



# Inferno Park

*J.L. Bryan*

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## **Inferno Park** J.L. Bryan

Carter was only twelve when he witnessed the disaster that killed more than a hundred people at Starland Amusement Park. Five years later, Carter's hometown is no longer a busy Florida panhandle resort, but a slowly dying town full of empty motels and attractions rusting behind chains and padlocks.

Now something evil stirs in the ruins of the old amusement park...something with an alluring siren song drawing visitors into the dark mysteries of the forbidden world behind the gate. Something with an appetite for restless, yearning souls.

Carter reluctantly returns to the old park in the company of a new girl in town, who is obsessed with urban decay and pop-culture ruins, and discovers the evil at work. To stop it, and protect the children of the town, Carter will have to face his oldest and deepest fears.

## **Inferno Park Details**

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Author : J.L. Bryan

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# From Reader Review Inferno Park for online ebook

## Heidi says

Four Stars: A creepstastic book that will make you sure you never feel the same about amusement parks again.

It is a balmy summer night. Thirteen year old Carter is perusing the town, enjoying those last, long summer nights of freedom before school starts. He is hoping to catch sight of the girl he is secretly crushing on. When Carter see Trish entering the Starlight Amusement Park, he doesn't hesitate, he buys a ticket and heads in. Carter loves the old amusement park. He pauses to drink in the sights and sounds. He breathes deeply and catches a whiff of salty ocean air swirling through the park, thick with the scents of cotton candy, fried food and buttery popcorn. The park is alive with lights, noise and magic. Little does Carter know that in a few minutes, this will happy place will become a scene of horror. Will Carter ever escape the Inferno Park?

### What I Liked:

\*Fair warning, this book isn't for the faint of heart. It is a dark, thrilling, gory, spooky story that will haunt you long after you have finished. I was thoroughly entertained, and I couldn't help but to draw comparisons to one of my all time favorite authors, Stephen King, while reading Inferno Park. This book totally has a King vibe with its creepy setting and terrifying villain. I assure you, once you finish this one, you will think twice before visiting an amusement park. Bryan does to amusement parks what King did to clowns. If you are a horror fan, don't miss this one.

\*I loved the amusement park setting. Bryan painstakingly crafts two versions of the amusement park. The bright, happy, before park, vivid and alive, although it is showing the signs of wear, and then in contrast, the ruined, haunted park. I loved the attention to detail, and I especially appreciated how Bryan managed to engage all of my senses. He skillfully describes the sights, sounds, smells and thrills of an amusement park before turning into something extraordinarily creepy. It was awesome. Even though I am a huge fan of amusement parks, I will be thinking twice the next time I visit one, and you can sure as heck bet that I will NEVER visit one after hours.

\*I liked how the book focused on the history of the small town. The reader learns how the park was born, saw it in its glory days, and then witnessed the gradual decline. Once the park slides into ruin, the fall out on the town is a rapid downward spiral. I enjoyed how carefully Mr. Bryan created this town and how he laid out its history. The demise of the town helped to intensify the eerie atmosphere.

\*Carter is a likable hero. He is intelligent, unassuming and unafraid of hard work. Long before the accident in the park, Carter was afraid of the giant Devil Roller Coaster. Since the destruction, Carter has been haunted by nightmares. The park has affected Carter on so many levels, it haunts him and it destroyed his life as he knew it. When kids start to go missing, Carter is talked into visiting the park by a new girl in town. Even though he is frightened of the park, he agrees. Before long, Carter is drawn into a horrifying struggle. When the final stakes are on the table, Carter makes a stunning, altruistic choice. I loved his bravery and commitment.

\*Victoria, Carter's partner in crime, is the perfect compliment. She is inquisitive to the point where it gets her in trouble, she is determined and stubborn and willing to try and make a difference. I loved that she didn't back down either once the horrible truth was revealed.

