



The Jersey Devil

Hunter Shea

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“Old school horror.” —Jonathan Maberry

THE LEGEND LIVES

Everyone knows the legend of the Jersey Devil. Some believe it is an abomination of nature, a hybrid winged beast from hell that stalks the Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey searching for prey. Others believe it is a hoax, a campfire story designed to scare children. But one man knows the truth...

THE DEVIL AWAKES

Sixty years ago, Boompa Willet came face to face with the Devil—and lived to tell the tale. Now, the creature’s stomping grounds are alive once again with strange sightings, disappearances, and worse. After all these years, Boompa must return to the Barrens, not to prove the legend is real but to wipe it off the face of the earth...

THE BEAST MUST DIE

It’ll take more than just courage to defeat the Devil. It will take four generations of the Willet clan, a lifetime of survivalist training, and all the firepower they can carry. But timing is critical. A summer music festival has attracted crowds of teenagers. The woods are filled with tender young prey. But this time, the Devil is not alone. The evil has grown into an unholy horde of mutant monstrosities. And hell has come home to New Jersey...

“Shea delivers a tense and intriguing work of escalating tension splattered with a clever, extensive cast of bystanders turned victims...An otherwise excellent, tightly delivered plot...Fans of cryptid creatures are likely to revel in this love letter to a legendary menace.”— *Publishers Weekly*

Raves for *The Montauk Monster*

“A lot of splattery fun.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Frightening, gripping.”—*Night Owl Reviews*

The Jersey Devil Details

Date : Published August 30th 2016 by Pinnacle

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Author : Hunter Shea

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From Reader Review The Jersey Devil for online ebook

Empress Reece (Hooked on Books) says

The Pine Barrens -3.5 stars...

I love horror stories based on old legends so I was excited about reading this book. The legend goes that the Jersey Devil haunts the Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey and he's always looking for prey...

Shea then takes that legend to another level. I enjoyed the whole creature feature aspect and I thought the main characters, Norm the famous cryptozoologist and the Willet family who's been haunted by the Jersey Devil for years, were pretty cool.

What I didn't particularly care for though was the whole human & creature sex/rape thing. I thought that whole story line was just too much. I like stories and scare more easily if they're a little more realistic. Then there was another part where Shea compared the Jersey Devil to a cross between a child with down syndrome and a goat. I mean really?!- Political correctness went straight out the window with this book- just a heads up!

So the book could definitely use some more editing. Not only for the above mentioned, but in my copy there weren't any clear separations between POVs so it was confusing to read. It was one of those books where I had to read, then back up, then read again. Plus there were way too many side stories and extraneous characters that I think the story could have done without.

Overall I enjoyed it until it went off the rails and went beyond my willingness to suspend my disbelief but I'm sure there are others who may enjoy it. If you don't particularly care for stories with rape in the subject matter though, then you might want to steer clear.

*I received this ARC from NetGalley & Kensington Books in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Char says

3.5/5 stars!

The Jersey Devil, as you may have guessed, is a creature feature. It was fun and bloody, which are the top things I'm looking for in a book of this nature.

I thought it was a little too long, and a little far fetched, (but then again, most creature features are over the top.)

It was an entertaining and light read which was perfect for my mood.

You can get your copy here: [The Jersey Devil](#)

Recommended!

Matthew says

As a kid, I was fascinated with cryptozoology. Limited to books in the times before the internet, I'd page through, reading and studying the illustrations and now, so many years later, I can perfectly visualize the Jersey Devil again thanks to Mr. Shea. If you've never heard of it before, you're in for a treat as Mr. Shea brings it to life!

Because of my childhood fascination, I was pretty stoked to read Mr. Shea's book and it was a blast! The story has a large cast of characters, some that appear long enough to serve their purpose before moving on, but the main characters are the Willet family. Driven to search for answers after a mysterious mark appears on them, the family teams up with crypto hunter Norm Cranston after Jersey Devil sightings start surfacing. Along the way, the family engages in epic battles as they fight to learn the truth behind their marks and struggle to put an end to it once and for all.

