



# Odd Man Out

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## **Odd Man Out** James Newman

The Black Mountain Camp for Boys. Summer of '89. It is a time for splashing in the lake and exploring the wilderness, for nine teenagers to bond together and create friendships that could last the rest of their lives.

But among this group there is a young man with a secret — a secret that, in this time and place, is unthinkable to his peers.

When the others discover the truth, it will change each of them forever. They will all have blood on their hands.

ODD MAN OUT is a heart-wrenching tale of bullies and bigotry, a story that explores what happens when good people don't stand up for what's right. It is a tale of how far we have come ... and how far we still have left to go.

## **Odd Man Out Details**

Date : Published November 21st 2016 by Bloodshot Books

ISBN :

Author : James Newman

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Horror, Young Adult, Coming Of Age, Novella

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## From Reader Review Odd Man Out for online ebook

### Karl says

James Newman's book "Odd Man Out" is the coming of age story of a fifteen year old boy and the events that occurred during several weeks at a summer camp named "The Black Mountain Camp For Boys" during the summer of 1989. This is not your average "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" story

The age of 15 can be and usually is an awkward time for boys, and when a group of eleven or twelve are gathered together, and the supervision becomes lax, bad things can happen.

Mr. Newman has written a powerful book that explores the painful and life altering events that changed lives during what should have been a fun time. He has captured in delicate and at times not so delicate hands how the power of hate changes people and displays how easily the unwary can be consumed by it's out of control power.

This is definitely a story for our present times and high praise should be accorded to Mr. Newman's sensitivity and creativity in recounting this story.

This book is copy 14 of 52 signed and numbered leather bound editions signed by James Newman.

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### Zoeytron says

Peer pressure has never held an uglier connotation than it does here. It was the proverbial perfect storm. Nine boys, ages 15-17, assigned to an isolated camp with woefully inadequate supervision. Bullying shifts into maximum overdrive. Full of bravado and burgeoning testosterone, they zero in on the weakest link.

Hard to read, but the writing is top-shelf. Hear the message, loud and clear.

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### Carol says

#### GOOD LORD!

Dennis Munce revisits a **haunting** memory of his youth in this absolutely gut-wrenching...heart-breaking short story of hatred and violence.

1989 - Black Mountain Camp for boys turns to **horror** in a hurry after an incident and accident leave nine teens with virtually no responsible adult supervision....no help against the ignorant bullying types....and no one strong enough to prevent harm to the innocent.

**Whew!** Well done **tough** read and **harsh** reminder that **we still have a long way to go.**

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## Kimberly says

ODD MAN OUT, by James Newman is a book that takes a look at the ignorance and intolerance of society, and how little it takes to turn those feelings into an uncontrollable hatred. Under the right circumstances, a sort of "group mentality" can come across even younger people, left unsupervised, and bring about horrific results.

We start out with a group of @ 15-year-olds, sent on a trial of The Black Mountain Camp for Boys. When you have nine boys--coming of age--at a camp, with a self-centered "supervisor" more concerned with his own interests, you have a recipe for disaster. Intolerance of those "different" than ourselves can manifest in all kinds of ways. Maybe at first, just nasty looks and words--but even those can deeply wound.

*"... Words cut in a different way. They leave scars all the same."*

James Newman takes this tale, and shows us unflinchingly what can happen when ignorance and fear gain power in numbers and morph into pure hatred and violence.

*"... meanness festers... the more it consumes, the hungrier it gets."*

This is a powerful, emotional read that sadly mimics the truth around us in so many ways. The choices we make--or do NOT make--can be based on more than just our personal beliefs. Other factors including "wanting to fit in", "peer pressure", and going along with something because it's easier than speaking out against it. These are the things we, and our children, face every day. If nothing else, this book may make you think upon things a little more when those "hate crimes" show up in the local news stories.

A truly remarkable read--highly recommended!

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## Michael Hicks says

It begins with a simple vote inside a church to determine if a local Boy Scout troop, in the wake of the Boy Scouts of America's decision to no longer ban youths based on sexual orientation. When the church agrees to ban the Scouts from using their building in the name of good, old fashioned, religiously sanctioned discrimination, Dennis is reminded of a horrifying incident from his childhood in the summer of 1989. Then, at the Black Mountain Camp for Boys, Dennis and his friend Wesley were confronted with an all-too human evil and gut-wrenching violence.