\*Believe it or not, I liked that there wasn't a fully developed romance in this one. When the new girl, Victoria, comes to town and befriends Carter, I thought a relationship was in the works. Surprisingly, the two remain friends. I thought it was great that the book didn't delve into a romance, because somehow a fledgling romance in the face of evil seemed out of place.

\*This one is non stop action and thrills. The first chapter alone will suck you in with the terrifying accident. There is suspense, mystery and plenty of chills to keep you entertained throughout.

\*The climax is riveting. I wish I could go into details, but I won't. I will just say this: prepare for a hellish roller coaster ride! It is epic! Then once the adrenaline settles down, the book ends nicely and neatly with a spot of hope. No cliffhangers or unanswered questions. This is a stand alone!

And The Not So Much:

\*As I mentioned, this book is not for the squeamish, fraidy cats. Just as Mr. Bryan spared no details creating the park and its atmosphere, he does the same with the fright and the gore. Some of the scenes are truly terrifying. I will say this, I didn't find the gore over the top or overly gristly, but it was certainly enough to scare me.

\*I wished that there was more on the whole mom angle. I kept expecting something to develop on that end of the story, but it didn't. No big deal, but I was hoping that she would make another appearance.

\*Don't read this before bed time or right before you go to an amusement park. You have been warned.

Inferno Park is a must read book for all fans of paranormal horror. With exceptional characters, suspense and outstanding world building, fans will be flocking for more. Once I started, I couldn't put it down. The haunted, decayed amusement park is the stuff of nightmares, and I suspect that after reading this one, you will be a bit hesitant the next time you visit an amusement park. I know I am, especially since the day after I read this book, the Colossus roller coaster at Magic Mountain caught on fire!

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09....> If you are on the hunt for a terrifying, creeptastic book for the Fall season, this one is not to be missed. Mr. Bryan has rivaled Stephen King with this tale, and I don't say that lightly. Just get it.

Favorite Quotations:

"a ride is much more interesting when it includes the risk of serious injury or death, don't you agree?"

"That's where the fear lives, down inside you, not inside whatever it is that's scaring you."

"They say the devil resides within each person, watching and whispering."

A huge thanks to J.L. Bryan for providing me a copy in exchange for an honest review and for haunting my sleep! All opinions are my own and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

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## **Nicola says**

I really enjoyed this book. Having read the Ellie Jordan series I assumed it was along the same lines. How stupid of me. However it was fantastic and I loved it all. Even the horror parts.

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## **Lee Dunning says**

I'm leaning toward 3.5 stars on this one - 3.75 even.

I almost didn't finish this book, all because of the crazy first chapter. Initially, I was really enjoying the setup. Carter, a 12-year-old with a first crush, lives in a seaside town full of gaudy Americana displays - things we used to see off of exit ramps during our long car rides to our summer vacation destinations. Giant, garish octopi, mermaids, flamingos and sharks. There is also a large amusement park, getting a bit long in the tooth, but still attractive to young kids willing to overlook the flaking paint. Then the "inciting incident" occurs and it is so over the top, so crazy, and so in your face, that I thought I'd switched to a different story. On top of that, Carter's reaction to what is probably the most horrific thing a young kid could witness seems much too reserved.

I almost stopped there. A friend prodded me to at least get through the second chapter. I did, and I'm glad I did.

Starting with Chapter Two, our story takes up five years later after the nastiness in Chapter One. Carter is still trying to put the past behind him, get through his last year of high school, and get away from his now dying town to start his life over. He meets a young lady, Victoria, and his life changes for the better - until something starts to prey upon the towns young people.

The creepiness of the next 3/4 of the books is well done. It's not a in-your-face shocking bloodbath like the first chapter. It's more subtle and atmospheric. It's obvious some evil has come to roost in the old amusement park, but exactly what it is and why it's there are a mystery for some time.

Fritz Leiber once wrote (and probably others too) that the moment you show the monster, your horror story loses its impact. The same was true for this book. Once a name was put upon the entity, I felt much of the creepiness evaporated. I think that if the "monster" had remained unlabeled, and had also not made appearances outside the amusement park, the story would have kept its momentum for much longer.

I'd strayed away from reading horror for some years now, mostly due to the disappointing nature of most of the writing. I took a chance on this one, and for the most part I felt the author did an exceptional job of telling a scary story without resorting to Hollywood slasher cliches. The ending was better than average too. You have to get past that first chapter, though, and put up with a certain amount of cheese in the defeat of the evil.

One more plus, and I'll shut up. The author did a fantastic job of researching classic roadside attractions and the history of amusement parks. The level of detail used to describe the area and the old businesses added quite a lot to my enjoyment of the story. Despite my dislike of the first part of the book and cheesy resolution, I would definitely consider picking up another book by J.L. Bryan.

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## Lori says

\*throws everything off desk and waits for this book\*

I'm not sure how much to say about this book. Everything is wound so tightly and people are so freaking uptight about spoilers that I'm almost scared to even talk about it.

Spoiler Free Review:

Conch City is a sea side town with a cheaper alternative to Disney World. It's main attraction is a horror themed roller coaster called Inferno Mountain. Carter is scared of the ride, the laughing devil's head seems to be taunting him when he goes to ride it. The amusement industry is Carter's life he's spent his life on the

beach dealing with tourists at his parent's go cart track. That all changes when a disaster hits the park.

This book is packed full of creepy vibes. It had this outstanding ability to give me chills. From the moment the big bad thing happens the book is literally a roller coaster ride of bad stuff happening to Carter and his friends.

It also has this insane ability to stick with me. I remember details, and character names, and feelings and emotions well after I have finished the book. I keep turning certain scenes around in my brain. Scenes I desperately wish would go away by the way. I have swiss cheese holes in my brain stuff slips through really really easily, Inferno Park is glued in there.

If you like sweeping horror that creeps up on you then this book may just be for you. If you don't mind vomiting in your mouth a little bit this book might just be for you. If you like being scared this book might just be for you. If you don't like any of those things read the book.

I can't really place my finger on ONE thing that makes me stand up and say 'read this book!!!' I mean it's the whole freaking thing. The opening is cinematic in feel. The middle just builds on the feeling that I am watching a really great slow burning horror film, and then the bodies start dropping and I'm like...OH MY GAWD!

The plot is this ebb and flow where you think...oh no he just did that, but it's okay, because they are totally not going too.. oh their doing that. If I could, I probably would have read this book with my hands over my eyes at the scary parts. Cue foreshadowing music, cue creepy shadows, cue classic classic horror vibes.

The characters feel like real teenagers. They are not well adjusted, they make big dumb teenager decisions, they fumble and stumble their way through all the horrible crap happening to them. Carter and Victoria are characters I think every former geeky teen can identify with.

From the moment I saw that JL Bryan was releasing this book up until I turned to the last page I was excited about this book. I'm so happy that I spent the time with it that I did.

Oh, and don't read Inferno Park right before bed. Or while eating.

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## **Aeicha says**

J.L. Bryan can write the hell out of a book and, with Inferno Park, he has once again created a highly entertaining, smartly crafted, utterly addicting read! My first thought when finishing this book: "That was some awesome fucked up shit!"

The Starland Amusement Park, in the panhandle of Florida, was home to a horrific catastrophe. Hundreds of people, many of them children, were tragically killed and twelve year old Carter witnessed it all. Five years later, the small seaside town has not recovered. What was once a bustling tourist destination, full of Mom & Pop businesses, is now a fastly dying town. Seventeen year old Carter just wants to finish high school and get the hell out of there...but something sinister in the ruins of the park has other plans for Carter and the teens in this dwindling town. Something evil lurks in the park and it's up to Carter and new girl Victoria to save the day...if they can stay alive long enough, that is!

What a spooktastic, fun, twisty read! Bryan holds nothing back in Inferno Park; it is filled to the brim with chills, thrills, and bloody good times! And the book starts with a wicked bang right in the first chapter. Seriously, this first chapter has one of the highest body counts, like, EVER! And the shocks and twists never stop coming! I was all “There’s no way he’s gonna do that...eeep, he totally just did!” and by the time I’d think there’s no way Bryan would “go there”, we’d be driving past “there”, manically waving goodbye.

Genuinely creepy and eerie, with real frights, Bryan creates a captivating and spine-tingly atmosphere. Inferno Park is quite the cinematic reading experience, and is reminiscent of fun, watch-through-your-fingers horror movies. The quickly dying seaside town makes for an effective, isolated setting, while the haunting ruins of Starland Park, aka Inferno Park, is deliciously scary. Bryan has intricately built this amusement park of horrors, adding so much awesome detail; from the various rides to the game booths and food stands, Bryan fully immerses his readers in this world.

Carter and Victoria are both likable, realistic teenage characters that Bryan puts through absolute, compete hell! Carter, Victoria, and a myriad of other characters are victims of a truly evil baddie. This startling and unexpected antagonist hacks, stabs, chops, burns, decapitates, and every other crazy painful word you can think of, through his victims in a gorefest of awesomeness!

Twisted and twisty, Inferno Park throws some wicked curve balls and shocking revelations your way...so be prepared for anything and everything!

My Final Thoughts: Inferno Park is a thrilling read full of fun scares, excellent world-building, engaging characters, and one helluva baddie! Fans of horror movies aimed at teens and over-the-top slasher flicks will enjoy this book immensely. Oh, and I may NEVER go on an amusement park ride EVER again 0\_0

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### **Rhiannon Frater says**

Amazing. Review to come.

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### **Kara Prem says**

Promising start, a young teenage boy who lives in a Florida town that is almost entirely dependant of the tourists brought in by the local amusement park witnesses a terrible tragedy. A sinkhole opens up in the park, killing many people including the girl he had a crush on. Five years later, the town is dying, the park is boarded up and he befriends the new girl in school who is fascinated by urban decay and the park itself. Two younger boys, one is a bully, and the other is overweight sneak into the park at night and discover that there is something evil in there. The heavy kid is described as if being fat is the most vile thing on earth, while the bully is just a bully. I kinda lost interest there. Maybe I'll pick it up later, but the story was a bit draggy after the boys, and I found it stupid to see how vile the heavy kid was described.

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### **Mae Clair says**

I love J.L. Bryan’s Ellie Jordan Ghost Trapper series, so I thought I’d try another title by him. Inferno Park is a tale of horror set at an abandoned amusement park where a catastrophe happened years in the past. Carter

was just a kid when he witnessed the gruesome event, now at seventeen, he becomes friends with Victoria, a new girl in his school. Victoria is an amateur photographer who enjoys taking shots of abandoned and decaying places. Unfortunately, she and Carter (along with a number of kids in their town) soon discover that something sinister lurks within the old park and its evil is spreading.

I enjoyed the story, especially the parts related to the park itself. The descriptions were wonderful. Whether the author was describing the past glory days when the park was a thriving amusement attraction, or the current atmosphere of spookiness, horror, and decay, the scene setting was superb. I liked both of the lead characters and thought the secondary characters were also well developed. On the downside, some of the pacing dragged for me, and I actually enjoyed the first half of the book better than the second when the “evil” within the park was identified. Overall, a creepy read with good characters. 3.5 stars.

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### **Katie says**

Inferno park, or really Starland Amusement Park was super successful until one grim day, when a sinkhole opened up and took down most of the park. Let me start off by saying that the events that took place up until the collapse of the park were amazing, like I could see everything coming down in slow motion ( how it happens in movies, specifically Final Destination ).

Carter was only 12. He was at the park that day with his friends when the whole park collapsed and hundreds died. It should have been him, he should have been on the Inferno Mountain ride but he chickened out at last minute. Now, 5 years later he has to deal with the decisions he has made, and the decline of the town since the park has closed. The worst part is that now, kids are going missing. Carter and his friends have to stop what is happening in the park. He has to face going back into the park, and the evil being that still lingers in the park, longing for more souls!

I thought Inferno Park was a great read, Thrilling and exciting it kept me on my toes trying to figure out what or who was lurking in the park! The description of the park and the rides were great, I could imagine all the rides and the layout. J.L Bryan does wonders describing the park so I felt like I knew what it was like.

Since we are talking about the description of the park, every time he described the huge devils head of the Inferno Mountain ride I kept thinking about the entrance to the freak show in season 4 of American Horror Story. It is exactly what I have pictured in my head!

This was a book that not only thrilled me and scared me but also made me think about how small amusement parks like Starland Amusement park made or broke small towns. I am always a huge fan of J.L. Bryan, and this book was a great book to read to get me in the Halloween Spirit.

Check out more of my reviews at Inkk Reviews  
<http://www.InkkReviews.com>

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### **Mary says**



## Shirley says

4 1/2 to 5

*I received Inferno Park in exchange for a fair and honest review.*

You know when you watch a scary movie and you yell at the stupid characters to not go in that abandoned house, not look out the window into the shadows, not to leave their safe and warm bed to see what was making that eerie noise outside? Then, when they do it anyway, you cover your eyes and hope that they aren't going to end up dead... or worse? Yeah, I spent a lot of time mentally yelling at the characters in this book. If I could have closed my eyes I would have, but that would have made it kind of difficult to read.

It came as no surprise to me that J.L Bryan did scary well. That's actually part of the reason why I drug my feet in finally reading Inferno Park. His vivid descriptions and his talent at making readers squirm is evident in both his dark Paranormals series and his lighter Songs of Magic series. I had no doubt that the same vivid descriptions and attention to detail would take the horror factor in Inferno Park over the top. I wasn't disappointed.

Besides spending a lot of time trying to mentally coax characters into doing the smart thing and stay away from the creepy abandoned amusement park, I enjoyed the story and the characters. Carter was a sweet kid at 12 and had grown into an impressive teen. He was pretty level headed as well as compassionate. He could have easily given up, especially with all he had been through. He had a goal to work his way out of town and for a lot of reasons, he took it very seriously.

Victoria was great too. I think I liked her most for bringing a spark back into Carter's life. She shook things up. I liked her outlook and the unique way she looked at things.

As for the story itself... it was intense. No, the author held nothing back. The gore, the terror and the suspense were all there. Thankfully, there were tiny breaks in the in those moments where things seemed almost normal. There were even a couple of moments that made me smile, but not a lot of them. The different POVs that were divided between most of the characters gave the story a different kind of flow. I liked it. Well, 'like' may not be the correct word since most of those POVs didn't end well.... but you get the idea.

No one came out of this one totally unscathed and there was more than one moment where I wanted to read ahead just to make sure that everyone made it out alive... but I didn't... and you shouldn't either. If you're looking for something scary to read with an intriguing story line, Inferno Park is perfect.

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## Michelle says

I've read a few of J.L Bryan's books, and I know he doesn't go easy on the detail, whether it be sparkly wings, or scary faerie beings, or even gory details, so when I began **Inferno Park** I knew it was going to be creepy, and I knew it wouldn't lack for detail.....and when the detail came, it was bloody, it was gruesome, it was great!!!!

Carter and his friend Jared, live in the resort town of Conch City, with the beach over the road, and Starland Amusement Park right at their door steps. One fateful evening their time is quickly, and brutally cut short by a sink hole, devastating the amusement park, and causing multiple injuries and deaths. From that moment on, Carter has never been the same, with daily nightmares and the run down park near by, it's hard to forget all the gruesome things he witnessed that day.

**Inferno Park** is told from Carter's point of view, we do however get to see others as the vast array of characters all explore the park for themselves, and we get a front row seat to some pretty spectacular scenes. One thing that quickly captured my attention was how the name of the book, **Inferno Park**, is linked with the the sad story of Starland Amusement Park itself, I thought this was a clever little piece of information.

