



Eyes on the Bayou

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Paranoia, fear, anxiety, crushing memories, uncontrollable rage... Dahlia suffers from them all.

Once an elite soldier, confident, beautiful and at the top of her profession as a Black Ops assassin, she now suffers the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder alone in her own mind, afraid to trust anyone after her commander betrays her and she spends 4 years in a secret prison becoming someone else.

When Marines find her wandering in the Iraqi desert carrying the eyes she carved from her guards during her escape, military doctors lock her up for two more years in a sadistic psychiatric ward at a dirty Army hospital.

Now she's finally free and headed deep into the Louisiana swamp to regain her sanity. But it's not as easy as she imagined it would be, especially with the disgusting LaFont boys out of jail now and her nemesis, the voodoo practitioner Grave Digger constantly watching her and trying to drive her away.

Eyes on the Bayou Details

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Tina says

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Review:

It took me a while to write this review...mostly because I have a lot to say about this book. It took me a few days to be able to get my thoughts straight and put them into words. First of all, I want to say that Daniel J Moore is a master horror story teller. This is probably the darkest and most disturbing stories I have ever read. I definitely rank Eyes on the Bayou right up with the works of Edgar Allan Poe content-wise.

I was torn between giving this a 3.5 or 4 stars. I eventually settled on 4 stars for two main reasons: 1) Their is a huge "wow" factor to the book's plot and 2) How well Moore raised goosebumps on my arms while I was reading Eyes on the Bayou. It's hard to get me to feel very strong feelings when reading, but this book sure did. A word to the wise: do NOT read this book right before bedtime like I did...you won't be able to fall asleep. Yep--Eyes on the Bayou is a truly terrifying story through and through.

The main character in the story is...bi-polar?? The story revolves mostly around Dahlia, an ex Black-Ops assassin who suffers from traumatic memories from her time being held prisoner. The only reason why she survived her ordeal being held captive was thanks to Bella, the ruthless, primal side of Dahlia. Dahlia and Bella are basically like two consciences fighting for control over the physical body. Dahlia, the "normal" one, is determined to start a peaceful life, but Bella won't leave her alone. This usually ends up in Bella momentarily taking over control when Dahlia is mentally weak. I would be lying to say I liked Dahlia's character--it's hard to find Dahlia/Bella lovable. But they certainly make an interesting duo to read about.

Another major character in the book is Grave Digger, a young man with a crippled arm and practice voodoo magic of some sorts. He senses an evil spirit within Dahlia (the "evil spirit" is Bella) and isn't too happy when he finds out that Dahlia has become his neighbor. To make things worse, Dahlia (who is a bad person in Grave Digger's mind) has befriended Emeline, the love interest of Grave Digger. I feel kind of bad for Grave Digger, actually, since his actions are usually done out of good intentions. He loves Emeline to death (even though she doesn't love him back) and will do anything--even die--for her. However, he isn't very good at communication and often ends up being the scapegoat. I think Grave Digger is best described as a misunderstood guy.

The plot in the story itself is quite scary (to me). From illegal gator poachers to evil spirits, from a killer who murders in the most gruesome way to a paranoid character who just might be going crazy--this is like a nightmare come true. Like I mentioned before, the plot of Eyes on the Bayou is probably best compared to the works of Poe (ie. Fall of the House of Usher, The Tell-Tale Heart.) I literally could not put the book down since I was constantly on the edge of my seat the whole time.

Also, this book is not for the faint hearted; the author spares no detail describing the string of murders occurring. All the victims of the killer has their eyes gouged out. I'm not going to tell you who the killer

is...but it definitely was a twist to the story. Here's a quick quote from the book:

"[the killer] slid[the] knife back into its sheath ..and picked up the hook from the bottom of the boat. [The killer] looped it around Ray-Ray's neck and [the killer] dragged him up close...and squeezed his windpipe between [the] thumb and forefinger to cut off his air. When he turned blue, [the killer] leaned down and whispered into his ear. 'If I see you again, I will kill you...I will carve out your eyes and I will take your soul with me. Do you understand me?'"

However, what really made me rate this book 4 stars instead of 3.5 is the risk Daniel Moore took in writing the ending of the book. I seriously did not see the ending coming...and I've read plenty of books. It was...totally out there, I could not have predicted it. I didn't love the ending but I didn't hate it either. But, man, that ending really made this story stand out from the rest. Three short words to sum up the conclusion: no happy ending.

The writing in itself was okay--not spectacular, not bad either. It was normal. Eyes on the Bayou is a book that will hang around in your head for a long time once you've read it. Or at least this story still has been on my mind for the past few days.

