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His investigation takes him to a mysteriously located place called Perfect Rest. It is supposed to be a nursing home for the elderly . . . But is it?

Here Dismas will discover the dark secret of the Others. And in an astonishing and spectacular finale he will resolve the enigma of his own existence . . .

Others Details

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From Reader Review Others for online ebook

Tracey Allen at Carpe Librum says

This is my second novel by James Herbert, and I'm proud to say this one gave me a nightmare. Why am I proud to say this? I read a lot of Koontz and King and love a good thriller and naturally enjoy a bit of a fright! It's hard for a writer to make the reader 'jump' or 'get the creeps' and for me it's the mark of a great author and an excellent book! It certainly gets the adrenalin pumping and the mind racing into the wee hours.

It follows that there is a skill in making a reader cry but first and foremost, I don't really enjoy deeply depressing stories, or stories that are going to upset me for days and days afterwards. Secondly, it's rare for me to cry during a movie, so for a book, this state is almost unattainable. Besides, I'd rather be scared out of my wits, or contemplating the dark side of human nature in a way that is removed from my daily life and therefore 'safe'.

Okay, now onto the book. Dismas is a private investigator in the 'Others' and is born into the world disfigured. The character development and insight here is phenomenal and a little painful at times which deepens the story even further. Dismas is asked to investigate a missing baby supposedly declared dead following the birth, and thus begins a course of events involving babies born with hideous deformities. Without ruining the story-line, I was really creeped out one night reading about the hospital at 'Perfect Rest' although it sounds completely harmless, doesn't it?

The theme of redemption is echoed throughout the novel, and I thoroughly enjoyed following the character's journey and learning about the fate of the Others.

I recommend this novel to anyone who enjoys a good fright, or is a fan of either Stephen King or Dean Koontz.

Min says

Everyone deserves a second chance, the underpinning emotion throughout the book can one who has lived a life of sin be redeemed through a second chance? Others seems to show that even one corrupted soul can be redeemed by living a life as one of those he previously mocked - a cruel, yet ingenius, twist of irony, which plays out for the betterment of our protagonist's fate through the morally correct choices he makes in his second life.

In good ol' Herbert fashion this book isn't without it's spine-tingling moments and tension as all his books seem to have the power of displaying. True to the horror genre this one will have you spooked, and maybe even revolted should your imagination play to Herbert's words.

Frank says

Truly disturbing novel from Herbert! I've read a few others by Herbert and they have all been pretty good horror/thriller novels but he exceeded himself with this one. It tells the story of the redemption of Nicholas

Dismas, a private investigator with a deformed body who describes himself as a monster. A client hires him to locate her missing son that she thought died during childbirth. At first, Dismas goes through the motions of an investigation but does not believe there is any chance of success. But then with the help of a clairvoyant, he discovers a decades old cover-up involving children born with indescribable deformities at a nursing home called Perfect Rest. There, he encounters Dr. Leonard Wisbeech, one of the most diabolically perverse doctors ever encountered, and the secret experiments that shed light on the case and on Dismas's own origins. This all leads to a very shocking conclusion.

I was really engrossed in this one and would recommend it but be prepared to be disturbed!

Hannah says

So even though I am a HUGE horror fan, this was my first James Herbert I believe. I did enjoy the way he wrote, I think he has a deft skill in providing the situation and characters in a detailed way. However he is somewhat clumsy in structure and the book was needlessly long. Saying that I did enjoy it, even if it started to take a troubling path towards the end.

One particular element I can pick out to say was decent about the story was his involvement of Brighton. I did live there a while back and so appreciated references to areas dotted throughout.

I felt uncomfortable with the underlying karma underpinnings to the story for although I get his point and it was not so crudely drawn as I shall now state- It was on the premise that: a man was reborn bearing the ugly nature of his personality on the outside in a second life. And so unfortunate handicaps may be construed as punishment from a previous life, something I find hard to swallow and, yes, discriminative.

I assume from other reviews that this is not his usual work and so in which case I shall read more of his books for the style if not slightly rambling was enjoyable it was just the subject that did not wholly grab me.

Elizabeth says

ok. im going to be totally unfair in this review. see, i have this extra karma chip of "free unfairness" that's expiring soon, so i have to use it, like right now. because....(spoiler alert)....

