her violently abusive husband Tony is another story.

After interviewing Dr. Rusty Moore about the dark-side of the web, Cindy decides to investigate further. She downloads the software that would allow her to be online anonymously and goes exploring. Later, "Darknet had been calling to her all day, vague rumblings rolling through her mind. Drugs, gun running, child pornography, livers available to purchase...Assassins for hire."

If you're anything like me, you probably think you have this one all figured out. You might want to hold back on that assumption. John R. Little has crafted one hell of a twist into his story and has created the single most despicable character I've read this year.

Darknet is, at times, devastatingly brutal in its depiction of physical and sexual abuse and as a result, may not be for all readers, but if you can handle it, I think you're going to enjoy the surprises John R. Little has in store for you.

From JournalStone, Darknet, will be released on November 21st, 2014 and will be available through their website in a variety of formats.

Eric Guignard says

REVIEWED: DarkNet

WRITTEN BY: John R. Little

PUBLISHED: November, 2014

DarkNet is the latest novel by award-winning author, John R. Little, and reading it reminds the reader what the term 'horror' truly means. Including no monsters or supernatural forces, there is only the monsters found in human nature, those that move throughout our daily lives. And although I say this book incites a feeling of horror, other readers may liken it closer to the genre of psychological thriller or suspense. However you choose to categorize this book, it's testament to the author's talent and creative ability. DarkNet is a very dark and tragic story with several unexpected plot twists and no opportunity to set the book down without reeling.

Four-and-a-half out of Five stars

Bill says

I really wanted to like this one more than I did, but it seemed a wee disjointed and erratic, which is unlike the other JRL's I have read in the past. The writing itself was good but the story just seemed to miss the mark for me and ended up only being ok. 2.5 stars.

Leah says

A brutal, no-holds-barred horror/thriller meant to feed off the reader's fear of the Internet and technology.

Perhaps for readers with little prior knowledge of the deep Internet those aspects of the story will be frightening. However, DarkNet ended up being more about toxic relationships and the price of answering violence with violence. The abuse and the twists and the breakneck pace were relentless. I flinched multiple times and, had this been a movie, I definitely would've covered my eyes a lot. Mainly during the scene with Rocky, the pet cat, and the scenes with Avril.

Everyone was morally bankrupt except the 10-year-old daughter, Avril. And after Avril's mother, Cindy, referred to herself as a "helpless victim" any chance of me liking Cindy or respecting her was ruined. Another reviewer called Tony, Cindy's husband and Avril's father, the most despicable character they'd read in a long time. While Tony was indeed a viscous sociopath, I found Cindy's utter lack of responsibility and overall weak-willed nature "despicable" as well. Yeah, sadly, women like Cindy do exist, and I am sympathetic, to a point. I just could not stomach Cindy's constant retreat into selective ignorance and victimhood, especially when she claimed she would do *anything* for her daughter.

Rating this book was difficult. Part of me wanted to give it 2 stars for its depiction of domestic violence and its loathsome characters; another part of me wanted to give it 4 stars because I couldn't put it down once I started. So I settled in the middle.

Recommended only to readers who enjoy dark, gruesome thrillers with physical, sexual and emotional abuse, rape, and torture.

3 stars

Received paperback from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

On a much lighter, humor-intended footnote, the most horrific, truly shocking moment in DarkNet was when Avril disclosed that "[s]he knew about the library, had even seen the inside of it once or twice, but she didn't think she was allowed inside on her own (p.127)." WHAT?!! *shivers* A living nightmare.

Kim says

DarkNet

by John R. Little

This book had me from page one! I could not put this fast paced thriller down. What made this book so scary to me is firstly I'm a parent, secondly I use the internet all the time and lastly the story is very believable. Just the thought of there being a hidden piece of the internet that pretty much no rules or tracking apply to...Yikes.

This was the first book I have read by John R Little but let me tell you it will not be my last!

I received this book as an early review through LibraryThing for my honest review.

Christopher Payne says

Cindy McKay is Seattle's beloved radio personality. She has fifty thousand friends she talks to every day, but the one secret she can never share is the horror of her personal life.

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Rob Twinem says

A revenge story about wife abuse and the lengths that one woman will go to when all hope is lost and everything held dear is no more.....

Reeda Booke says

This is a dark and disturbing novel.

Cindy is a popular radio show host with a beautiful and smart 10 year old girl and married to an abusive and very brutal man. One day, she interviews a man who shows her all about the darker and seedier side of the web, called Darknet, where you can find anything and everything is for hire or can be bought. Here, Cindy runs into a site called Assassins, Inc and she decides to do the unthinkable. It is from here that hell, for her, truly begins.

This was a brutal story. The physical and sexual abuse are visceral and gut-wrenching and not for the faint of heart. Despite the topic and that I figured out the twist early on, the author did a great job in drawing you in to this gruesomely realistic story. I have been a fan of his work since I read his, The Memory Tree.

Recommended for Horror fans everywhere.

Brian Matthews says

DarkNet is the fourteenth novel by Bram Stoker Award(R) winner John R. Little. In this gripping psychological thriller, Mr. Little confronts the horrors of domestic abuse, sociopathy, and the lengths some spouses will go to get out of a damaging relationship. Fair warning: this book is not for the faint of heart. The acts of violence committed in this novel are gut-wrenching...but honest. Mr. Little brings to the forefront what is often hidden behind locked doors: the cycle of abuse and intimidation that fuels the fire of domestic violence. I had to put the book down at times to regain my mental equilibrium. It is that frightening.

I highly recommend *DarkNet*.

Full disclosure: I know John, and I'm proud to call him a friend. That fact does not, however, color my opinion of his work.

Jon Recluse says

A gutwrenching thriller that drags you into the horrors of domestic abuse, the endless cycle of violence, fear and despair, where the only ray of hope leads you to the blackhole called the DarkNet, the virtual badlands populated by faceless shadows. Where anything can be had, for a price.....and nothing is guaranteed. Little is a master craftsman, creating a pitchblack rollercoaster of a tale, filled with so many unexpected twists and turns, it will leave you dripping with cold sweat....and a nasty sense of vertigo. Made me wonder if his muses were Cornell Woolrich and Robert Bloch.....it's that damn good.

Highest possible recommendation.
