

Whirlwind

Charles L. Grant

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Serial killers come in all shapes and sizes, but this one is particularly puzzling. There's no pattern to the mutilated bodies that have been showing up in Albuquerque: both sexes, all races, ages, ethnic groups. There is no evidence of rape or ritual. Only one thing connects the victims. They were the victims of a natural disaster. One of the most *unnatural* natural disasters imaginable, leading to a most painful, most certain and most hideous death....

Mulder and Scully, FBI: the agency maverick and the female agent assigned to keep him in line. Their job: investigate the eerie unsolved mysteries the Bureau wants handled quietly, but quickly, before the public finds out what's *really* out there. And panics. The cases filed under "X."

Whirlwind Details

Date : Published April 20th 1995 by HarperEntertainment (first published 1994)

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Genre: Science Fiction, Fiction, Horror, Mystery

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From Reader Review Whirlwind for online ebook

Susan says

I was looking for something mindless to read and I found it. I like the XFiles tv show and thought what they hey. I did like the story. It was interesting and it kept your attention throughout. I found that it was neat that they used the native American beliefs and customs in the book about the killer whirlwind.

I will read more books in the series.

Noelle Walsh says

As far as firsts go, this was really good! I really enjoy The X-Files and this story felt like it was very much a part of that universe! It was creepy and had great world-building (at least, in my opinion it does) and Mulder and Scully were characterized very accurately! I think X-Files fans could enjoy this book.

Kristin says

I expected this to be a quick read, but it was so cumbersome it took weeks, not days. Generally a yawner with hard to keep track of characters. A tiny dash of Scully/Mulder rapport, but not enough to keep it afloat. But really, if you dare to re-watch the show, it's not much better!

Robyn says

I've never read a book based on a TV show before, so I wasn't really sure what to expect here. Over all, it was a pretty good read, it was fairly exciting and the final twenty pages or so were really gripping. The main "mystery" of the plot would have been better if it hadn't been so obvious as early on as it was, (the title made it a total giveaway, as well) and I left this novel feeling like it needed one more really good twist. However, the author writes the both Mulder and Scully well, and it's the characterization in the X-Files that has been instrumental in garnering it such a rabid fanbase, myself included. I felt that the story telling could have gone much deeper, and the mystery could have been something scarier, but I definitely came away with the feeling that I had watched an episode, though a rather middle of the road one.

While this is my first "made from TV" novel, I think the impression it left was on the whole, favorable. I enjoyed this book, and wouldn't mind at all reading more from the author.

Martyn Perry says

A crazy spiritual whirlwind is wreaking havoc around New Mexico, stripping humans to little more than muscle and bone in seconds. Sounds exciting and scary right? Unfortunately, the writing just doesn't match up to the premise in this book.

Not as enjoyable or as streamlined as Goblins, the other X-Files book Charles L. Grant wrote. This is still enjoyable stuff, hence the rating, but the theme and overall quality of the mystery, the complete lack of tension throughout the story and some of the mistakes throughout the book (at one point an entire paragraph is printed twice, only with one minor difference between the paragraphs) they all serve to reduce the overall enjoyment.

If you're going to read an X-Files novel, I'd suggest trying Goblins or Ground Zero first, as Whirlwind just doesn't quite match either of those in terms of quality.

David B says

This is the first X-Files novel I have read. I didn't expect deathless prose, but neither did I expect the writing to be quite so poor nor the plot to be so mediocre. This would make for a very average episode were it to be filmed for television. When I read a novel based on a television series, I want to see a story that puts the characters in situations that we can't see on the tube, be it for budget considerations, mature story content, or whatever. I haven't read anything alse by Charles Grant, but I understand that he has a reputation as a horror writer of some quality. If so, he must have cranked this one out in a hurry for the paycheck.

Sergio says

Los capítulos con "monstruo de la semana" eran de mis favoritos en la Expediente X televisiva. Daban pie para algunos de los conceptos más interesantes y originales de toda su emisión y los guionistas podían soltarse el pelo para desarrollar a los personajes más allá de las rígidas tramas principales. Dicho esto, también abrían la posibilidad de que te tragaras lo que venía siendo relleno puro y duro en el que hasta podías notar los bostezos o las prissas por la entrega del escritor a cargo. Eso es más o menos lo que he sentido al leer este libro, con personajes planos apenas esbozados, con situaciones que el autor supongo que consideró trepidantes pero que se resuelven sin chicha ni limoná y un final de los más insulsos que me haya echado a la cara y que para más inri deja cabos sueltos como para hacerte un abrigo. Y no, nunca me creería que esos cabos sueltos están ahí adrede para dejar un aura de misterio.

Batsap says

A quick time-waster for the undiscerning X-Files fan.

If you are a fan of the X-Files, then I would recommend the Kevin J. Anderson novels or the Topps graphic novels rather than this. Mulder and Scully are as shallowly written as the rest of the characters in this poorly written novel. In fact, if it wasn't for the names, I think the two agents could have been anyone.

The plot itself was also disappointing - the blurb made it sound a lot more exciting than it actually was. I felt no sympathy for the murder victims and the description of the murders themselves were banal and repetitive. The mystery surrounding the deaths unfolded clumsily, tending to frustrate rather than intrigue. It wasn't even redeemed by the ending, which to me felt rushed to the point of not making a whole lot of sense.

Conan Tigard says

Charles Grant has done a better job of portraying Mulder and Scully in this book then he did in Goblins. I was pleasantly surprised with the better characterization of the agents in this book.

