



The Drum, the Doll, and the Zombie

John Bellairs , Brad Strickland , Edward Gorey (Illustrator)

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When Johnny Dixon, Professor Childermass, and Fergie Ferguson have a party for their friend Dr. Coote, they expect the evening to be a blast—and it is!—but not quite the way they have in mind. As Fergie pounds out a rhythm on a small drum, a howling wind shakes the house and something explodes. Soon Johnny, the professor, and Fergie are in a battle with the fearsome Priests of the Midnight Blood for Dr. Coote's life—and their own.

The Drum, the Doll, and the Zombie Details

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Author : John Bellairs , Brad Strickland , Edward Gorey (Illustrator)

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Genre : Mystery, Horror, Fiction, Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Young Adult



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From Reader Review The Drum, the Doll, and the Zombie for online ebook

Leaflet says

Voo-dou! Zombies!

Catherine Mustread says

Grades 5+. Thirteen-year-old Johnny Dixon and his friend Prof. Childermass try to save the life of the elderly Dr. Coote, and find themselves facing the forces of menacing voodoo cult.

Fawn says

john bellairs was a hero of my childhood.

Qt says

3 1/2 stars. I quite enjoyed it! Although sometimes I felt like I wanted a little more depth or details, the book moved along at a good pace. I liked Johnny Dixon and I liked the spooky, scary story.

This was my first John Bellairs book; I'd been wanting to read one of his for a while now, and this was completed by another author. I'm looking forward to reading one completely written by Bellairs, and also to reading more in the Johnny Dixon series.

Calista says

I hate zombies and this book has zombies. I thought it was a scary book for the age group it was in. John Bellairs started this book and did not finish it before his death. Brad Strickland finished it and I wonder how much of the dialog was finished. At the beginning, Prof. Childermass seems off a bit. He is meaner than normal. I think it still turned out pretty well.

Voodoo was the big bad in this one. I have meet some Voodoo priestesses here and there and it is not all evil as media always uses it for black magic. There is good and white Voodoo and you never hear about that. Still, the evil stuff does exist and it is used here. They link it to a different type of evil Voodoo that an evil dictator of St. Ives is using.

I do wish there were a few new characters introduced here, but John keeps it simple. Johnny is still a bit scared but he always comes through when it is most important. There are Voodoo dolls and Zombies and people possessed and an evil Voodoo priestess. At the center of it all is a drum to call up the devil himself.

A great story for young readers who are into soft horror. You know it's still safe, but it keeps you on the edge of your seat. I have yet to decide if I will finish the series that Brad wrote or move on to other series of John's. Maybe someday.

As Toscanini said of the Mozart requiem when he stopped in the middle of the piece "The master laid down his pen".

I have loved reading these novels finally. I am a month behind and maybe I can catch back up and get another John Bellairs in for the month of August. I have done pretty well this year.

Lisa Kucharski says

Great book to read in the month of Halloween! Zombies and scary rituals of voodoo! While this was a book that Bellairs started, a friend and fan of his (Strickland) helped finish the book. I feel he did a great job at finishing it off.

Chazzi says

Johnny and Fergie are once again drawn into a spooky and mysterious situation. One that includes zombies!

Professor Childermass' friend Dr. Coote brings a strange looking drum over, looking to find out more about it. It has strange images drawn on it and there are bones around it to help keep the drum heads on. Is it involved in a supernatural world? Will it cause harm? And just what is 'voudon' all about?

The friends find themselves going to a graveyard to get answers and discovering a real zombie! And then there is that old hag that keeps appearing, whose name is Mama Sinestra. Is she as evil as she looks?

And did I mention that Dr. Coote fell ill shortly after showing the drum to Dr. Childermass and is in the hospital during all this happening?

Pretty scary and a good read. I do like John Bellairs' work.

Greg Kerestan says

Here, John Bellairs meets Brad Strickland halfway, with Strickland taking over the series from this point onward. Their styles are extremely similar, and it's hard to tell where the one ends and the other begins. As a Johnny Dixon novel, this one holds up fairly well; there are a few differences close readers can note (this is easily the most gruesome installation so far, with the pillow creature's exorcism standing out in that regard).

