



# Freeze

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A raging snowstorm has stranded Tess and Warren in their mountain home with no power and little heat. When an accident leaves Tess coughing up pools of blood, Warren has no choice but to brave the storm in search for help.

He's afraid he'll be too late.

But what he *should* be afraid of are the creatures slinking through the blizzard and watching his every move.

## Freeze Details

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Author : Daniel Pyle

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## From Reader Review Freeze for online ebook

### Jade says

Loved it! It had me right from the beginning and I couldn't put it down! I really liked the relationship between the husband and wife .. it was very real between them and they loved each other so much! The dog was great..if you've ever had one you know how the people were feeling..he brought something normal to a very abnormal situation! The sounds made by the creature were described very well! I could really hear it moving closer! I wanted to know more..about the couple..the creatures..etc.. It's a great book to get lost in for a bit!

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### Edward H. Busse, III says

This was a quickie - only 136 pages. A really, really good premise - NO SPOILERS - but it left me a little incomplete. I would've liked to have known more about the "bad guys" - they were, to say the least, super interesting and had lots of potential for...what...I don't know. The main characters - Tess and Warren - were super likable and Mr. Pyle's writing did an excellent job of putting you in the action - snow, ice, noise, visuals, etc. The ending was not at all what I expected...not sure what my takeaway is. OVERALL - I would've given the book 3.5 stars if able - this was a great story and good writing by Mr. Pyle. For me...its only my opinion...the ending was lacking and a I needed to know more about the "bad guys."

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### Candy says

I'm definitely a fan of this author's work. He sent me this book shortly after it was released and I snatched it up to read right away hoping to find something to grab me while I was traveling. I won't say that it kept me up at night. It's a pretty typical monster story with a very atypical monster. Very smart on his part for sure. I definitely had little to no idea what I was in for!

The writing is what we've come to expect from Pyle, very well done and very clean. Descriptive, yet not so much so that I want to take a chainsaw to the book when I done. (what? you don't do that?) I didn't notice any glaring errors or anything like that.

And this is where it probably isn't very fair to the author. It's like comparing children, right? But my problem with the story is that I was expecting more. I STILL get a little bit of a chill at times when I think about his book, Dismember, which was phenomenal (Really, go buy it. Now!). So, perhaps knowing what he's done in the past and knowing how amazing that book was has jaded me a little. I find it hard to not compare. I know. I know. But for me, I don't actually care about the characters when it's a story that absolutely cannot be true (and my ability to suspend belief can be pretty strong here). So, I found myself not really caring what happened to the people in the story. That's a rough one for me.

However, I must remember that while the previous book was a "this could maybe possibly happen and OMG!" that this book is a monster book. Totally different sub-genre of horror, I realize. No one can deny that this is an excellent monster book, that's for sure. The story line is well developed (if a little rushed at the end) and it was a great ride. His ability to bring the monster to life and to leave me rooting for the good guys

made it highly worth reading. Ultimately, it's a monster story and ultimately it's a well done book so I'm still rating this one high.

This is recommended for those horror readers out there that like a good monster story. I'm looking forward to see what he puts out next... this dude is seriously twisted.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Wow, fast paced and well written horror. Tess and Warren are getting ready to ride out their blizzard that is raining down on their mountain home, but as the storm grows worse they find out that there is something worse in the snow than the cold. I could not put this down and it was the first sleet ridden night of the winter and I had to look around when I heard any little noise. Well done!!!

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### **Joe Hempel says**

Daniel Pyle seems to start with a bang and never let go!

Freeze is quite a great quick read clocking in at about 111 ePub pages, and I read it in one sitting!

Pyle creates a story in which what ISN'T being told to you stands out, and adds to the suspense. Every room that is entered, every breath that they take an implied sense of urgency is displayed.

There are not that many characters in the book, and I consider the Winter Storm a background character in this book as much as the monsters that appear in the night.

He takes on the fear of being isolated, and unable to get help, and it all blends together into a satisfying conclusion, especially for the type of tale that's being told.

Highly recommend it!