A lot of the beginning of the story focuses on the people in Arizona and the building of the story. But once the FBI agents arrive, the story starts rolling as more people end up dead. This book is a fairly quick read and quite enjoyable, if you like the television series. Even if you haven't seen the show, it is still a good book to read, especially if you like mysteries of the paranormal.

So, if you love The X-Files as much as I do, and really want to know if the truth is out there, maybe Whirlwind will help you get a little closer to it.

I rated this book a $7\frac{1}{2}$ out of 10.

Andrew says

Ok Lets hope this one sticks as it seems Goodreads is have a few problems of late.

Anyway the book - ok this one is really little better than the first one (Goblins) the book still feels little more than an episode they could not afford or didn't want to make - the characters seem to be different to that of the show - to the point they either feel unfamiliar or just WRONG. Either way the book if read as a standalone and not part of a bigger world is enjoyable enough but not only do you feel that there has been no development but that its not really part of the X-files. Now at this point I want to say that its not a total disappointment, as an episode in a book it is fast paced and you do get to see some of the characters, it is not a disappointment let alone an insult (like some of the Stargate books I have read). So if you are a fan of the series this book is worth reading just brace yourself if it feels a little out of step with the rest of the mythos.

Darnia says

I've read this book almost 20 years ago and I used this book as my high-school literature project. The one I can remember that the translation is so aweful, it was hard for me to understand what the story about. But I kept reading it until the last page 'coz I was the massive fans of Mulder-Scully. Maybe I always am :D

Kim Dyer says

I could not call Whirlwind a good book. Its clumsily written, full of simplistic and exposition-heavy dialogue. Yet it is a lot more fun than Goblins. The novel this time is more of a stand-alone story. It's pure Monster of the Week material, featuring a brief cameo from AD Skinner, but otherwise just focusing on Mulder and Scully as they investigate a series of mysterious deaths.

Although the title of the novel gives a little too much away, the novel this time is much faster to find its feet and does build an intriguing mystery. While it is a bit more gory than your average X-Files episode (though still less disturbing than the likes of "Home"), it does embrace its medium by presenting a storyline that could not really have been done effectively on TV at the time this was written.

Yet the story has its faults. While it starts off strong, it starts to break down in its final act. The villain's motivation is very weak and only vaguely exposited by Mulder in the final chapters. There is no clear reason why he targets the people that he does other than because he can, which felt deeply unsatisfying on the whole.

I also wish that more had been done with the use of Native American culture in this novel. The elders of the Konochine tribe are just portrayed as being mysterious and shamanist, but we don't learn much about their culture beyond the things that Mulder guesses. Much like Goblins, the story also ended on a vague note, where Mulder once again gazes into the heart of darkness and implies that there could be more deaths in the future.

In terms of character, the story is a lot better. While there are once again a whole lot of secondary characters, they seemed a bit more developed and likeable than in Goblins. However, I still felt that Grant had perhaps bitten off more than he could chew. A lot of the characters that are made out to be significant, like Annie Hatch, ultimately don't factor into the story that much. The worst offender by far is Mike the drunken artist, who gets one chapter of focus and is then never mentioned again.

Still, at least Mulder and Scully felt a bit better this time around. While their characterisation still lacks any subtly, they are at least recognisable this time around as Grant does a better job of playing to their strengths. This is helped by the fact that they are alone on this case. Grant is a lot more sparing with his original characters this time around which I think was a good thing. It really helped the pacing not to begin with the introduction of half a dozen characters.

Anyhow, I think that about covers it. Whirlwind is not a good novel but it is a lot more fun to read than Goblins. However, this is the last X-Files book written by Charles Grant. Here's hoping that Kevin J Anderson can do even better in his run.

Monse says

¿Cómo me puedo tomar del todo en serio un libro que en su versión traducida bautiza a uno de sus personajes con el nombre "Velador"? Ese detalle, sumados a otros, como el hecho de que Grant retrata a los latinos como meros estereotipos, hicieron que no disfrutara demasiado con la lectura de este libro. Scully y Mulder vuelven otra vez a verse extraños con las caracterizaciones que hace el escritor. Pero por suerte esta vez no tenemos que soportar otra pareja de agentes que no vienen al caso, aunque si desfilan por el libro bastantes personajes que están ahí para hacer relleno o... (view spoiler)

Randolph says

Another piece of work by Grant to presumably pay the bills. This time a much better story than Goblins since Grant basically steals the story from his own Oxrun Station novel The Bloodwind. Move it to the

Southwest US from Connecticut, call it Sangre Viento (get it?), and voil??, instant X-Files novel. Doesn't even require an original idea. Instead of snow and ice, we get sand and gravel. Grant seems to forget this is a new novel and in the final third of the book he forgets to even call it the Sangre Viento anymore and just calls it Blood Wind. Probably the pressure of deadlines.

This isn't a bad book, and like I said, its better than Goblins. This novel is more like the early X-Files episodes before it jumped the shark and became exclusively about multi-episode government conspiracies and cover-ups. This is a self-contained story that doesn't require a detailed familiarity with the back story or following the interconnected, overly complex conspiracy plot week after week.

Grant seems to have been "written-out" later in his career and doesn't produce anything near as good in long form as the Oxrun series or The Pet. His later short stories are much better than his later novel work. In fact, now that I think about it, even his early Oxrun short stories were better than the Oxrun novels.

Virginia Jb says

I liked this book more than the previous one. The characters are more credible and Mulder and Scully felt more real. The story is also better in plot and the theme is developed in a more interesting way.