



## The Tower

*Simon Clark*

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The Tower stands in solitude. What began as a seventeenth-century manor house has grown over the centuries into something very different. Something evil. There are the stark walls, the shadow-filled rooms, the lonely corridors. But the Tower is haunted by much more than ghosts of the past, and it can do far more than simply terrify. It has a dark heart and it has grown restless. When five unsuspecting young people agree to stay there as house-sitters, they soon learn that visitors are not welcome in...THE TOWER.

## **The Tower Details**

Date : Published August 2005 by Leisure Books (first published January 1st 2005)

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Author : Simon Clark

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## From Reader Review The Tower for online ebook

### Nicole says

Okay...not BAD. It took me the second time around to finish this book. It really wasn't terrible but it certainly was read on a day when it was too cold to bus to the library and so I made do with what was already in my bookshelf that I hadn't already read twice. You'll have to ignore some typos and I even caught a scene when the wrong character's name was used, but aside from that, it was interesting and I am a sucker for haunted house stories that are half-way decent.

The dreams the house gave each character and their repeated appearance was a bit redundant and the house plucking each tenant off on by one thanks to the help of it's on-resident creepy-lacky was creepily formulaic. But again, go into it with low expectations and you'll enjoy yourself. Think of it like a horror movie starring Paris Hilton. As long as you aren't thinking too deeply while you watch it, it won't be too bad.

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### Kelly says

I have a headache the size of Texas and it has Simon Clark's name written all over it. I'm not sure how many of you know this, but I am a forgiving woman. It's true. I give each and every author four attempts to win me over. That's right, four tries to grab me, keep my attention, and scare the living hell out of me. If, after four shots, they still haven't managed to persuade me to enter their world, it's over between us. For both my sanity and the author's sales, I end the relationship. Mr. Clark, Simon, I'm sorry but it seems that time has come for us. In other words, Simon, we are soooo over!!!

The plot is a recycled storyline. It's been written better, in much better books, by far better authors. A cavity personified, the story revolves around a newly revamped band that decides to house-sit in order to practice their music in sweet, solitary confinement. Of course, said house turns deadly in a hurry, for a few theoretical reasons, but nothing truly concrete. How does the house turn deadly? Well, to give it away would be wrong and well, I just refuse to exert more energy than is necessary on a book that I loathed. Let's just say, clock chimes and bad dreams are involved and leave it at that.

Vapid and irritating, the characters are as dead as disco. The five personalities don't have any, nor do they have or develop any type of background or history. They are simply five people who wander around playing out their patterned parts without feeling or realistic motivation. The only things they do have in abundance are their descriptions; which brings us to Clark's style of writing. Described ad nausea, Clark repeats the same worded descriptions over and over. The character Fabian, with the pretty, long blond hair is lordly. You hear that people? The man is lordly. Every time his mannerisms and dialect are described – it's simply lordly. Do you need another example? Take Fisher, another character. Every time he speaks sarcastically in his head, it's flippant. At 105, I stopped trying to count the word 'flippant'.

Clark's descriptions make King and Rice look skimpy. The author describes the characters at least twenty times, the surrounding area forty times, and the house more than I care to remember. Also, the descriptions are clumped together rather than spread out. The minute he starts describing, it goes on for pages; which, of course, drags on the pace. The speed of the events take forever because in order to get to the action you have to trudge through the descriptions. I kid you not; watching platypuses mate is more exciting than this book. As for the atmosphere, there is none. Thanks to the blinking signs and the million-and-one typos that ran

rampant throughout the book, atmosphere never even got off the ground. And as much as I would like to pound the pain and agony that I had to go through into this review, I think a few examples are in order...

“Fisher couldn’t stop grinning now the dog appeared to be recovering”. – pg. 28

“Could there someone be walking upstairs? – pg. 36

“There’d no been discussion or democratic vote in the band” – pg. 42

“Fabian shrugged. ‘I liked those demos that Fabian played me...’”. – pg. 241

These weren’t the only typos, but they give an idea of what lies in wait. Character names are apparently interchangeable, and their ‘shticks’ can be used by one and all, though Clark works hard to set them in stone in the introductions. Also, there are comma splices, repetitive words, misuse of: the definite article, pronouns, and prepositions. Missing words, words out of order, and two completely different thoughts running into each other is just the icing on the cake.