Reece Smith says

As with 'The Hand of the Necromancer', I really enjoyed Strickland's handling of the Bellairs characters. He brings out the crankiness of the professor (and even uses the professor's proclivity for ranting as a plot point near the end of the book), and he also explores some of the secondary characters, like Charles Coote and Johnny's dad, who provides a thoughtful little sub-plot for Johnny. Strickland is a pro at preserving the world created by Bellairs while imagining new details of his own.

The story itself is more well thought out than any of the previous Bellairs books. It sets up the surprises nicely, and careful readers will be able to piece together the final weapon that saves the day.

There is one little touch I especially liked that may be a bit of a spoiler. Note that when Todd Lamort, who has been spending the night at Charles Coote's house, tells the professor that he couldn't sleep in the bedroom because the constantly running toilet keeps him awake at night. Later on we find out why the toilet keeps running.

Finally, I liked the fact that the story ends in traditional Bellairs fashion, with the characters together, happy, and celebrating - in this case on new years' eve, the same day I finished the book and wrote this review.

Tara Lynn says

This is the last book Bellairs wrote concerning Johnny Dixon before his death, and it was later completed by Brad Strickland. The story elements are pure Bellairs, and the ending doesn't feel as rushed as some of the other Strickland-completed novels. Still an amazing read.

Bill says

This is a YA horror, a posthumously finished novel of the Johnny Dixon Series. A fun 1 day read. There's not much depth in this single novel. Perhaps there is more in the series as a whole. It reads rather like a Golden Age horror which I find a plus. One likes the kids and the professors.

Sarah says

Short but sweet. I really enjoyed this and it just flew by. I liked all the characterizations and the plot was really cool. I'm intrigued that this was an unfinished Bellairs - it's the first time I've read him but I definitely want to read more. I'll be curious to see if I notice a difference. Very glad I picked this one up.

Susan says

I loved this book. This is actually a book for kids - maybe junior high age. But I loved it anyway. It is a gothic horror book with very likable characters (at least the good guys), great settings, and a sensible plot in its own way. I've always loved John Bellairs' books. This is one that was finished by Brad Strickland after

Bellairs' death, and it is true to the spirit and style of John Bellairs.

Diane says

old fashioned melodrama

This is an old fashioned melodramatic short novel I got on Book Bub. It seems written for peculiar young adults not fussy about good writing. This is number 9 in a fairly long series. Don't bother I say.

Justin K. Rivers says

Although Johnny Dixon is my favorite of Bellairs' protagonists, the evil voodoo flavor of this novel doesn't really do him justice. The zombie is a pretty lackluster element, and the "evil voodoo" angle is troubling in its characterization of indigenous religions. Strickland takes pains to establish that this particular brand of voodoo is evil because it is in the service of a fascist dictator, but it doesn't quite lift the feeling of slightly racist cliche. Kudos to Strickland, however, for dangling Prof Coote over the proverbial cliff.

D.M. Dutcher says

Good, but not the best. Professor Childemass must deal with a colleague who has been rendered catatonic by a voodoo curse. Johnny as always helps him out. It's brief, but spookier and more serious than usual kid's lit. I'd probably pick another, earlier book to start out with if you are new to the series, but it's spooky fun that doesn't try to explain everythign away.

Kerry says

Enjoyed this but it had a much more modern feel than the others - is that Strickland's influence? Also, I always thought Fergie lived in a poorer part of town but In this book it is described as 'snooty'. ???

Jonathan Peto says

I read the book aloud to my son to the end of Chapter 9. He picked it up himself and finished it off, because he didn't want to wait for me. The writing is pleasantly complex, with more details than seems to be the norm today. Challenging vocabulary also offers opportunities for vocabulary building without bogging down the story. I will definitely pick up more books by this author for my son to read.

Julia says

John Bellairs books are the children's book equivalent to comfort food for me. Anytime I pick one up, I like it just as much as I did in 5th grade. This one is not a true Bellairs, but still it was entertaining and a lovely grilled cheese sandwich for my brain.

Jackie Billings says

I loved John Bellairs as a kid, and re-reading these books as an adult has not disappointed me. These books are not sugar coated, the stories are actually terrifying, and Bellairs' nods to Tolkein and Lovecraft and his other predecessors are delightful. Johnny Dixon is my favorite protagonist, and Brad Strickland did a wonderful job completing this book.