This novel is a wonderful retake on the old tale and is one that any horror fan should NOT miss! The plot moves smoothly and it seemed like there was action on every other page, making this one a fast read that was hard to put down while never getting bogged down. While the likable family characters were great, I especially loved all the minor characters that appeared and disappeared throughout the book; you'll have to read it to see why!

If you're into monsters, cryptozoology, action or losing your fear of things that go bump in the night, do yourself a favor and pick this one up. You will not regret it.

Thank you to Kensington and NetGalley for the book in exchange for an honest, unbiased review!

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Review later. Maybe.

Kimberly says

4.5 stars!

THE JERSEY DEVIL, by Hunter Shea, is a fast paced rampage of the type of "old-school" horror I've always loved. The best thing, for myself, in reading a new book based upon an existing legend, is what the author brings into it to make the story uniquely his/her own. Hunter Shea is an author that has yet to fail me in that regard.

THE JERSEY DEVIL, a legendary folklore of a winged beast, originates in the Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey--a vast, wooded region easy to lose oneself in. Some think it is a form of hybrid demon, others, a "scary story" made up to keep children from straying into the Barrens. Then there are those families that insist: ". . . *He comes from a power greater than anything on earth . . .*"

Three generations of the Willet family believed in the Jersey Devil, for reasons all of their own.

"Every family had their secrets."

Hunter Shea has everything you could want in a story like this: authentic, believable characters that you come to know intimately through both their words and actions; an intense scope of atmosphere that retains the authenticity and mood as the novel progresses; violence, gore, and other monstrous scenes; and an ending that fits in perfectly with the tale he brings to life.

Even the secondary characters come off as *"real"* in this environment. Shea doesn't waste words on unnecessary filler--every part he creates has a reason for being here. The sense of family loyalty is especially prevalent when we are introduced to the lifestyles of those living near the Barrens. When one of their own is affected, the entire family feels it.

"Now, it was simply a matter of an eye for an eye."

This is one tale of the Jersey Devil that you won't want to put down until the very last page . . .

Highly recommended!

re-read September 2017: I think I enjoyed this one even more the second time through.

Bark says

This review and the rest of the crap I write can be seen @ my blog Bark's Book Nonsense . Stop by and say hey.

As the title suggests, this book is all about The Jersey Devil. He with the scary goat/horse faced visage and foul breath, who haunts hapless humans out there in the Jersey Pines. After reading this story, I do believe his name suits him just fine. He is a horrible beast and the things he does made me shudder in revulsion. It takes a lot to do that to me but this book delivered in that department.

This is a crazy, gruesome monster book where the monsters are truly monsters and not some poor little misunderstood, mistreated creature who has been wronged by mankind. These things are Evil. The framework is about a family seeking out and seeking revenge on The Jersey Devil who did them a big wrong many years previous. What they find deep in the woods is far more terrifying and depraved than they ever could have expected.

Be warned, lots of people die in the most gruesome of ways, perhaps a small town's worth of people. I do not exaggerate. Okay, maybe I do, but not in this case. The body count here is out of control and no living thing is safe, that includes animals and children too. It is a death free for all that is often pretty gross and unrelenting. I say this not to spoil your day or the book but only so you'll guard your heart going in. This one is most definitely not for the faint of heart. Characters, oh-so-many characters, are introduced, given a little backstory and just when you start to fear for their lives and are secretly screaming at them to get the hell out of the woods right-this-second-you-dummies, they become a little snack for a hungry monster. This happens time and again which is probably one of my only complaints. Somewhere around the last third I became a little exhausted at meeting yet more new people knowing their fate was sealed up tight. It started to get a wee bit repetitive and predictable there for a bit but the end made up for it as secrets were revealed. I do love learning secrets.

I'm giving this a four because there aren't enough truly horrific monster books out there in the world that have decent people at the core of the story and this one has both and does them most excellently.

Dan Schwent says

When Jersey Devil sightings spike, Sam Willet and his family head to the New Jersey Pine Barrens for a reckoning sixty years in the making. With a cryptozoologist and a van full of firepower, will they be able to bring down the devil and live to tell the tale?

My young eyes first encountered the legend of the Jersey Devil in *Monsters You Never Heard of* sometime before the age of ten. I thought it was kind of lame and forgot about it until it was featured in an early *X-Files* episode. Anyway, since Hunter Shea is the bee's knees, I figured I'd give this one a shot when I saw the price dropped to ninety-nine cents. I'm cheap, what can I say.

The Jersey Devil is the story of Sam Willet and his family's axe to grind with the Jersey Devil, who terrorized Grandma Willet six decades earlier. Aided and abetted by a noted cryptozoologist, they walk into the Pine Barrens. Some of them even manage to hobble out.

This book is about as gentle as a trip to a slaughterhouse. Character after character are introduced, only to be fed through the Jersey meatgrinder once you feel something toward them. The body count is off the chart. The Devil's origins are explored and its mythology is expanded upon. And its many children go on a feeding frenzy...

I'd say this is the goriest Hunter Shea novel I've read yet and the threat of the Jersey Devil was probably the worst. After a while, I was just hoping one or more members of the Willet clan would survive.

The Jersey Devil is a gory good time, highly entertaining but definitely not for the squeamish. Four out of five stars.

Thomas Strömquist says

You know what - this started out good, but I'm throwing in the towel at about 70 % (or chapter 32, if someone's keeping count).

The writing is good (even if I felt like quality declining with the pagecount increasing. But that may be my boredom more than actual fact). Some things I've gotten hung up on - mainly the fact that a lot of dialog is built up with very proper use of the English language with quite eloquent sentences and actually quite cumbersome expressions, even during the most extreme and pressing situations.

The characters are also good (in a slightly cartoonish way) - the problem is that I don't care one bit about what's in store for them. It is a quite fun mythology to elaborate on (I never encountered this beast anywhere before, not even while spending lots of time in and around Philly), but I felt that the "Jaws 4 (This time it's personal)"-flavored storyline of the chosen/spared family can never end well. And that really was another thing I did not care about finding out.

At about half the book, I honestly felt that I had invested all the time I was prepared to in this story, but I made an effort to push on. But when the characters who's only place is to up the body count stopped having own chapters (from introduction to gory leftovers), but instead was having their entire book equivalent of a cameo on just a few pages, my patience wore too thin.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Holy Shit, Batman, this is one hell of a gore feast! Which is of course, what I was after when I started to read the latest Hunter Shea book. But, even I think Shea overachieved himself this time. This book has some really pretty disturbing parts, from brutal death scenes to women almost being raped. I can face quite a lot, but even I found some parts hard to read. Shea doesn't shy away from brutal scenes that's for sure.

However, besides that, the book also has an interesting story. The heart of the story is a family that has been waiting for the Jersey Devil to show up again. Why? They have some pretty personal reasons for wanting to go after the Jersey Devil. But, they soon find out that it's not that easy. It's not one Jersey Devil they have to face, it's a legion. And, soon everything just goes wrong and they have to fight for their lives against the monsters.

This is a perfect book for people that like monsters. People that are hard to scare or frankly just want a read an interesting story with some nasty and brutal parts. And, that's me. I have to admit that I enjoy reading books like this. I like finding books that make me uncomfortable. And, this one sure did that!

I want to thank Kensington Books for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!

Bradley says

Sweeeeeet.

I mean, I was expecting a cryptozoologist's nightmare with a focus on building sympathetic characters even in New Jersey, and all of this is right on target, but I didn't expect to love the whole damn redneck family or their never-ending bullets and their heavy-set will-to-revenge.

I had a great time reading this. This is horror done right. The build-up wasn't too long, the reveals were properly horrific, and the end was extremely satisfying. And bloody. Oh goodness, do any of you like a good gorefest? I do.

Hell, I love it. Especially when we get to ride with a bunch of lovable red-necks that have fallen in way too deep. Old School. Get your heart pumping in time to the shotgun barrel.

No spoilers, but keep your eye on that octogenerian. He's not only a man with a plan and a cadre of kids. He's an action hero. :)

Thanks to Netgalley for a wild ARC!

Andi says

This is the second book I've read by Hunter Shea, who is quickly becoming my go-to author when I want a fairly mindless but absolutely satisfying horror read. When I say mindless, I don't mean it in a derogatory sense at all. I just mean that I'm not quite up for a literary horror read or having to think too terribly hard about the book I'm holding, which is my usual preference. Shea's writing is excellent and he's what I like to come home to when I've had a rough day and all I want is a cold beer, my pajamas, and a comfortable read. *The Jersey Devil* is just such a book.

The Willet family is marked by the Devil--*The Jersey Devil*. When new sightings of and attacks by the Devil start piling up in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, it attracts the attention of not only the Willet's, but a well-known cryptozoologist, Norm Cranston, who has spent his entire career chasing monsters but never actually seeing one. Known by most as a myth, the Jersey Devil had been said to only to kill livestock and scream outside of houses, however something is now killing people and in increasing numbers. Already an unknown entity, if the 'Devil' has changed and started killing people, can they actually kill something that isn't even supposed to exist?

Another great read by Hunter Shea from whom I can't wait and plan to read more.

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Michael Hicks says

I've switched over to reading e-books almost exclusively, but back when I was making obsessively compulsive trips to our local Big Chain bookstores I would see paperbacks the publisher had labeled as a Guaranteed Good Read. I don't know if this marketing practice is still in use, but I think it's a label that should be slapped onto the covers of Hunter Shea's books. I've read half a dozen Shea books so far, and not a single one has been a disappointment. If anything, the dude just keeps getting better and I'd say *The Jersey Devil* is certainly a high-water mark.

As the title indicates, this book is about – wait for it! – the Jersey Devil, a rather infamous cryptid lurking deep in the Pine Barrens. Shea knows his cryptid mythology, and unravels it in entertaining fashion here, giving it a fun bit of horrific depth and adds a few new wrinkles of his own devising. *This Jersey Devil* is a big, mean, old son of a gun, and hungrier than Chris Christie at a football stadium's concession stand!

While the monster element is certainly a load of fun, it's the human element that really makes the story shine. The Willet clan are a family of farmers, with their eldest patriarch, Sam "Boompa" Willet, having once previously squared off against the Devil and managed to survive. When people begin to go missing in the woods, and rumors of Jersey Devil sightings crop up again, Sam knows it's down to he and his family to finish the job he started decades prior.

Let me just say, first and foremost, the Willet clan are a fun bunch to hang around with for a few hundred pages. Sam is an easy favorite, but his grandchildren certainly aren't any slouches, either. They've all got enough meat on their bones to give you reason to care about their fates, which is of the utmost importance in a story like this, and in horror in general. Shea knows perfectly well that the monster is merely a lure to hook

readers in, but it's the characters that truly count at the end of the day.

Of course, you also need some guts and gore because it is, ultimately, horror. And jeez, does Shea deliver in that regard, too. The body count here is ridiculously high, and the amount of blood spilled in the Big Finale could be counted by the bucket-load. There's a wonderfully delicious bit of spectacle throughout the whole book. Clearly, the author had tremendous fun writing this one, as well as a big appreciation for the Jersey Devil mythos, and that enthusiasm shows throughout.

Plain and simple – this book is just pure bloody fun. High-octane action, guts galore (in terms of both gutsy characters and actual guts dropping onto the forest floor), and enjoyable characters make this a stand-out creature feature. If you're looking for some violent, fast-paced action horror, this, fellow readers, will do you nicely.

[Note: I received an advanced copy of this title for review from the publisher via NetGalley.]

Frank Errington says

Review copy

A romp through the Pine Barrens of New Jersey with multiple twists, layers, and additions to the mythos of The Jersey Devil.

