



The Manse

Lisa W. Cantrell

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Happy Halloween!

Each Halloween, the Manse becomes a House of Horrors. Vampires, werewolves, ghouls and ghosts - not to mention Frankenstein's monster - stalk the premises. Bats and spiders drop upon the unwary. At every turn a new fright awaits - all in fun, of course.

Happy Halloween

But the Manse's history of horror is ancient and terrible - more awful than the innocent Trick-or-Treaters can imagine. For twelve years it has been biding its time, feeding on the fear its unsuspecting visitors so willingly offered...

Happy Halloween

Until tonight. Tonight is the Thirteenth Annual House of Horrors.

It will be the last.

Tonight, at the Witching Hour, all Hell will break loose.

Happy Halloween

The Manse Details

Date : Published October 1st 1987 by Tor Books

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Author : Lisa W. Cantrell

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From Reader Review The Manse for online ebook

Pete Krolczyk says

I own a signed copy of this book and if I ever decide to get off my butt and start writing again... she's the 1st one I call. One of my literary heroes. I have read this so many times, I've actually lost count. Mood and description. Like a combination punch. There are not enough stars to give this book.

BRNTerri says

Graded D for dull. The cover sucked me in. I was fooled by a pumpkin. Twin sisters own the Manse and one of them is evil. Something she did decades ago has caused the Manse to become haunted. I guess because the number thirteen is considered an unlucky number to some is why the author chose the thirteenth year of the Manse being in operation as a haunted house for things to go haywire.

We got no backstory on any of the main characters except a little towards the end on Elizabeth but for some reason got some on one of the many extra secondary characters. There were too many characters in this book (PoJo, Davy, Randy, Frank, Ted, Vince, Buddy, Elizabeth, Florence, Dood, Samantha, Zack, Pearl, Peter) and not one of them was interesting in any way. Out of all the main characters we only got the age of one, and that was Elizabeth. I have no clue of the age range of the others. Nothing about them made me think they were younger, like in their twenties, so maybe they're in their thirties, who knows?

There were three 'scary' incidents that happened inside the Manse before all hell broke loose at the end, two of which involved secondary characters, but because I didn't care a thing about those characters, I just wasn't interested. And I'm tired of main characters always surviving bad stuff in books and film.

SPOILERS: There were a few interesting scary scenes. A little boy named Davy was spooked at the Manse so he went outside to escape it and saw a fountain statue come to life. Her face was made up of hundreds of yellow eyes that turned into one huge eye. She pivoted around with swollen cheeks and water sprayed out of them towards Davy. Another scene near the end, on Halloween, there was a maze of mirrors in the Manse that began to suck children into it. One creature was trapped in the mirror and its eye exploded and a 'puss-like fluid' splattered onto it.

The story was just longer than it needed to be with boring characters and boring dialogue.

There's a sequel to this called Torments.

Latasha says

I was tricked by the cover art :(

Justin Lewis says

I picked this book up because I saw it on the list of Stoker award winners and figured I've give it a shot. Honestly, I'm just getting into horror and figured I'd start with something that came recommended.

I really enjoyed about 85% of the book. The last act, while cool in execution, just didn't do it for me. The characters were great and well developed. The 'action' scenes were a little hard to follow; I found myself having to re-read sections to understand exactly what was happening. Overall, this book kind of reminded me of watching an 80's horror flick. Cheesy-good times to be had, but don't expect this one to make you sleep with the lights on.

Taylor Hansen says

3.5 stars

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

Meh, the book had great cover art but I'm not sure why it was chosen as an award winner. It's a typical haunted house story but without much backstory explained - little plausibility on how the house itself comes alive when it does. It's an 80's horror fun romp but I had little fun in it for some reason - could it be because I'm too jaded by now?

Characterization is lackluster. There's some trademark characters like Pearl, who is the ominous housekeeper who warns about the house, and then there's the toss-away people who run the house for the halloween event. A random love story is involved, although it'd be as good without. There's a twist for the homeowner, that I did like, but other than that little stood out.

My main gripe was this book was dull - it didn't flow together well enough and with enough ooomph purpose to keep me enthralled. I didn't care much about characters, some of the cheesy scenes didn't work, and I found myself confused rather than glued to a lot of the action scenes.

There's little else to say about this one - it has a cool cover, that Halloween vibe, but it doesn't make the cut as a horror novel that stands above the others.

Jeannie says

"The Manse" by Lisa W. Cantrell Is an amazing read!The characters are very likable!The story line will draw you in and keep you reading well into the night!I loved this book I didn't want to put it down! I Highly recommend!! Great read!!

Jonathan Phillips says

As far has horror books go, this one ranks high on my list. I found it to be very entertaining, pretty scary, yet underated. The only problem i had with it was how many people were included. Some of which were mentioned and I thought that they were going to play a more prominent role, but they didn't. They were mentioned, then forgoen without anymore elaboration. Other than that, it thought it was pretty decent.

Cat Tutt says

This one was fated for me to read. A friend on a horror book group suggested it, and it turned out my Hubs already had a copy upstairs. I was looking for something with a Halloween theme, and this was it. The first part of the book is slower, though not in a bad way, but all hell breaks loose in the end.

*4 Stars

Katy Mann says

Is there a category for "got the book, plan to read before Halloween?

No, just Read, Currently Reading, Want to Read.

Edward Lorn says

It is with great sorrow that I must admit to finding no pumpkins devouring newel posts present in this novel. In fact, the book had absolutely nothing to do with pumpkins with teeth or disembodied skeletal arms stroking bannisters. Sad panda.

Dude and dudettes, I'm burned out on 80s horror. I might have liked this more had it actually had a stronger Halloween vibe (which is what I was looking for), but it didn't. In fact, I'm more interested in who the author was and what happened to her than I am in reading the second book *Torments*. As far as I can tell, Lisa W. Cantrell fell off the map around 1990 and hasn't landed anywhere yet. She published four novels and vanished. Wicked pissah of a myst'ry, eh!

I liked three things about this book: Davy, the scene in the mirror maze, and the fact that it ended.

In summation: A serious lack of Halloweeniness killed this read for me. I wanted pumpkins and shit, man. Can't a Dood get a fucking pumpkin? (Only people who have read this will get that reference.)

Final Judgment: The literary equivalent of candy corn.

(Thanks to Evans Light for scaring this one up for me. If nothing else, it looks good on my shelf.)

Leah says

Don't go in expecting the Overlook Hotel. The Manse is a slow burn style of 80s horror situated more in the neighborhood of Hill House or Gaudlin Hall, at least pacing wise.

A few years back I picked up a used copy because it had won a Bram Stoker Award. After learning that Misery won the 1987 Stoker for Best Novel, The Manse winning Best First Novel makes sense; obviously, the voters of 1987 preferred more psychological horror than slashers or splatter.

Recommended only if you enjoy 80s horror with rotating POVs, a slow but steady buildup to the climax, and terror that relies more on your own imagination than having everything shown to you in graphic detail.

3.5 stars

(view spoiler)

Autumn Is Azathoth says

Review soon: an oldie but scary good:)

tattooedreader13 says

Did not finish - I just couldn't get into this one. Nearly 70 pages in and still no concept of a plot. Giving it up for now.

Gary Butler says

15th book read in 2013.

Number 147 out of 306 on my all time book list.

Follow the link below to see my video review:

<http://youtu.be/MYulujoJr8E>
