



Shadow of the Oak (A Sal Van Sleen Adventure)

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My name is Sal Van Sleen. It used to be that nothing much happened in my town, Mushkobewun. Or at least that's what I believed for most of my fifteen years.

But then my girlfriend's little sister got abducted by a nasty, supernatural . . . thing.

I don't know about you, but I couldn't just let something like that go . . .

Shadow of the Oak (A Sal Van Sleen Adventure) Details

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Author : Eric Kent Edstrom

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From Reader Review Shadow of the Oak (A Sal Van Sleen Adventure) for online ebook

Sheri says

Shadow of the Oak is a novella, roughly 93 pages, but a whole story in itself. Many times when reading a short story you just do not get enough detail to really be able to make the story complete, and though I feel like I keep repeating myself when reviewing Eric Edstrom's books, I have to say again that the detail he puts into each and every character is fabulous. His characters are wonderfully written, and it's the characters that make really a story.

Sal is great fun, and so is his best friend Billy, and even though we never actually met Billy's mom, I really like her! I heard a rumor that there is a second Sal Van Sleen Adventure in the works, and I'm looking forward to it!

Brooke Banks says

I won a copy of this book through a giveaway on Fundinmental - <https://fundinmental.wordpress.com/> (Sorry, can't get it link correctly.)

This book is great for what it is and it's short engaging paranormal horror young adult book that makes me want to read the Eric Edstrom's other works. I really enjoyed taking a break to read *Shadow of the Oak*. This is a young adult book with characters that are young but don't let that scare you away. It's great for people of any age, including if you want a trip down memory lane of growing up in the 1980's.

If there's a kid (especially a boy) who doesn't like reading because it's boring, I'd recommend this book for them. It got action, best friends, and of course, a girl. It's well written with a clear, distinct voice and characters that pop from the page. It has all the necessary elements done well and delivers them in a short little package.

Great Quote:

Back when I was twelve, my mother started feeding a stray cat. Within a week, it had the run of the house. But then it became obsessed with a power outlet next to the refrigerator. My mom tried to break it of that habit by squirting it with a water bottle. It was a failure. The cat was immune to water aversion therapy. We had it for a total of nine days before it electrocuted. Apparently, I learned nothing from that cat's brief, wet, and painful experience.

There's a lingering question I have regarding the monster, (view spoiler)

Sherry Fundin says

I find Eric's writing to be fascinating and entertaining. His characters and worlds come from someplace else, not always sure from where, but I do enjoy visiting them.

Me, Bill and Becca were meeting at the dam to discuss our business - a comic book series we were writing. Chrissy, Becca's younger sister, had tagged along, but that was okay. She sat by the water reading her book.

We heard Chrissy's terrified scream and ran to where she had been on the riverbank. No Chrissy.

I ran, looking for her, following her screams. I spotted her near the top of a tree. How did she get up there? Then I saw it. It had orange eyes, big fangs and wings wrapped around its body.

Chrissy fell and I tried to catch her. Becca ran to her to see if she was hurt. Chrissy didn't know how she got up in the tree, so I told them what I saw. Nobody believed me.

Kizmo, my online friend, helped me find the creature - it was a Chupacabra.

The information read - Nicaragua, three-foot wing span, myth. Kizmo asked me if I lived in Mushkobewun. When I told him yes, he went on to tell me about an Indian dig and a famous murder that happened in 1977 or 1978 in our area. A body had been found in a tree.

Chrissy fell ill and I knew we had to find the Chupacabra in order to save her.

5 STARS - Would Buy It For Them (lol)

I received this book in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Eric's books always have some really awesome book covers. The title for this book is descriptive of the adventures of the trio in trying to solve the mystery of Chrissy's illness.

Even though the book is very short and can be read within a couple of hours, I found it to be detailed and thorough in the plot and with the characters. Sal became my hero and I will be curious to see how he grows and develops into the young man he is becoming. Eric is currently working on the second Sal Van Sleen book and I can hardly wait to go on his next adventure with him.

I have also read Undermountain (my review [HERE](#)) and Afterlife (my review [HERE](#)), from Eric's Undermountain Saga and loved them. I still think of them often and they bring a smile to my face as I remember them. Book III is in the works and I am eagerly anticipating getting my hands on it. With Shadow of the Oak, Eric does not disappoint.

Shadow of the Oak Eric Edstrom

Arthur says

Enjoyed this story very much. Look forward to more from this author.