*Odd Man Out* is a wickedly powerful novella, and author James Newman does a masterful job of slowly developing his story, building toward a deeply unsettling finale. Throughout, readers are asked to consider why we hate and to understand how pathetically easy it is for us to be manipulated and bullied into doing evil. Late in the story, Newman writes:

Hate doesn't always start out as hate. It is often born of ignorance. We discriminate against those who are different from us, under the guise of upholding tradition or protecting one group while denying rights to others. We build walls to keep us separate, and when those walls eventually crumble and fall we blame the other for chipping away at the foundations. We point fingers right up until the moment we are crushed beneath the weight of our own intolerance. Everyone loses.

To say that this book is timely is probably the understatement of the century. As I was reading this book, our president-elect was busy insulting China on Twitter, apparently taking a break from stocking his cabinet with more anti-LGBTQ advocates and white supremacists, but I'll be damned if Newman's words didn't loudly echo the current state of affairs writ large all over the USA. To say that people are uneasy about what is ahead of us for the next four years is a gross understatement, and half the country is wondering how in the hell we got into the predicament now facing us. *Odd Man Out* is all the more powerful given our recent election, and the platform of unadulterated hate and nationalism our president-elect ran on, and the continual assault upon equal rights through BS double-speak legislation like the Religious Freedom bills seeking to make discrimination the law of the land.

You want to know how hate wins? Well, sometimes it begins with a simple vote. After that, all we can do is resist and fight to beat back the hate.

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### **Ken McKinley says**

We've all been there as a kid. You, me, all of us. Chances are we weren't the bully, but we were around when the bully picked his next victim - and we breathed a sigh of relief that it wasn't us. Maybe the victim was the new kid. Maybe they dressed different or talked different. Maybe they stuttered or had Coke bottle glasses. Maybe they came from the wrong side of the tracks. It really didn't matter what the reason was that the bully (or bullies) decided to make them a target. That's how bullies operate. And when the bullying starts, they tend to demand that everyone join in with them against the poor bastard or take the chance of having their wrath fall upon you. Peer pressure. Nobody wants to be the victim and their mantra is "if you ain't with us, than you're against us". So, many a kid was sucked into the trap of aiding in the bullying when they really didn't want to. This is the dilemma Dennis finds himself in during summer camp when an old, boyhood friend of his, Wes, is found out that he's gay by the bullies in the group. And what they do Wes, on that lonely summer night in 1989 will chill your blood to ice and send a shiver down your spine.

*Odd Man Out* is an incredibly realistic tale told by Newman. I mean he absolutely nails it when describing the life of teenage boys in 1989. This story could've had me cast as Dennis, the unwilling participant that felt he had no other choice but to go through with their heinous act. I have a feeling that many of you will feel that you could've been Dennis too. And that's what makes *Odd Man Out* so effective. It touches a raw nerve because we all could've been unwilling participants in a bullying gone so wrong. An absolute perfect story that you won't be able to put down.

5 bloody hammers out of 5

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<https://kenmckinley.wordpress.com>

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## **The Behrg says**

There are certain moments in life where you see a tragedy or accident taking place and are unable to do more than watch as it unfolds in all of its horrific magnificence. Time slows down, seconds lasting minutes and minutes hours, and a deep-seated part of you, the part that makes you human, continues to question why you aren't doing something to prevent it even though your rational mind keeps tittering that you have no control or could offer no support. You're stuck on the sidelines, relegated to the role of witness, and the stomach churning despair and overwhelming sense of remorse and dread will stay with you long after the collision occurs. Because despite being on the sidelines, you're also a part of the problem. The two-seconds of hesitation, the mind-numbing rationalizations, they take you from a mere observer into the role of an unwilling conspirator, adding to the chaos and heartbreak and misery by your inability to act, to shout out, to stop the tragedy that's unfolding.

This is what reading Odd Man Out by James Newman is like.

The brilliance of this short novella isn't just its relevance or the themes it touches on, but the role it casts the reader into. Because we're there for the whole thing. And we don't stop it.

A frighteningly introspective story about a boy's camp that goes horribly wrong, this is a story I can't recommend highly enough. Everyone should read this and reflect on what it says about our society in general, as well as ourselves, because ultimately we each have to make that decision each and every day. Are we standing on the sidelines watching hatred destroy the world around us or are we willing to stand up for the things we believe in, damn the consequences. A definite 5-star read.

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## **Janie C. says**

Reading this book put a knot in stomach. The grisly violence that occurs as a result of fear, anger, insecurity and peer pressure asks the reader to look deep inside. If you were caught in a similar situation, what would you do? The rage and threats of the ignorant are a powerful deterrent to compassion. We can only hope that we would be courageous enough to make the right choices.

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## **Jeremy Hepler says**

Great coming-of-age horror story that was painful and gut-wrenching to read sometimes, but impossible to put down as well. Newman has terrific voice and is a masterful story teller.