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### **Chris says**

I gave it four stars:

A great monster romp with very unusual (and quite nasty) creatures. I would love to read a sequel to learn more about these monsters--where they come from and what they are up to. In a time when every other horror novel is about zombies, how often do you get to enjoy a story about a completely different kind of creature?

Atmosphere. I will admit that I really love stories where the characters are isolated and left to their own devices and I could really feel the arctic chill in the air. It was almost a toss up at times which was more deadly: the creatures or the blizzard.

Pacing was great. Read it in one sitting. It was exactly as long as it should be. Pyle kept the story simple, limiting it mainly to 2 characters and kept the story humming along. It never felt rushed yet never slugged in pace. Well done.

Fun. Plenty of humor. Pyle knows exactly how to write this type of story. Monster romps should be fun and this one sure was. Also, he avoided the typical cliches. These characters were not buff, brilliant, young athletic types capable of making devastating weapons out of a few pieces of wire and a couple of garden tools. They are middle aged, not particularly fit, and are about as far from mechanical engineers as you can get. They are baffled and unprepared for their circumstances, but they fight like hell and I cheered for them.

I will be reading the rest of Pyle's books and I bet that they will be just as good.

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### **Eileen Patterson says**

Nice, Goodreads. Go ahead and erase my whole review when I hit "post." Fuck you too.

Anyway, this is a fast paced, creepy little horror gem. I hope the author made the whole thing up, because it's blowing snow outside my window right now and the creatures in this book are plenty creepy (and authentic sounding to anyone who has lived through a Michigan winter).

Never boring, this book held my interest right to the end, and the author didn't try to bog down the story by over explaining anything. It's snowy, there's creatures outside, run and hide before they kill you. Simple as that. This kind of fun horror story reminds me why I started liking horror in the first place.

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### **Maxine says**

Freeze is a horror novella in the tradition of H.P. Lovecraft and early Stephen King. It's scary enough to satisfy the most hardened horror aficionado. It's fast paced and it'll grab you on the first page and never let go. But before you start, you might want to lock all your doors and windows. And, whatever, you do, don't read this during a blizzard!

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### **Todd Russell says**

Wasted no time getting into the chilling fun. At times the descriptions were so good that I could imagine my breath while reading. The author does an excellent job handling the winter mountain setting. The story is fairly simplistic with a couple, their dog going against some kind of ice monster. I would have liked to learn a little more about the characters (what made them different than any other nice couple and their dog?) and the origins of the monsters. Clearly this skilled writer knows how to deliver what monster-loving readers in this genre crave. I'll read more by Mr. Pyle. Recommended for horror fans.

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## Andreea Daia says

\*\*\*\*\*Full Disclosure\*\*\*\*\* This was an ARC copy, that was received through the GoodReads Advance program. I am grateful for the chance to have read this novel, which I might not have purchased otherwise.

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I believe this book starts with a lot of potential but it doesn't quite reach it in the end. The plot is extremely simplistic: in the middle of the blizzard, a couple leaving in an isolated house in the Rockies is attacked by "freezing" monsters (although they don't realize it from the beginning). The couple tries to save their lives. The end.

I think this is the main problem: the plot is too simplistic for a 110-page story. I found the first 65% of the book was very exciting - it kept me guessing what would happen next. But after that, only fighting the monsters became insufficient and I simply lost interest in what happened to the characters.

The good: Mr. Pyle's descriptions are outstanding, vivid and that is IMO the best part of his writing style. The details about the weather, the environment are passed to us with so much accuracy that you can imagine yourself in the middle of the blizzard. Also, the "fights" are good and sentient.

However, there are some writing issues:

1) for both characters, the introspection becomes unrealistic once the monsters attack - they are simply too articulate and not aghast enough. For instance Warren just figured out that he faced a "supernatural" creature that would probably kill him and his first thought was *"Are you kidding? You're trying to fight off an ice monster with a goddam snowball?"* Maybe it's just me, but I believe the vast majority of folks would think something down these lines: *OMG, I don't wanna die...*

2) both characters have their introspection told in the second-person voice: *"But the little one didn't seem to have a problem. How do you explain that?"* Most people reflect in the first-person voice (*What should I do? I don't understand! etc*). It is a rare peculiarity for someone to think of himself/herself in the second-person. Hence, after a while, I didn't hear anymore Warren or Tess meditating - I heard only the author speaking for them.