I've lived in Southeastern Pennsylvania most of my life. It's close enough to South Jersey that I've grown up fascinated by the tall tales of The Jersey Devil. As a result I come to Hunter Shea's new book with a firm grasp on all of the hearsay from over the years. While Hunter keeps the history of the legend in tact, he really just uses those stories as a starting point for his own tale which makes anything you may have heard before look like a child's bedtime story.

The Jersey Devil begins five years ago with Jane Moreland and her abusive husband Henry. Henry's lying on the floor, dead, having hit his head on the coffee table when he tripped while taking a swing at his wife during one of his drunken stupors. Serves the bastard right. Out of fear of the police, Jane wraps Henry's body in a tarp and takes it deep into the Pine Barrens to bury it. What happens next is just the beginning of a non-stop thrill ride.

As a writer, Hunter Shea holds nothing back, he leaves it all on the written page, as bloody as it may be. I liked the immediate action in the story, but then a slow build to an even bigger payoff. Some of the descriptions of the attacks which take place are exceedingly violent and visceral. There are numerous twists, each one darker than the last. This is not a story for the squeamish, but the rest of us can certainly enjoy the gut-wrenching monster mayhem.

Strongly recommending, just not around mealtime, unless you are looking to lose your appetite or bring up your lunch if you've already eaten.

Published by Pinnacle, The Jersey Devil will be available in both paperback and e-book formats on August 30th, 2016, but can be pre-ordered now.

From the author's bio - Hunter Shea is the author of several novels and his short stories have appeared in

numerous magazines and anthologies, including Shocklines : Fresh Voices in Terror. published by Cemetery Dance. His obsession with all things horrific has led him to real life exploration of the paranormal, interviews with exorcists and other things that would keep most people awake with the lights on. He lives in New York with his family and vindictive cat.

Jon Recluse says

This creature feature novel should come with an extra large bucket of popcorn....recalling the Saturday afternoon monster movies of my youth, with a healthy dash of "Die Hard" style mayhem thrown in. Pure, escapist fun.

When the legendary Jersey Devil returns to it's old stomping grounds, the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, all Hell breaks loose, as the once elusive creature is now hunting....and it may not be alone.

Only the Willet clan, all four generations of them, dare to challenge the Devil's reign of terror, to end a family curse. And the Willets are ready for war. Joined by a cryptozoologist, they head into the Pine Barrens armed to the teeth to face a legend.

And that may just be exactly where it wants them.

Hunter Shea brings his own spin to the Beast of the Barrens, expanding on the original legend with terrifying results, while peopling his novel with characters that are truly characters.

Non-stop, fast paced fun from the first page to the last.

Highly recommended.

This was an eArc from Netgalley.

Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says

I'll be honest, I don't like New Jersey. Granted, my experience with New Jersey has been limited exclusively to the Interstates as I have been passing through. I'm sure that there are some very lovely parts of the Garden State, I've just never seen any of them as I sat at a standstill for hours on the Interstate. Hunter Shea has given me more reasons to be leery about New Jersey with its "*brown recluse and black widow spiders...there are rattlesnakes out here and bobcats too.*" Then of course, there is the Jersey Devil. Summer vacation in Jersey has been put on a permanent hiatus, thanks to Hunter Shea.

Hunter Shea is quickly becoming one of my go-to authors. Last September it was *The Dover Demon*, now a year minus two days, *The Jersey Devil*, and I've managed to squeeze in three others in between these two. I like his approach - an intricate, well developed plot with just the right touches of humor and sarcasm; it all balances out to a perfect, entertaining story.

I really embraced the family as the protagonist in *The Jersey Devil*. We didn't just have one hero to save the

day, but a whole clan working together to overcome insurmountable odds. I have a great deal of respect for an author who breaks the mold, doing something outside the norm. Hunter Shea built up all of the Willets equally, each one carried their weight in the story.

If you don't know the story of the Jersey Devil, here is your invitation. The Devil has a home – it's in Jersey.

*I received a copy of the book from the publisher (via NetGalley) in exchange for an honest review.