ARGW\$%*AG&&*^^*HRUEG\$*#@!!!!!!

FREAKIN' PORN????!!!!

ok that felt totally good to scream, perhaps i should have not done it at work, ah well...but seriously. SERIOUSLY. the nazi-ish doctor bought and engineered (shocker) severely (and almost x-men-y) deformed creatures/people not for like a super race (so unlike his background!), not for like arms dealers who need big killing-machine soldiers to sell to Cobra or whatever (COBRAAAAA!!! what, no GI Joe fans?um). no. not for any of these. nope. nada. he did it for PORN. dear God in heaven. porn. porn? PLGH!!!!!! this book

made me so mad that it now has become the only book i ever gave one star (Twilight fans rejoice). and even though the author totally looks like that guy from the BBC's Top Gear, it didn't matter! that's how mad i am. ARGH. the book could have been so much better.

i would like to apologize to the east baton rouge library system for this completely inappropriate review. and for the bite taken out of the book's spine. it wasn't me. i would have to really *really* hate a book enough to destroy it. with my mouth. it was just that the dogs decided they also didn't like the book and were all "we must put an end to mommy's misery the best way we know how!"they also thought my anne klein sling backs were "so last season" but that is another story all together....

Jon Recluse says

An exploration into the depths of human depravity, where science crosses into sadism, in a world where broken souls in twisted flesh struggle along the path of pain towards the brass ring of redemption and peace. A novel of unparalleled emotional power, this one will leave even the most jaded heart shaken to its core.

Jeanean says

Excellent book= horrifying, sad, funny, poignant, mysterious. Wow I really like Nicholas Dismas. I wish there were more featuring this character.

Lee says

To start off, Nick Dismas is one of the most unique characters I have come across. **if you haven't read this, I'm not going to add anymore**

What starts out looking like a mystery in a search of a missing son for a client...turns into anything but. What Dis finds in an upscale nursing home, is unimaginable. This is a creepy, disgusting and sad story rolled in to one. What made it even more of a creepy story, was Mr. Herbert's end note. Based on a true incident years ago in London.

His last sentence sums it up for me, "I sincerely hope you have been disturbed".

Julie Kellner says

This is one of my least favourite James Herbert books. The premise of the story uplifting. After all don't we all want to meet our love ones again?

Maura Heaphy says

From the opening pages, I thought I was on to a winner here: the prologue was a witty take on a damned soul in Hell, visited by two clueless angels who make him an offer he can't refuse. The narrator's anxiety to please his celestial guests (and not blow his last best chance to get out of Hell) is very funny.

And then ... and then Sadly, it seemed to me that Herbert was trying 'way too hard: "clever" asides, reminders in every paragraph that the narrator (unaware, except in inexplicable flashes of *deja vu*, that he is on day-release from Hell) is misshapen and crippled, interminable descriptions of things that really don't need to be described.

Too bad, because, based on the opening, it could have been fun.

Sara says

I was quite disappointed with this book, as I really love James Herbert he is such a talented author and I really loved the main character, but the book was just not my thing :(

Bandit says

I'm liking James Herbert more and more the more I read him. This book was a powerhouse and not just by sheer volume. It was creative, well written and (as the author intended according to his afterword) very very disturbing. The book starts off with a fascinating premise, then progresses as a detective story with a very original and atypical protagonist, it does have some supernatural moments, but the genuine horror of the plot comes from the evil that men can do. The finale stretched out over the last 100/150 pages is absolutely bombastic and very vividly described. Despite all the action and various genre trappings, this is really a story of redemption and an excellent showcase of James Herbert's talent. Highly recommended.

Jakub says

The best thing about the book was that I managed to finish it. But this is probably due to the fact that I veeeery rarely put books aside. 'Others' was not a rewarding read - it was too much of a mix-up of good things and horrible things (in the literary sense). But the bad sides prevailed - too many cliches, too many mundane monologues...

