


Pressure

Brian Keene

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Off the coast of tropical Mauritius, an ecological catastrophe with global implications is occurring. The ocean's floor is collapsing at a rapid rate. World-champion free diver and marine biologist Carrie Anderson joins a scientific expedition determined to discover the cause-and how to stop it. But what they uncover is even more horrific. Deep beneath the surface, something is awake. Something hungry. Something...cold. Now, the pressure builds as Carrie and her colleagues must contend with the murderous operatives of a corrupt corporation, an unnatural disaster that grows bigger by the day, and a monstrous predator that may spell the extinction of all mankind.

Pressure is this summer's hot new thriller from bestselling author and World Horror Grandmaster Award winner Brian Keene.

Pressure Details

Date : Published June 21st 2016 by Thomas Dunne Books

ISBN : 9781250071347

Author : Brian Keene

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Genre : Horror, Thriller, Science Fiction, Fiction, Adult

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From Reader Review Pressure for online ebook

Chelsea Humphrey says

Many thanks Netgalley for providing my first experience with this author in exchange for a fair and honest review.

4.5 stars- this would have been a full 5 star experience for me if it had just had MORE! I was so involved in this book and it ended a little too quickly for me. Yes, sometimes these sci-fi/horror books can be a little cheesy because they are so unrealistic but this one had me hooked from page one. I thoroughly enjoyed the ride this took me on and highly recommend for those wanting a bit of a different read. Definitely Jaws meets Alien as described in the blurb and very well done in an almost believable way. Loved the characters and am sad to part ways with them.

The action starts in the very beginning when we are dropped into a story where "Hell's Mouth" is having some serious issues. The trench's bottom is dropping out and nearby Mauritius is preparing for evacuation. News crews have been hovering for weeks while big corporation Alpinus Bio has employed scientist Carrie Anderson to dive the trench and find out what's going on. When she surfaces unexpectedly after equipment failure and suffers a case of the bends, she gets dragged into a more sinister plot than she ever thought possible.

Clearly there is a "monster", and it's hard to picture it's looks as the descriptions leave a bit to the imagination. This didn't bother me, as this is a genre I only dabble in and am not as familiar with, but I can see how regulars would be turned off by this. This is a short(ish) book at around 275 pages, so there was a lot to cram in a short time and I would have enjoyed a little more detail and development of the storyline, but I really fell in love with the characters and found myself not ready to let them go. I'm new to Brian Keene's work and really enjoyed my first experience with him! He's insanely talented, not only in developing his characters but also in his ability to use beautiful language that isn't pretentious or difficult to read. I'll definitely be checking out more of his work!

Bracken says

Brian Keene blew the doors off of this one! Pressure is a fantastically well-paced book with a perfectly balanced mixture of action and compelling character. And I haven't read a more satisfying ending than this in a **hell** of a long time! Among the best books I've read this year, Pressure is sitting solidly in the top five!

Vicente Garcia says

QUICK REVIEW: A couple cool and scary diving scenes can't keep the pressure up when the rest of the book is stuck on land.

FULL REVIEW: *Minor Spoilers*

As a reader, give me any kind of creature-feature and I'll probably love it. Pressure, marketed as "Jaws meets

Alien", seemed right up my alley. Brian Keene's long-hyped return to mass-market publishing and first-ever Hardcover original, is a book I've waited over a year to read, a book I've been excited for even before it was even written. Note "before it was written" though: as Keene surprisingly explains on his podcast *The Horror Show With Brian Keene*, he was hired by Macmillan to write the book after they gave him the title and plot—essentially, making Keene a writer-for-hire here. Had he passed on writing the book, they would've simply hired someone else to write it. If it seems strange that Keene would do this, he explains repeatedly on a blog post announcing the book last year: "Because they offered me a big payday and I need the money." (Somewhat humorously, that blog post has since been deleted, but can be found on Goodreads.) He then wrote the entire book in a month, something that's never a good sign for any novel. The end result is a book touted as "a monstrous mystery of pure imagination and chilling science", but it's neither imaginative nor chilling—it's just bland and rushed.

The plot concerns Carrie Anderson, a world-renowned free-diver who, investigating an ever-widening trench off the coast of real-life island nation Mauritius, sees something lurking in the waters below. It kills her diving partner, leading her on a mission to find out the origin of this creature—and why the mysterious Alpineous Biofutures is so interested in it. (Yes, that's really the name of the evil corporation in this.) Carrie is capable enough, but she can feel like more of a cipher than a character; she's the head-strong, action-ready heroine, and is frequently a character we root for, but Keene too often designs the book so that she's merely either observing the action or running from it. