



Resthaven

Erik Therme

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2016 Kindle Scout Winner

The last thing Kaylee wants to do is participate in a childish scavenger hunt--especially inside the abandoned retirement home on the edge of town. When she finds a bruised, deaf boy hiding inside one of the rooms, she vows to lead him to safety . . . only to discover the front doors are now padlocked, and her friends are nowhere to be found. Kaylee is about to learn that not everything that goes 'bump in the night' is imaginary, and sometimes there are worse things to fear than ghosts.

Resthaven Details

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From Reader Review Resthaven for online ebook

Dannii Elle says

This novel started quite weakly for me. The protagonist was initially viewed as spoiled and bratty, as were her friends, and their petty squabbles quickly bored me. I was expecting to be thrilled and terrified but instead I found myself eye-rolling to every other line of their angst-filled, bitchy and petty arguments. I also found the characters to be pretty weakly fabricated and found many inconsistencies in their creation. For example, there was a repeated usage of outdated language which was at odds with their other, more modern and 'slangy' forms of speech and totally not befitting their age. Their interactions also felt a little exaggerated as though this was a mockery of teenage life and not a true representation of it. It seemed like each of the young females had been slotted into a stereotype and they acted their role to the melodramatic T. It transpired that no-one in their little friendship group actually liked each other and they represented everything I hated and avoided about my own school days - yet another reason to dislike this book.

And yet I found myself slowly altering my opinion. The plot progressed however and I was (thankfully) able to forget about the unlikable little group and get the thrills I required. There was mystery and intrigue and I had no clue where the plot was heading. New characters and new scares were added and there seemed to be an almost supernatural element of the novel created.

The plot, whilst not unique, was provoking and well executed but I found I could not fully immerse myself into the novel when there was no character I could empathize with or align myself to.

BookLoversLife says

Kaylee is new in town and doesn't really know anyone. Her mom wants her to make an effort to meet people so when Anna invites her to a friends house for a party, Kaylee reluctantly accepts. But when they get there, they realise it isn't a party, but actually a scavenger hunt in an old abandoned retirement home! What lurks inside the building??

I was looking forward to this as I enjoyed the authors first book, but was a little let down to be honest. It felt like it was missing something! It started off slow and then when we get to the building, it took a while to take off. There wasn't enough scares, nor enough tenseness to make this thoroughly enjoyable. I know this is aimed at YA, but they can handle a little darkness!!

Character wise, I didn't particularly like any of them. One was extremely bitchy, and extremely nasty, one was extremely whiney and Kaylee herself was a little too.... I don't know. She didn't capture my attention and I honestly couldn't care what happened to them. I think the only one I liked was the little boy.

In all, this was readable. It kept my attention and I finished it, but it was forgettable!

Randi Larson was good. She read the story well, but lacked the cadences necessary to bring the book fully alive. She had a good few tones and voices and I enjoyed her performance.

I was voluntarily provided this audiobook for free from the author, narrator, or publisher. This in no way affected nor influenced my thoughts.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

Old deserted buildings hold a fascination for most people; those where people have died even more so.

I can quite see why Jamie, who in my opinion is a nasty manipulative little brat, used Resthaven, an abandoned rest home, as the scene for a scavenger hunt for some 'friends'. More than that I am not going to say, except that this is a fast paced, creepy read. I devoured it.

The author has portrayed the vindictive bitchiness, the emotional eruptions, the vacillating 'friendliness' of the teenage girl with great expertise.

Thank you to author Erik Therme for providing an ARC of Resthaven in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Terry (TBC) says

Audiobook review

What a way to spend an evening! A mixed bunch of girls, mismatched but put together. They go on a scavenger hunt and things go from bad to worse. I don't know how they would put up with each other as such a different outlook & behaviours. But that's life & friendships!

Narrator did a good job. All girls were voiced differently, not easy! So was easy to know who was talking no matter where in the story.

Really enjoyed it.

Linda Strong says

The very last thing Kaylee wants to do is be part of a scavenger hunt with other girls she doesn't know all that well and especially because it takes place inside an abandoned retirement home.

It seems like all the girls are at odds with each other and they all separate to go in different directions. And then things get really scary

Someone has padlocked the front door so that none of them can leave. There are three floors of empty rooms... or are they?

Kaylee comes across a young boy in one of those rooms and she discovers that he is deaf. Her first thought is to take the boy and leave ... but how?

And she really gets unnerved when an elderly man threatens her and tries to take the boy.

What proceeds is a race through the home, trying to find a way out before lives are lost.

This is a fast-paced book with a surprise thrown in here and there. Kaylee and the other girls are typical teenagers. Lots of that teenage angst due to single parent homes for most of them. One feels entitled because

she comes from money. A couple of them blame themselves for the family dysfunction. Kaylee is the new kid on the block, and not quite fitting in yet, and angry at her mom for moving her there away from all her old friends.

I ran across this book through Kindle Scout I nominated it and because it was selected by Amazon to be published, I received a digital copy at no cost. They do ask for the nominators to leave a review if they so choose. I chose to do so.

J. Kahele says

This was a book that really had me doing this a lot....

This book plunged me back into my youth, when I was a young girl and afraid of the monsters under my bed. This book scared me so bad I had a nightmare last night.

Kaylee is an angry teen who is the new kid on the block when her mother moves her away to a new place. She is forced to take part in a scavenger hunt with girls she doesn't care for in an old abandoned retirement home. When the girls bicker as most teenager girls do, they part and then things really begin to get interesting, when they find they have been locked into the house. What happens next will make your mind spin. Definitely one of the better thrillers I have read this year and recommend it completely.

K.T. Katzmann says

This scene happens at least three times in the book.

For transparency, I got a free copy of this for review purposes.

A group of girls head to an abandoned mental institution to entertain a horrible person with a scavenger hunt. Hijinks ensue, and I chomp at the bit for one of them to get knocked off. Then the lack of profanity tells me I'm reading YA, and I realize that the genre's survival rates are inordinately high.

Pity that. Let's run down the characters.

There's Anna. Oh, Anna.

Anna is one of the most platonically perfect creations of the horror genre. She exists to be Wrong. Not just wrong in general, but Wrong on the cosmic scale of entities like the Silver Surfer. Whatever conflict or choice is in front of our heroes, **Anna is Wrong**. If new evidence suddenly reverses everyone's understanding of the situation, Anna will instantly flip her opinion to be just as immediately Wrong as she was five minutes ago.

Honestly, I was hoping Anna would be incapacitated all throughout the novel.

Who know who I liked? Wren, the quiet, wry girl with the insane memory and weird facts bobbing around her head.

Guess who gets messed up badly enough that they can't talk halfway through the book? **Not Anna.**

We also have Jaime, the perfect Mean Girls clone with wonderfully hateful dialogue who unfortunately buggers off for the vast majority of the novel.

As to our our hero, I honestly can't remember anything specific to her personality. Still, that's a common YA trope to give identification to the reader, so I can't get too down on it.

So how does the novel read? Well, do you know what a Quicktime event is? If you're not a video gamer, QTEs are moments in video games where they play a movie clip, and somewhere in the middle you have to rapidly hit buttons to avoid horrible death.

Press X To Not Die.

Now that gets annoying during gaming. Here, where we're inside the protagonist's head, constant life-or-death choices are strung along at a frenetic enough pace that I stayed involved and interested. **Duck that! Jump this! Run! It's angry! EVERYTHING'S ON FIRE!** It works.

And, in-between every few "stages," a new member of the supporting cast all but screams at our hero "MY PARENTS ARE DEAD."

The antagonist in the book (which I'll keep mum about) are logical characters with reasonable motivations and a tangible sense of threat towards our heroes, so points on that.

The ending is one of those that Cracked magazine would include in an article about **Things That Are Much Darker When You Think About Them.**

If I was an early teen, this would probably be an edge-on-my-seat ride the whole way through. For the appropriate YA crowd, I'd give it an extra star. As an introduction to slasher tropes for the middle school set, it's not bad. It'd make a good PG-13 thriller, I think.

Julie says

This is Erik Therme's second book, it's also the second one that I have read. Therme contacted me about a month ago requesting a review and I hesitated for one reason ... I don't read scary books. Ever. But I went ahead and took a chance with Resthaven and boy, am I glad that I did!

I really enjoyed the main character, Kaylee. She's such a strong, moral and intelligent character. I found myself wishing that I was like that when I was her age. She's so self confident and a wonderful character for

young readers to look up to. Kaylee was a perfectly created main character for this story. I couldn't imagine the book without her. There were a handful of secondary characters that were just as strong in their own ways but not always was the strength in a trait that people would be proud of. The differences between the characters and the depth of each, took the book to a different level ... it heightened the story in a way that can only be accomplished with beautifully created characters.

This is a Young Adult book. Nothing wrong with that but I've never read a YA suspense novel and I mistakenly thought that it would be less suspenseful because of the genre and I was totally wrong. It's full of suspense with tons of plot twists that I never saw coming. Resthaven is an incredibly entertaining journey that you're taken on and with each turn of the page, you're never sure which direction the story is going to take. Sitting down to read this reminded me a little bit of my Goosebumps days when that is all that I would read.

This is definitely a good book. One I would recommend to our 13-yo who is a book-hater (GASP! I know) and I think that it would keep his attention. Therme just gets better with each subsequent novel and it's fun to experience that kind of growth in an author. I'm excited to see what comes next because he knocked this one out of the park.

** I received this novel in exchange for an honest review **

Check out more of my reviews at Little Miss Bookmark!

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

Resthaven is a Kindle Scout Winner 2016. This is a great Young Adult novel that can easily please adults also.

The book is pretty much all go from the first page and is readable and engaging. The plot centralises on a group of teenagers who find themselves in an abandoned building where everything is not as it seems. They stumble upon various reveals and it's an adventure of courage, wits, strength and determination.

What happens inside Resthaven is nothing that any of them could predict. The dialogue in the book is done really well with age appropriate conversations and expressionism. It's easy to get a handle on each character.

I was hoping (personally) for something a touch more scary but that's only me as I like my dark edges. The book moves at a constant decent pace all the way to the end and I read it over a few hours. This one would be great for teens/young adult readers that like a modern day thriller/adventure style of book. Nice to see no Insta-love or love triangles thrown in as too many YA books do (predictable).

I had to read the ending twice until it sunk in fully and I must admit I wanted a bit more than it gave me. It's a good read that I do think many would enjoy and I'm happily recommending it to my teen son. 4 stars!

Thanks for reading my review! If you enjoyed it please leave me a "like" or a comment, I love to interact with other book lovers! For more of my book reviews, plenty of awesome books to win, author interviews and features come over to join me for book fun at: <https://www.facebook.com/BookloverCat...>

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sue says

When the author approached me to see if this book might interest me, I looked at it and read the blurb. I realized I already had this book which I had purchased, so agreed to bring it forward for a review and my thoughts.

I tried all the way through to read this from the angle of a YA as its mostly pointed towards that age bracket. After saying that, I think anyone can read this and enjoy it, remember, the YA has to be reflected in the book as to dialogue etc.

Keeping that in mind I read on. I found the slow pace at first a bit of a struggle, me personally I like to be 'thrown' inside the book at least by chapter 3. I didn't find that with this one, I got a bit confused on who was who too as a lot of characters in here that if they had more distinguishing features, flaws or made each to stand out more then my brain whilst reading would have acknowledged them more fully.

As the time went on though, this was rectified by the author and more in depth occurred.

Great story, great plot, some good jaw dropping moments which I am sure many YA would love.

Its a good read, makes for interesting time consumption. I don't think as an adult I could expect more for the category its placed in.

I do love the cover.

Michelle (Michelle's Book Ends) Shealy says

"I swallowed against my closed throat and inched closer. It was a closet, not much bigger than the bathroom, with two flashlights on the floor: one shining on a plastic dinosaur, the other on a stack of board game. Game pieces scattered everywhere like colored confetti. A shadow moved across the inside wall, and my breath came to a dead stop as a tiny hand-no bigger than a child's-lifted the dinosaur from the ground.".....

This young adult thriller starts out with the new girl in town. Kaylee is fifteen and without many friends. She's invited to hang out and goes along at the urging of her mother. There's an historical rest home nearby called "Resthaven." Kaylee's new friends decide to spend an evening there. Jamie gives them a scavenger hunt list with a promise of a reward for whoever wins. These new girls aren't exactly the nicest bunch. Jamie isn't someone you want to cross. Suddenly they find themselves locked inside. They aren't exactly alone and

Jamie has disappeared.

Kaylee finds that she can only depend on herself to get out of there. Not knowing where the others have gone, she finds a little boy. Why is there a child in the abandoned building of "Resthaven?" Is there something sinister lurking in the shadows or are these teenagers truly mean girls? Where are her new friends and are they ok?

This was a page turner. Couldn't wait to see what happened next. Does everyone make it out alive? What about the little boy? Why would he be in an abandoned building? Friendships will be built or broken.

Thank you Erik Therme

Shannon says

This is a youth book. Great story overall. Not my typical genre so hard for me to give an great review considering I wouldn't normally read this type of book.

Cary Morton says

I received a copy of this book directly from the author/publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Resthaven by Erik Therme was not exactly what I was expecting when I opened the front cover, and yet, was everything it promised. A good old-fashioned YA Thriller set in a creepy, abandoned retirement home, the pages of Resthaven were filled with terrifying moments, a vivid atmosphere, and ever-present danger. The book was thrilling, scary, and engaging in a way that kept me reading as I devoured the story of Kaylee and her group of angst teenage friends.

Okay, so they weren't really friends in the strictest sense of the world. In fact, as far as I could tell, none of the teens even liked each other. Jamie was a wreck of a spoiled trust-fund teen who drew in broken people around her and continually told them how lucky they were to even be in her presence. Personally, I couldn't stand her. For the most part, the characters were selfish, cowardly, and at times very close to being considered crazy. Kaylee though not perfect, seemed to be the most stable of the bunch.

My favorite character by far, though was Corbin, the deaf, dinosaur-loving kid who lived in little more than a closet. Without him, this story would have been vastly different. He really helped to solidify Kaylee as the protagonist and kept the plot moving.

Honestly, I liked the book a lot, but I wasn't a fan of the characters. I found it hard to identify with them, and the story leading up to the scavenger hunt at Resthaven seemed flimsy. Did I enjoy the book? Yes. It was engaging, well edited, and the danger was exciting... but I don't think it was as good as it could have been. In the end, I gave it a solid 4 stars because even though it wasn't perfect, it was still an engaging read, and

I'm glad to have read it.

Andrea says

Resthaven by Erik Therme is a mystery thriller novel that is gripping, and keeps the reader guessing. The author manages to expertly take on the voices and inner-mind workings of teenaged girls by depicting realistic dialogue, actions and body language. The story is filled with action, which is also well-written, and the writing is so descriptive the reader can almost place themselves inside the location and situation of the characters. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a fast-paced psychological thriller with an eerily unfolding mystery. The book may be dismissed as a young adult novel, but it is a good read for adults, too. I look forward to reading more work from this author. Enjoy the ride -- and see if you can guess the ending before the characters do. I dare you!

Lynn McCarthy says

This book is a young adult novel but can easily be enjoyed by any ages.

Kaylee is new to the town with no friends so when she is invited to a birthday party her mother makes her go.

Anna a girl from her building is also going when she gets there she finds out that it is a scavenger hunt in an abandoned rest home called Resthaven.

James gives them a camera each and promises a \$100 to the winner but James disappears shortly after and the door has been locked from the outside so nobody can get out.

I really enjoyed this book it had the spoilt bratty rich kid the savage dog and a young strange boy.
I was hooked a great read.

Thank you Erik Therme and Booklover catlady for a copy of this book.