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

What can I say this book is a great mystery to be read at any age. The story, characters, and background were cleverly woven together. I just love how the main character Sal tries to pull one over on everybody whether he succeeds or fails. Personally I rooted for his best pal Billy to get ahead of Sal's scheming ways. Here are my thoughts:

Sal Van Sleen, is your typical teenage boy, who tries to get out of doing the things he's suppose too. He has his eye on a special girl who as yet to notice his attentions. He and his pal Billy were working on creating a comic book along with Becca(Sal's crush). Billy tries to bounce ideas off Sal for their comic book characters yet is annoyed that Becca isn't there to help them as planned. When Becca finally shows up her sister Chrissy is also along with her. Chrissy is unexpectedly hurt and no one knows the cause of her illness. Yet Sal with Billy's help goes in search of a cure for Chrissy. It seems to be a race against the clock to save Chrissy's life and solve the mystery. What hurt Chrissy? Will Sal admit his feelings for Becca? Can Billy and Sal find what hurt Chrissy? Your answers await you in Shadow of the Oak.

Eric Edstrom says

I wrote it, so I think it's great!

Laura Thomas says

I've read Eric's Undermountain Saga and this is a bit different.

Young folks and us older folks will love this first chapter in the Sal Van Sleen Series. I did!

As part of my review, I'm including a conversation I had with Cole, my son. He read the book and we had a lively discussion about it. He's 18 years old and I thought it would be fun for you, the readers, to get both of our thoughts about it.

My Review

I felt like a kid again! Eric's written a story that takes you back. For me, way back! I used to hang out at a decrepit bridge on the bank of a creek near my house when I was young.

I still remember the sounds of water tumbling over rocks, seeing butterflies and dragonflies flitting through

the tall reeds. And the cattails, oh those glorious cattails. We couldn't wait to get our hands on those. Used to whack each other with them and come home with fluffy white seeds all in our hair.

What we didn't have was the thing in this book. It's mean and nasty and not to be toyed with.

When it attacks Chrissy, she ends up contaminated by it and is lying in the hospital. What started as a fun day at the dam, discussing comic book strategies, becomes a journey to capture or kill the creature, and hopefully find a cure for Chrissy.

I really enjoyed the interaction between Sal, Billy, and Becca. They are very different from each other, and while that causes friction at times, they do stick together where it matters. True friends through thick and thin.

Once Billy and Becca believe Sal's story of the creature, they put their heads together and come up with a plan that lands them in the pickle of all time!

I loved this story. I want more!

And now, enjoy this discussion Cole and I had about the book!!

So tell me Cole, how did you like Shadow of the Oak?

Cole: I thought it was great! It read really fast and felt like I was watching a movie, something like Goose Bumps.

Me: I loved it too. I could see it all so clearly. Wish you could have seen the creek where I grew up. You'd really get a sense of the area these guys hung out at and how easily you could believe in this creature being there.

Is there a character you liked the most and why?

Cole: Yes, Billy. He felt like the most complex of the trio. Liked his view of Becca changing, changing...throughout the book.

Me: I'd have to say Sal. He stuck to his guns about the creature, even when his friends didn't believe him. Also, I had fun watching him fumble around with his crush on Becca.

What made you laugh?

Cole: Billy, when he was designing the dresses instead of working on the comic books.

Me: That was funny. What made me laugh was Becca and how she knew these two boys way better than they thought.

Was it a fast read? Easy to follow?

Cole: Yes, very fast and creative. Read it in about an hour and didn't want it to end yet.

Me: Yeah, took me about that long too. It just flew by and now I wish I could rush over to Amazon and get

more!

What was your favorite part?

Cole: When the monster started to go up...oops, can't tell you that.

Me: I know! That was crazy. I remember you saying how hopeless the situation was.

Would you read more of this series?

Cole: Yep. I'm curious as to what could possibly happen after the Chupacabra incident.

Me: Me too. Wonder what kind of pickle they could get into next.

What would you like to see happen in the next book?

Cole: I would like to see how Sal's dad could be thrown into the mix.

Me: Good one. He does seem to share something special, almost secret, with Sal. As for me, I'd like to see something happen at the dam again, maybe some kind of sea monster the next time.

Cole's rating ~ 5 Chups!

My rating ~ 5 Chupies!

Well, there you have it folks! We both agree on some things and definitely agree that we loved the book!

Eric Edstrom says

I wrote this novella, so I really love it!

latybug says

After reading and enjoying the Scion Chronicles, I decided to give this series a try. As expected, I'm hooked.