3) there is an overabundant employment of the word *"like:"* either when it shouldn't be used at all or when *"that"* should be used instead. For instance: *"That seemed like the only option."* I understand that everyone uses *"like"* in oral speech, but this shouldn't leak in writing, except maybe for dialogue.

4) at the beginning of chapter 12, there is a paragraph in which the voice changes from various POVs (which is typical for 99% of the book) to the omniscient narrator. *"If you'd been there to see it, you could have watched Warren exit the house and..."* I'm sure this can be fixed for the next editions, but as it is now, it stands out and it breaks the narration flow.

To end my review, I think it's a chilling novelette, which perhaps should have been either shorter to accommodate the simple plot, or longer and having a more intricate story.

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## Elizabeth Mitchell says

When I got this book and was ready to read it, I thought "Could he keep it up? Can he possibly make another book that even comes close to the 8 star book that "Dismember" is?" Well folks, apparently, he can.

I read absolutely nothing about the story on "Freeze" so I had no idea what to expect. I figured if he wrote it I'd give it a chance. Well it packed a whole lot of scare in for a 37,000 word book. The creep started at the get-go. "Freeze" just showed his skills in the other arenas of horror and (in the words of Tosh.0) "For that, we thank you." The things that stalk and prey on the characters could easily have been funny, silly, or boring if written wrong. Mr. Pyle knows how to make them move and what they should sound like, so that doesn't happen, so it translates to an upsetting situation and not cheesy. I cannot wait to read what he has in store for us next.

He can do a murderous "family man" and frozen creatures and somehow never fall flat.

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## **Robert Duperre says**

Rating: 4.8 out of 5

I usually start out these reviews with a bit of exposition about select themes I find within a given book, but this time I'd like to focus on something that is, in itself, a part of writing.

Voice.

Some writers know theirs. Some don't. With the best authors, you know who they are from the moment you read the first sentence. It's a comforting, and important, trait to have. King has it. Robbins has it. Layman and Lovecraft had it. Hemingway had it in spades, as did Fitzgerald.

And so does Daniel Pyle.

From the second I picked up Freeze, this author's new novella, I was immediately sucked in. I felt the same exact way I did when I opened Down the Drain and Dismember, previous works by Pyle – like I was about to be taken on one massive, wildly-swinging ride of terror. Needless to say, I wasn't disappointed.

Freeze is the story of Warren and Tess, an older couple living high in the mountains with their dog during the snowstorm of the century. There are strange goings-on about the house after the power goes out, adding to the feeling that this isn't your garden-variety blizzard. A window breaks, showering Tess with glass. There are strange sounds outside. The family car has been seemingly vandalized. And all the while the cold and isolation creep in on this tight little family, until finally, after an emergency, Warren is forced to try and brave his way down the mountain in search of help. Little does he know, there are strange beings waiting for him out in the frigid wilderness, creatures that would love nothing more than to tear him apart.

The plot is very basic – couple trapped, flees from monsters, fights monsters, encounter terrors they never thought imaginable. However, it's the way the story is constructed – the voice I spoke of earlier – that makes this such an entertaining and unrelenting read.

Pyle does something very interesting here, and it's a way of constructing a story that I appreciated to no end. He makes the setting, the weather, the storm and cold, as important a character as Tess, Warren, Bub, or the

strange creatures outside. I read this book outside, sitting in ninety-degree heat, and on more than one occasion I found myself shivering. That, my friends, takes copious amounts of talent. The seclusion of Pyle's words wraps around you, the wind blows inside your ears, and you can't help but empathize with what these poor characters are going through. In effect, we are placed directly in their shoes, made to feel their fear, anger, and desperation.

In many ways, this book reads like an episode of *The Twilight Zone* with a little *Tales from the Darkside* mixed in for good measure. Nothing is explained, the ending is open to the reader's imagination. All we're left with are the sensations involved. It's like being plunked in the middle of a nightmare scenario and forced to fend for ourselves, which is refreshing, and also common with Pyle. Just as in *Down the Drain*, there isn't page after page of details about the nature of the monsters. They're there, they're frightening, and that's all you need to know. Is that enough? It damn well should be.