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## **11811 (Eleven) says**

I never got around to reviewing this one. I was contemplating a 12 page essay on all the ways I can relate to the story (minus the super horrifying stuff) but I'll spare you my rant and keep it short -

If you were looking for something happy and uplifting, and you picked this, you fucked up.

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## Char says

It is with tears in my eyes that I finish this novella.

As an important church vote looms, Dennis suddenly remembers with clarity an incident from his childhood. All of a sudden, the reader is transported to the Black Mountain Camp for Boys.

During this one week summer camp, an atrocity is committed. One that will haunt Dennis, the other boys, and this reader. I doubt I will ever be able to forget Dennis or his former best friend, Wesley. Maybe I am not meant to. You're not meant to forget it either.

*"We build walls to keep us separate, and when those walls eventually crumble and fall we blame **the other** for chipping away at the foundations. We point fingers right up until the moment we are crushed beneath the weight of our own intolerance. Everyone loses. In the end we all bleed red."*

Timely quote there, isn't it?

**Odd Man Out** gets my highest recommendation. You should read it.

You can buy your copy here: [Odd Man Out](#)

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## Luvtoread says

### **A Must Read For Everyone!**

I am still shaken after just finishing this book. This is a disturbing and horrific, heartrendering story that should be read by all. I actually cried while reading and wanted to stop, but was compelled to continue the journey through to the end. This book while fiction tells a woeful story about events that are happening in our world right now and some people can turn a blind eye to the injustice when it doesn't involve someone they know.

James Newman has written a brilliant and cautionary story that captures your interest from the very first page. The book has some light moments and a lot of teenage vulgarity but is so fitting within the context of the well played out story. I believe Mr. Newman wrote a genuinely powerful story of someone who has encountered or experienced what took place in this book. That is how relevant and believable this book is.

I highly recommend this book to everyone! After reading this book, it may help some people have a different view of the world we live in and especially teaching our young people the consequences when they choose the wrong behavior and make poor decisions as well as saying hurtful statements. Non-Bullying behavior must be taught by parents or guardians and other family members while children are young and easily influenced by their friends or schoolmates. Peer pressure has existed throughout the ages and will continue into the future.

I don't want my commentary to downplay this book. This book is wonderfully written and the story just builds and builds to such a riveting climax. I will definitely read more of Mr. Newman's books. This will go down as a book that I will never forget or want to forget. I wish I could give this book 10 stars, but I will have to be satisfied with 5 ????? unforgettable stars!!

## Richard says

James Newman's new novella shares similar themes to his acclaimed novel *Animosity*, themes like mob mentality, the nature of hate, and the way that hate is contagious. Eight teenage boys are spending a summer at the brand new Black Mountain Camp for Boys, kayaking, swimming, and playing baseball. But when a secret of one of the boys is revealed and the campers are left without much responsible supervision, normal teasing and shit-talking turns into something much more horrifying.

I didn't fully buy into the descent to hardcore violence that happened in *Animosity*, but I didn't have that problem here, partially because it involved unsupervised high school boys, with whom anything is possible. Newman doesn't pussy-foot around the subject of bigotry and the ugliness in the way kids treat each other and it was sometimes a difficult but powerful read. With me, it felt like Newman was preaching to the choir, but there are many people out there that need to read this book and understand the depths to where intolerance can take you. I'll even go as far to say that this probably should be assigned reading in some high school classes. A strong look at the dark side of human nature.

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## Bill says

"...meanness festers. Like malignant cells eating away at bone marrow. And the more it consumes, the hungrier it gets."

A very difficult and emotional read. I could see the events unfolding and felt powerless as they played out before me. Intolerance, hate and bullying are difficult subjects to tackle. Kudos to James for taking this on and doing so with such skill and sensitivity despite the heavy subject matter.

\*Be good to each other, people. Life's too short to live it full of hate. It will eat you alive. Or worse, it will grow inside you.\*

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## Marc-Antoine says

Ever read a book that made you angry? Odd Man Out by James Newman pissed me right off. It forces you to take part in something you don't want to be a part of. You must see it through, but you feel bad for being there. Things happen in this world that shouldn't. People hate for no reason. Innocent people suffer and shouldn't. I felt horrible at the end of this book, but I'm glad I read it. We need to talk about this kind of stuff in order for it to stop. Enough with the bullying, enough with the hate when you don't understand, enough with close mindedness. Let's start speaking up when we see something that's not right. We should have evolved beyond homophobia, racism, sexism, and the like. Speak up when you see something is not right or when someone is being bullied!

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