When I initially began reading **Inferno Park** I ended up putting it down. A lot of others things got in the way of me enjoying this book so I waited until I was able to read it without being disturbed, and as soon as that time came, I devoured this book. **Inferno Park** is nothing like J.L. Bryan's others books, but I have to say this is by far my favourite one out of them all. I loved the attention to detail, from character descriptions, to the rusting flakes off the run-down rides. I honestly didn't know what to expect from reading **Inferno Park**, but I was not disappointed at all, even the cover of the book is amazing.

I know my review is vague, and I have purposefully not gone into detail about **Inferno Park**, I want YOU to read this book and be completely sucked into this world like I was, with no forewarning over what happens on the next page, or even the next chapter.

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## **lina says**

### **Loved it**

Gotta say this book is worth the read. I love the ending and i usually hate happy endings. This book is not dark as Edward Lee or Matt Shaw. Light but with little darkness in the book. This is just beating the devil with a little Dantes internal. 10 devils out of 10

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## **Books says**

**Inferno Park** was an incredibly exhilarating read and one I won't soon forget! I've read J.L. Bryan's "Jenny Pox", and enjoyed it so much that I got this book without even looking at the book summary. I had high expectations when I started **Inferno Park** and was not disappointed. I was taken on a wild rollercoaster ride of terror through an abandoned amusement park where some of my worst nightmares found a stage.

The only complaints I have is that **Inferno Park** needs another quick round of editing to weed out the little grammar bugs, and also that I found the main characters somewhat lacking. They were not as well-rounded as the characters in "Jenny Pox". Strangely though, I really liked some of the secondary characters.

For everything else I have only high praises. The world-building was done magnificently and I easily immersed myself in the eerie depths of Starland. The rides and attractions were creative and thrilling, and I could vividly imagine the sights and sounds as the decayed amusement park was brought to life again. Even the descriptions of the food at the concession stands had my mouth watering! My favorite chapters were the

ones where characters went on rides or explored eerie attractions, and then...bam! It just doesn't always end well. But because I'm an authentic horror fan, I enjoyed these chapters because the author skillfully managed to scare the bejeesus out of me. He uses inventive ways to end his characters that would shame George R.R. Martin. That said, this is not a book for the squeamish reader.

Overall, I was delighted by this story and enjoyed it immensely. This is classic horror at its finest. I don't think I'll ever look at amusement parks the same way again!

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### **Laura Thomas says**

Life in Conch City was good for Carter. He lived by the beach and Starland Amusement Park was but a stone's throw away. But, good things come to a swift and tragic end when a sinkhole opens up under Starland. So many injuries, so much death. Carter survived but he'll never be the same.

I went into this book cold. I didn't read the blurb or skim any reviews. I just knew from that spectacular cover that I was in for a ride. The bestest, scariest kind of ride, where you squeeze your eyes shut, hold on tight as you can, and kiss your... Well, you know. Kind of like riding a rollercoaster, only so much more terrifying.

I've always thought a run down, abandoned amusement park would be the perfect setting for a horror story. I was once at our county fair and it was closing time. Most everyone was gone, the lights were going out one by one, faint laughter and shouts could be heard. I was alone but for a moment and I was terrified. I felt that while reading this book. Bryan breathed life into his characters, let me walk among them, and then let the evil seep in.

Having read the author's Ghost Trapper series. I know he can write some dark stuff, but I guess I was lulled into letting my guard down. It was just some teens exploring the rusted hulk of a park. Ha! Shame on me for thinking like a teenager. You know how they think they'll live forever. Well, the author puts a stop to that myth in such chilling ways. Amusement parks have so many attractions and games and I thought the author got really creative with how to use them for the best scares. And when I read the last page, the last word, I was left thinking, now that's a horror story.

Grab your tickets. Choose a ride. But be warned. The ride ain't over til it's bloody well over.

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