There is only one aspect of the writing that I didn't like, and it's the single issue keeping it from receiving a perfect score. On more than one occasion, the internal dialogue of the characters' seemed to be too much for the given situation. There were a couple examples of ill-timed, ironic thoughts that I, personally, don't think would go through the mind of someone experiencing that kind of terror. It slowed the momentum for me a bit when this occurred, but thankfully this only happened a few times, five at most. I can forgive an author for trying too hard sometimes, and that's what those little snippets felt like to me. And it could also just have been my mood at the time, so my point dockage is very small.

In conclusion, *Freeze* is a gem of a short novel that will leave you panting by the end. It's the perfect creature feature, hitting all the right emotional notes, making you care, cringe, and rattle your teeth at the same time. And once you finish, you'll never be able to hear a scratch at your window on a cold winter night and pass it off as nothing again. There will always be that nibble of panic in the back of your mind that says, but what if...

Which is the type of effect that all horror – hell, all fiction – should aim to accomplish.

So congrats to Daniel Pyle, because he's created something wonderful.

Plot - 10

Characters - 10

Voice - 10

Execution - 8

Personal Enjoyment – 10

Overall – 48/50 (4.8/5)

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### **Brittany m says**

This was a good book it keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout the whole thing wanting to know what is gonna happen. I had likes and dislikes about the monster I mean really???? And the book is a little predictable when they finally fight the monster and come on shouldn't they be dead by. With all that cold weather??but it also makes you think by the end of the book I would read this again



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## **Cate (The Professional Fangirl) says**

This is a **Reading Good Books** review.

I live in Southern California but I love snow. Last Christmas, I was walking in the middle of a blizzard in New York City. It was horrible but fun at the same time. But after reading this novella, I may have to rethink my opinion about snow.

Tess and Warren are snowed in by a ranging snowstorm, cutting off their electricity and phone lines. There was no safe way of getting down with their truck damaged by the snow and ice. Trekking on foot is suicide. Suddenly, strange things begin to happen. Tess becomes injured in a freak accident and started coughing up blood. And if that isn't scary enough, there are strange creatures lurking

The author wastes no time. The action starts from the first sentence and does not let up until the very end. The descriptions are so vivid that I felt like I was right there with them. Pyle made sure that you know that it was cold, you know they were in the middle of an extraordinary blizzard, you know how hard it is out there in the middle of it all. The writing was very solid and the characters felt real. I have a soft spot for dogs so I appreciated that there's a dog in the story. It was fast-paced, it definitely kept me on my toes... and awake so late at night because I wanted to finish it right away!

Come to think of it, the plot was pretty simple... two main characters (three, if you add the dog), trapped in a storm, monsters are after them; how to get out? The glacial... monstrosities. What the hell are they? The author left the field wide open, giving mere hints of what they are and what they look like, leaving so much to the reader's imagination. Pyle made them sound so terrifying. Where did they come from? What did they want? They scared me, to be honest. I can only imagine what if they were real.

This reminded me a lot of Stephen King's short stories. The simplicity of the plot, minimal characters, and how subtle yet scary it is, very well done. I do have the author's other work and I can't wait to check them out.

Rating: 5/5.

Recommendation: Try reading this on a cold night, snowing, wind howling outside. And you're home. Alone. Haha, no really... if you want to get spooked, try this.

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## **V.k. Scott says**

If you're looking for a great monster novella, Pyle's "Freeze" really fits the bill. Pyle's depiction of the painfully bitter cold in this book was especially vivid and made me shiver (even in the middle of an Arizona summer). The characters were appropriately developed for a book of this type--we don't get to know their life stories, but their relationship does feel real enough to care about their fate. The only thing I found distracting were the occasional use of parentheticals that, at first, I thought were editing marks left in by mistake. It doesn't happen that often, but was distracting when it did.

This book delivers on just about every level, and I still find myself thinking about the ending weeks after I finished reading. Definitely recommended.

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