Now, I know you guys are asking yourselves, “Wasn’t there something that was good about this book?” The cover was decent, but that’s it. In fact, the only thing that kept this book from the negative star rating was its resilience. This book was the victim of quite a few unfortunate events. First, it was accidentally left out in a torrential rainstorm, and then it was bled on by the book that accompanied it in said rainstorm. And after blow-drying it back to life, it, of course, fell apart. Then, after I glued it back together, it was accidentally tossed in the ocean. After two days of drying, it accidentally fell in the pool. And finally, it was thrown off of my deck. That last incident was not, I repeat, not an accident. Still, this book lives. Wrinkled and mangled, but it lives. Amazing.

My rating? I give it a 1, BURN IT!! People, please, do not believe the hype!! After having spent the better part of my vacation with this book and counting up all the hours it stole from me, a little piece of me died inside. Save yourselves, treat this book like the thief it is and lock those wallets!!

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-As reviewed for Horror-Web.com

### **Matt Garcia says**

This book kind of reminded me of house on haunted hill. Which is an excellent movie in my opinion. The creepy dark huge house and all. Simon Clark is a good writer. He's descriptive without being verbose and he's able to help you paint a mental picture of what he's describing to you. However I do wish he would extend his vernacular a bit. The word flippant and all of its variations is used entirely too much for example. The setting is great. The Tower would be scary as hell to stay in for one night let alone a whole month! Now unfortunately, on to the negatives. We are given zero explanation for the tower or Cantley (creepy guy in the house). How did the tower become evil or dangerous? Was it always like this? How was the tower built? How did Cantley get there? Why is one of the members not experiencing the same things as the others? Nope. Nothing. It's almost maddening. I would've loved some history about the tower. We get a little bit about the different things it has served as but that's it. Aside from the main character Fisher, the drummer Marko, and Jak (the dog) I didn't really care about the characters. They were pretty basic. Reading this book felt like watching an average horror film. At the end all I could say was "man this could've been so much better if we had gotten some explanation." Wasted potential. I'm sure Clark can do better than this. I can see the promise for a great story here but it just fell short for me.

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### **Cheryl Evans says**

Typical horror movie plot. A couple of twists and gasps, but nothing really very interesting.

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### **Nick says**

I figured I'd give this book a try because of the Bentley Little blurb on the cover, but what's that saying about covers and books and not judging?

This is not to say I disliked the story, but it just didn't do it for me. The Tower of the title is indeed a spooky old house and I think that Clark created an interesting history and environment for the characters to exist in, but I had a hard time investing with said characters.

I don't know why, I mean I love music, but I generally dislike stories and novels about musicians. That is my fault, not the author's. Just something I gotta deal with somehow, but that definitely hurt the story for me. Another thing is, how many times can you use the word "ghost" as a verb before it becomes grating? As in the sound "ghosted" through the air. Again, maybe it's just me.

That being said, I will probably give Clark another day in court. He did build an interesting world in The Tower, and that makes him worthy of a second chance, I think. And he looks like such a friendly guy, I'd feel bad if I didn't try to like his stuff.

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### **Cassandra says**

When I first began to read this book it got to me. I don't dabble in Horror that often but usually when I do I'm pretty disappointed. And at first throughout the first 200 pages or so of this book, it had me on edge. And then it ended. Seriously? That was a the worst ending ever. It didn't explain anything, didn't explain why the tower was the way that it was, what the background of it was. the background of Cantley. And how a couple of them died. That was just plain ridiculous. One was pushed down into mud? Really? I understand that the house has supernatural abilities, but c'mon. These are some pretty ridiculous things. House on haunted hill was better than this and that's a crappy horror movie, and horror movies suck compared to most novels.

I like the way that it was written, it was brilliantly written really. And I loved how he was so descriptive, that was the reason why I was on the edge of my seat throughout most of the book. But I have to admit, that the ending left me disappointed. There could have just been a more thought out ending than that, it seemed very rushed. \

Other than my issues with the deaths/murders and the supernatural ridiculousness of it. I give the book a 3 out of 5. It had me glued to its pages till the very end.

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## **Jade Heslin says**

The author of the book, Simon Clark, was supposed to be coming to see us discuss this book at book club. I am relieved (for his sake) that he has pulled out.

The fact that he is likened to Stephen King on the book's cover is insulting. This is absolute drivel. I have never felt compelled to write a novel myself (mainly because I lack imagination), but I sincerely reckon that I could've done a better job of it than Clark. He seems to know only a handful of words. Sounds always "ghost" through the air, things are constantly said "flippantly" and ENGLISH PEOPLE start their sentences with "Hell". As in "Hell, even I can write a better horror story than this jerk!". They're from bloody Yorkshire, for Christ's sake! Next they'll be going to get "gas" and changing "diapers". GRRRRRRR!

