



Truck Stop

John Penney

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On a lonely stretch of highway in the Utah mountains, Cedar Mountain Truck Stop awaits the unsuspecting traveler. Over the years, it has been the setting of unspeakable acts of horror that have gone undiscovered. It is the hunting ground for a serial killer who disposes the bodies in the junkyard behind the rambling, rundown complex. But the long dead victims are not going quietly-- Their spirits haunt the dingy hallways, sleeping rooms, gift shop and repair garage, seeking out someone who can solve their horrific deaths. Seeking someone who is a sensitive that can hear their cries for vengeance...

That someone turns out to be Roger Dalton, a young rock guitarist, traveling with his seven year old daughter, who stops one rainy night at the haunted compound. What begins as a routine stop on his trip to Salt Lake City turns into a horrific nightmare when his daughter suddenly goes missing.

As Roger and the handful of truck stop employees desperately search for his daughter, Roger is haunted by the long-dead mutilated victims, all trying to warn him of the serial killer who is in their midst. The tension ratchets higher when deteriorating weather isolates the truck stop and Roger makes a grisly discovery that causes the serial killer to go on a final, desperate killing spree.

In the end it all comes down to Roger, racing to find out where the serial killer has taken his daughter before the killer can get to him.

Truck Stop Details

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Author : John Penney

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From Reader Review **Truck Stop** for online ebook

Karine says

It was a pretty short story, but I really enjoyed the way it was written. Creepy story!

K4tie says

Spectacular writing! I suspected the killer, but was so swept up in the excellent flow of writing that I didn't guess the ending. It's so clear now and I should have saw it coming but I thankfully didn't. I love being surprised by not seeing what's coming. Most writers leave too many hints as to what they are setting up. But this story did a fantastic bait and switch and I loved it.

For full review please see:

<http://northdnvrnonzombie.wordpress.c...>

Books says

I've had this book on my Kindle for...well, ages. Aaaaand...it was quite good. Trust me, I was very surprised. It was so engaging, I read late into the night and finished it the same day I started.

The story reads like a typical low-budget slasher movie script (and I can't stand slasher movies) and the ending was most likely inspired by the blockbuster movie, *The Sixth Sense*. Even so, apart from the blood, gore, the crude language, and cardboard characters, I had a blast reading this story. There are some seriously creepy and twisted characters in this book, and that's excluding the killer. The plot is driven by suspense, and the never-ending rain (in the story) added a sense of doom and despair; exactly as the author intended.

Overall, *Truck Stop* won't be winning any major literary prizes, but it ensured that I'll definitely be reading more by this author.

Kaisersoze says

At 140 pages, **Truck Stop** is a relatively easy read, even if it does spend a goodly amount of time spinning its wheels while a range of secondary characters are introduced. Sadly, beyond main protagonist Roger and potential love interest Kat, there is little depth to this second tier of characters, who more or less exist only to provide a range of suspects for whom might be the serial killer stalking the titular remote truck stop.

Perhaps realising this would otherwise be a by the numbers serial killer novella, Penney imbues Roger with a supernatural ability that provides the story with its few creepy moments.

Though not badly written, **Truck Stop** very much reads like a first time published work, with the expected

publishing errors, variable pace and (worst of all) switches between perspective whenever Penney writes himself into a corner with the limited third person view. The reveal of the serial killer also unfortunately lacks any kind of surprise or impact.

You might think a rating of three stars is generous given my review so far. And you'd be right. But I cannot tell a lie. Penney completely sold me on (view spoiler). And that earns this read an extra star all on its own.

3 Fool Me Onces, Shame on Me for **Truck Stop**.

Rebecca says

I liked this book. I thought it was well written, and no errors jumped out at me as I was reading. Others might disagree, but I thought it had had an editor's touch to it. It's a horror book, with some gory parts. Though if you're a fan of gory horror movies this book will seem tame.

What I loved about it though, was the descriptions of everything. It's written in 3rd person, but I still felt like I was in the shoes of the main character, Roger. The book played in my head like a movie, and it was descriptive enough so I could imagine things but not overly descriptive so I could put my own spin on things.