I recommend this book for horror story lovers, ghost story lovers and those in search of a different type of book to read from the main stream stuff. Do NOT read this if you are scared easily or don't like blood and gore.

Kimberly says

I won this copy of EYES ON THE BAYOU through a "first-reads" giveaway. Now anytime you're reading something from an author that you haven't read before, there's always the chance that you are simply not going to like his/her style, and use of language. I will attest wholeheartedly that this was NOT the case while reading my first novel from Daniel J. Moore.

I absolutely loved this novel! Mr. Moore paints an astoundingly vivid atmosphere of life on the Bayou. Even during the "peaceful moments" the tension continues to build relentlessly--an almost physical force in itself.

Our main character, Dahlia--a former special ops soldier--comes home to her deceased grandfather's home in the Bayou, after being betrayed by her Captain, held prisoner in a sadistic Iraqi prison for four years, and then committed to a psychiatric ward with a doctor who tortured her daily--both mentally and physically.

Finally released, Dahlia is but a broken shell, wanting nothing more than to retreat to the remote swamp location to heal, and be left alone by the outside world.

From the very first page, this novel demands your attention, and takes you on a horrifying journey that will impress even the most jaded of horror fans. There are so many layers to this story--the more I uncovered, the more I was compelled to read on. Also, one of the most satisfying endings that I have come across in a long time!

Highly recommended!

Samantha says

I enjoyed reading this book. A good bit of the book kept me guessing on what was going to happen. However, parts of it were easy to figure out what was going to happen next. That is the reason I did not give it 5 stars. I stayed interested in the book the entire time and my daughter is wanting to read it next.

Karrie says

This was quite a good tale for a quiet day of reading. A few typos, and this way of making some sentences seem juvenile, like see Jane run. Spot was barking. ect. Only Bella was happy. Gravedigger was confused. For some reason when an author does that, it bugs the crap out me. Otherwise I thought that the concept was cool, the characters interesting, if a little predictable at times and the setting felt real. All in all, it has enough good to warrant a high rating and with a bit of polishing, this author has great potential!

I definitely would recommend this book. And please forgive the fact I wrote my review above and my heading here. Backwards sort of day, I suppose!

Brenda Ayala says

Twisted and dark. Such a great read. I finished it minutes ago and I'm just sitting here thinking about it.

Dahlia had to deal with some seriously traumatizing stuff when she was captured in combat. Rape and physical abuse most prevalent, in really harsh and disgusting ways. When she managed to escape, she's dumped in a mental hospital with a doctor who prefers to further abuse her with his power instead of trying to help her. Dahlia, with her superior military training, doesn't stand for that for very long.

BIG SPOILERS

(view spoiler)

I'm extremely impressed with this author, and I think with some editorial cleanup he'll be even better. The only thing that detracted from the story for me were the errors in the text here and there. The most obvious one was "bazaar" instead of "bizarre", but there were other little mistakes spaced throughout. Also, the word "wonderful" is used quite a bit within a span of like 5 pages.

Overall though, an excellent story. I would absolutely recommend this to anyone who loves a dark story.

Sarah says

I received Eyes on the Bayou by Daniel Moore free in exchange for an honest review.

Eyes on the Bayou is the story of a young lady who, after serving with the special forces, was released from prison and returned to the home left to her by her grandfather in Louisiana. She befriends some of the locals and everything is going great until ghosts from her past start to reappear. The story line is well developed with several unexpected twists throughout the story. It also has characters that draw you into the story causing you to want to find out what's going to happen next. This was an enjoyable read. I look forward to reading Daniel Moore's future works.

Ella says

I received this book for free via a Goodreads giveaway.

I've read a lot of books and it's not often that a book manages to surprise me these days but this one did just that. Nothing that I encountered throughout the novel gave me an inkling of how it would end. Some of the descriptions were graphic but necessary. Eyes on the Bayou may not be my all-time favorite book but it was definitely an interesting read.

Marjorie says

Eye,eye

Don't think I can look into a strange face again and not question them! What a good story! What next. Made me feel sorry for the gators. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did! Good Read.

Izola says

I just finished this book and it took me two day ONLY BECAUSE I had to do the wife thing!! This is s first in a very long time that I have been truly impressed with a book. what a great read. it was anything but predictable!!

Bethan says

This is not the sort of book I usually go for but I actually enjoyed it. It would have four stars but the kindle version had a number of typos and errors that just detracted from the reading.

I loved all the characters; they were all really well defined and had their place in the story. Overall a good

book.