It wasn't just the lexicon that "got me pissed". It was the characters. A band go and stay in a haunted house to practise their songs as loudly as they want. A band. They're all cunts. Enough said.

My favourite character was a dog they found at the side of the road (very surprised that the word 'sidewalk' wasn't used). This dog was probably the most dynamic of the bunch. The band members were all caricatures: The sex-god lead singer, the one with the ego, the smooth saxophonist, the shy & retiring one, the feisty female... You know the score.

I couldn't wait for them all to die.

I honestly have nothing else to say about this book. Certain moments of it were quite gruesome, and his descriptions of terror were quite believable. It was all just a little too repetitive for my liking. I award this book a very mediocre 3 stars. It wasn't the worst thing I've ever read and I breezed through it in a couple of days. I'm kind of disappointed because one of his other titles, "Ghost Monster" looks amazing. I don't know whether to be put off... C'mon – it's a GHOST MONSTER!

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## **William M. says**

The Tower proves once again that Simon Clark is one of the top 10 horror writers working today. I've read a ton of haunted house type books, and thought I've seen it all. However, Clark's originality has added even more layers to the genre. There were two specific ideas in this book that I had never read before in horror that really impressed me (a horror twist involving an echo and reflections in a window). The story was so fast paced I finished this book in 3 days. Clark's writing is superb and his characters are interesting and relatable.

My only complaint is with Leisure Books, the publisher. I've been a devoted fan of the company for years and it's time I put my foot down. This book has a TON of spelling errors that are inexcusable for a professional publishing house. They seriously need to FIRE the copy editor for letting these errors get to the printer. If that's not bad enough, on page 241, there is a character talking about someone else with the same name! Guys! Wake up! This is not high school. This is embarrassing. Please contact me and I'll do a better copy editing job for free. Seriously. Anyway, Simon Clark is not at fault for this problem, but it definitely takes you out of the story when things are spelled incorrectly.

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### **Will Farrar says**

There were way too many grammar errors and typos. I can usually ignore a few, but this was ridiculous. Clark needs a descent editor.

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### **Bandit says**

During the the Leisure horror years Clark was at the top of his game. His books ranged from awesome to really good and Tower falls under the latter category. Plot's simple enough...band of 20somethings in search of place to practice and record go to a remote old house with, that's right, a tower, where they proceed to have terrifying premonitory dreams of their imminent and horrific deaths. Clark infuses it with his style of very dynamic writing/pacing making for a fun exciting fairly quick (4.5 hours or so) read. Kudos to the author for yet again writing young characters in a noninfuriating manner. Recommended.

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### **Becca says**

meh. like a crappy amityville, jason mash up.

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### **H3yd00 says**

I really enjoyed Blood Crazy, but all of his books after that are hit or miss with me. This was a fun read, but not his best. Parts of it were a bit farfetched, even for a "supernatural" horror.

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### **Sascha says**

[ Normally these sorts of books take it for granted that a sadistic killer is mentally ill, but I detested the acknowledgement of naming Cantley's "schizoid condition". I think we're supposed to understand from the

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### **mark monday says**

synopsis: ambitious band goes to a remote Yorkshire mansion to put together their first demo. scary shenanigans ensue.

not much to say about this one except that I quite liked it. it is basically a classic haunted house tale given some intriguing flourishes (a house that can physically bring people back against their will, people dreaming about their eventual deaths) and some modern trappings (favorite bit: at one point the band uses THE POWER OF ROCK 'N' ROLL to fight the mansion's evil - and it's not even corny when it happens). Simon

Clark can be hit or miss and in this one he hits. when he's on, he's on, and The Tower has excellent pacing, a wonderfully creepy and atmospheric setting, and a snappy but not superficial tone. characters are quickly and sharply etched, and some are given a surprising amount of depth - in particular the first victim's fascinating backstory and amusing perspective on the situation at hand. best of all is the fantastic character of the dog, who **SPOILER** of course saves the day and best of all, lives!

favorite Clark novel so far: Blood Crazy. if you like horror, you should really do yourself a solid and check it out.

to beef up this so-called review, here are some seasonal images that I found quite heartwarming:

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### **Kristen says**

I liked it for the most part, but it ended sort of abruptly. It has an unfinished feel to it, plus the story overall could use a bit of fleshing out. Another 50 pages or so would have helped.

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