I do not recommend it - it would be 3/10

Tasha says

Ugh...considering not bothering to finish this book. I'm almost halfway through and the plot hasn't even begun to show itself in any form. The main character is a deformed hunchback private investigator, which is

pretty cool, but the author likes to mention his deformities and shame as often as possible. This could definitely be an interesting avenue to go down, but it's totally ham-fisted here, as are the constant drug references...it's just awkward, like listening to your parents joke about "smoking some dope". I'm hoping it'll redeem itself soon with some action, but I doubt it.

Madhu says

Truly horrifying tale.. I don't know if "like" is the right thing to say.

Graham says

James Herbert goes from strength to strength with this complex, deeply absorbing, realistic and gripping tale which is parts supernatural horror, part mystery, part thriller, all pretty sick. It's very well written and certainly has the edge over recent books by Stephen King I've read.

This is not to say that the story is flawless; far from it. Herbert uses a distinctive style which will be off-putting to some readers : the slow-burn. The first two thirds of the book is extremely slowly paced, very much like a mundane detective investigation with the occasional burst of violence or horror.

The approach works in bringing to life the lead, Nick Dismas, born with appalling deformities and living a life as a recluse ever after. Dismas is nevertheless a likable character and a really believable one. The story is pretty unpredictable, up until the conclusion which follows a well-worn route but is no less effective through Herbert's detailed writing.

The 'Others' are more tragic than horrifying, although the scenes in the cellar are sufficiently gruesome to be horrific. Action is described in minute detail which I personally found to be gripping. Other readers might find it drags. Throw in a twist ending, the whole gamut of the human experience (love, anger, hatred, friendship, happiness) and you have an unconventional, but appealing, story.

Emma-Jane Goode says

Really enjoyed this book. One of James Herbert's best!

Janie Johnson says

My friend and I decided to read this book together after reading the synopsis. It sounded like it would be a dark and disturbing read. Well that it was, among other things. Although I did enjoy it, I did not love it.

Synopsis

Nicholas Dismas is a Private Investigator, but like no other that has gone before him. He carries a secret about himself to which not even he has the answer . . .

He is hired to find a missing baby. One that was taken away at birth . . . Or was it?

His investigation takes him to a mysteriously located place called Perfect Rest. It is supposed to be a nursing home for the elderly . . . But is it?

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Ok so the plot to this story was rather long, and I do feel like it could have been shortened about 100 pages and still could have been interesting. In this plotline you do have a lot of different elements involved which does keep the story entertaining. There is mystery and paranormal and even some romance mixed in. The first several chapters are extremely slow, but does pick up around page 40-50, and gets pretty good. The story makes you think a lot as you try to figure out the mystery at hand. I was kind of let down though a bit by the discovery of the mystery at the end. It was not what I had expected to come of it. I also felt like the author got away from the 'synopsis mystery' a lot and the story focused more on our protagonist Nick Dismas, which in itself held a lot of mystery as well, so readers will find that their own focus changes as well. It kind of pushed the original mystery to the back burner.

The characters are probably my favorite part of the story. Nick Dismas is a greatly flawed character who had to deal with his own deformities and put up with a lot of judgement of others. Although he does have those people/friends who do care about him and accept him as he is, he still struggles to figure out what his purpose is in this life. While he does like himself, he still finds himself weak and unlikable, and there are plenty of abhorrent people to consistently instill that into his mind. There are a lot of great characters that readers will meet throughout the story and those characters have their mystery revolving around them,

I was struggling with who I could recommend this book too since it is an overly long book with a slow start. I think readers who enjoy the dark and disturbing may find this story worth the read. I am going to give this book a 3.5 star rating. I think had it been shortened and had a faster pace it could have been a 5 star read for me simply by the plotline alone.

?Susan? says

Upon his death a movie star handsome man jumps at the chance when offered another life to redeem himself from living such a selfish and vain life. He will have no memory of his current life and will return horribly disfigured.

As the story unravels the purpose behind his deformities become relevant and he must do whatever he can to stop the gruesome horror that he uncovers.

A good thriller with a original story.

Jinx says

Awful, dont know why i bothered to finish it! The book is about a disfigured private detective looking for a

presumed dead baby taken at birth from its mother. The investigation leads him to a Rest Home, where a mad doctor is experimenting on severely disabled children and a woman who becomes a love interest for the main character. At best, i'd say i think James Herbert was smoking something dodgy when writing this book! Its wacky!