It had a twist ending which was predictable, I had guessed it rather early on. However, that did not stop me from enjoying the twist any less. I actually felt satisfied that I had 'guessed right'.

It also has some murder mystery qualities to it. It sets up all the suspects nicely and you get a nice little slice into this graphic world. Though I will say there was one scene I felt a touch uncomfortable with, but it wasn't graphic and it didn't stop me from enjoying the story.

It's nothing groundbreaking or life changing, but its still an enjoyable read.

Will Phillipson says

free kindle

Conny says

This book made me feel like I was in a rollercoaster ...

Vanessa Perez says

It was spooky enough and quite descriptive though the killer was easily identified from the get-go. Quick read, good thriller.

The biggest mystery (and maybe I missed it) was what the heck ever happened to Cindy's car? Did the killer move it? Idk..

Jennifer says

When I hit the second page of the woman listing to her body being dismembered I was hooked...I thought who does this and how can it get any better but I really have to say this book is full of the on the seat page turning have to know what comes next...I did not expect the ending....

Ms. Nikki says

Roger, a guitarist, hasn't been the best father to his little girl, Lilly, but he plans to change all that. After this last gig out of town, he plans to settle down and play at a local bar so he'll only be gone from her a short time each night.

Roger is a day late when he finally arrives to pick up Lilly from her drug-using mother. He finds his daughter standing outside, waiting alone with her back pack and stuffed rabbit.

After putting some miles on the highway, Roger decides to stop and grab something at a truck stop while his daughter sleeps in the back seat.

From here, things get real.

I found the beginning of this read to be a little slow even though I knew it was building to some big climatic scene that never seemed to come.

Roger's first mistake didn't have him winning any father of the year awards and I couldn't get past what started this whole fiasco in the first place. It was like he knew it was wrong, but did it anyway.

The secondary character did nothing for the story and were used as props for when the finger-pointing started.

This book was a firm 2 star "okay" read until the ending came and I couldn't help but bump it up. It worked for me.

I would like to try something else by this author to see if his writing has improved or if it varies.

A good read that could have been better.

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Scot says

Truck Stop was a very pleasant surprise for me. I think the author has the ability to weave a fantastic story that entertains from beginning to end. Roger and Kat keep this story rolling. I desperately needed to see them both through this nightmare and surviving their hell at the truck stop. The story was full of quirky characters and non stop action. Although you might need a shower after spending some time at this truck stop. This place reads grimy, dirty, nasty, and decrepit.

At 140pgs, Truck Stop is a good way to spend a weekend. I would highly recommend this book if you are a fan of gory horror.

Mommacat says

This was a fast read that I really enjoyed, a serial killer mystery kidnapping at a truck stop with just enough unusual characters to keep the story amusing. A twist at the end was the opposite of what I predicted, and so made for a fine ending.

Jen says

This was an easy read on a lazy Sunday. It reminded me of old Stephen King.

Douglas Castagna says

Hording free books is a bad thing. I downloaded this about two years ago and forgot about it. Thankfully as I was looking for horror for this month, I discovered it withering away in my archives I sent it to my kindle and read it and was amazed. It was a serial killer/supernatural mashup. I thoroughly surprised by how good it was and annoyed at myself for not ever having read it before. It is rather short so the action and plot flies by. Roger pulls into a truck stop to fill up and get some coffee. His daughter sound asleep in the back seat. He gets out and gets his coffee and when he returns she is gone.

Roger is panic struck and begins on a tear through the truck stop trying to find his daughter, along with the cast of colorful and creepy characters, he comes across others that talk to him. The dead. They want help as well.

Currently the title is 3.99, and having read it I would say its well worth it. I wish I read it sooner. A great first novel, by an oft produced screen writer.

Todd Russell says

Kind of a slow start, but once the burned out rhythm guitar player known as a "sensitive" (who can see the dead when medicated) picks up his young daughter, I started to get into this one better. I could visualize

truck stop and for the most part enjoyed the interplay between the principle characters. Somewhere after the 2/3rd point I lost interest and then picked up again for the ending. I liked that the villain was kept a mystery for most of the tale. The ending was a twist of sorts making the reader rethink the entire book. The writing style was a bit unnecessarily descriptive at times, hampering the pacing of the story.
