



The Shrine

James Herbert

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Alice, a deaf-mute, has a vision of a lady in white who says she is the immaculate conception. Suddenly Alice can speak, hear, and perform miracles. The visitation site becomes a shrine. But Alice is no longer the guileless child overwhelmed by her new saintliness. She has become the agent of something corrupt, a vile force centuries old.

The Shrine Details

Date : Published April 1st 1999 by Pan Books (first published 1983)

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Author : James Herbert

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Genre : Horror, Fiction, Thriller

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From Reader Review The Shrine for online ebook

Mike says

I read this book about seventeen years ago by mistake (I found it in the hotel bedroom on holiday) and really enjoyed reading this creepy bit of writing can still the children singing (lord of the dance)

And I am sure I read a part in this book and a cat was suckling on the girls third nipple did I read this correctly?

I have reread it over this weekend and it's as creepy but this time around I've realised how badly the ending is written, seemed sort of rushed. (but I still give 5*)

Coraline says

what an evil little innocent bitch

Keith CARTER says

A slow burn of a novel, but once again Herbert created an absolute cracker of a book. Great characters, great story and most of all very very atmospheric. The book builds and builds into a crescendo of horror at the end. It is over 500 pages and not one page is wasted. Highly recommended.

Rosie Vince says

I enjoyed this book, it was a little long I felt like it could have been cut down in size a little but I liked the characters and the story was interesting. Not one of my favorite books by Jame Herbert but not disappointed.

Grady Hendrix says

Catholic church tries to discover if little girl performing miracles is a sign that God loves them or a trick of the Devil. Which do you think? Scary nuns, mass zombie attacks, and a LOT of scenes of people sitting around in rooms talking. But that Tom Hallman cover is so good it makes up for a lot of sins.

Menion says

A solid Herbert effort, 3.5 stars. Good plot, moves at a good clip, and the characters are memorable. The reporter Fenn was my favorite. Sure, this is a lousy review, but I am tired and not in the mood for anything

fancy. If you like Herbert, you will like this. Better than some of the clunkers he did like 'Moon,' but not at the level of his classics like 'Once' and the 'Rats' series, which I still need to finish reading. One thing I like- no really happy ending. Think I will try to find a copy of 'The Fog' next. Fenn does make you think a bit about the nature of faith, which helps make this fun.

Laura says

I picked this as a comfort read. one of those reads where you know the author and their style so well that you're sure you will cruise on through enjoyably. I didn't get that.

Unlike Herbert's usual story telling this was incredibly slow and to be honest terribly flat.

The plot seems to build up, but to what I can't tell you?

I'm left feeling like I wasted my time giving this a go.....

Repix says

Un libro tan lento que se hace pesadísimo y no apetece seguir leyendo. Aún así, lo he acabado porque "Entre los muros de Crickley Hall" me gustó mucho y me hizo pasar miedo. "Santuario" es mucho peor, pero si te gusta el tema le puedes dar una oportunidad.

Karl says

The book is published by New English Library in the UK.

Kevin Lucia says

Excellent. Now I know why James Herbert is often referred to as the "British Stephen King." Classic good versus evil conflict, with lots of religious introspection, and purity and innocence triumphs. My favorite kind of story.

Keith Larkworthy says

A good chiller. Not a classic but kept me reading right up to the ending which was similar to the conclusion of The Dark.

Kelsey says

My least favourite James Herbert book so far, but it was still a good book nonetheless

DoodlePanda says

This was an OK read. Not one of my favorite Herbert books though..

It just seem to.. drag on a bit. It started well, and the last quarter was good, but the middle bit just seemed to last ages, and I'm not quite sure why.

I still like Herbert as an author though, and I will definitely be reading more of his books!

If you are new to Herbert I don't think I would start with this book, he has written a lot of books better then this one in my opinion!

Andrew says

Ok so my horror revival continues - this book (along with the other works of James Herbert) was the next stop after exhausting Stephen Kings prodigious publication list. This story to me at the time was totally different to what I was used to. Where Stephen King concentrated on characterisation and how they dealt with terrible and impossibly situations both physically and ethereal - James Herbert took his characters and put them through hell with all the blood and guts he could find.

** At this point I want to jump in and point out however that along with many other authors, James Herbert's books developed and changed through the years - his early books where very visceral and tactile - sometimes at the expense of characterisation, but as the years went on he would mature and start to take on a more subtle and restrained approach and in some ways even more terrifying style. The Shrine was one of his early books and some of the scenes certainly reflect this.**

The story once up to speed certainly picks up pace and does not pull any punches - something that shocked and surprised me at the time since it was the first time I had read anything so graphic (it was before the short lived "Splatterpunk" phase and total over the top extremes) and for me as a teenager it was something raw and new. Now I guess I am more cynical and jaded - not to mention desensitised and feel that if anything it is rather dated. That said I think it has dated itself with its view of England and the sleepy community it is set in. However it was not long before I felt the same thrill and tension I did when I first read it all those years ago and quickly got in to wanting to see how it all came to a conclusion. As with all my reviews I will not give the storyline away, I will save that for those who have better reviewing skills than I, just that James Herbert was a British horror treasure and It is a shame he is no long with us.

Shawn Thornton says

Another great novel from the the late great James Herbert. Not my favourite one that I have read, but there was enough darkness and good fun silliness to keep me thoroughly entertained from start to finish.
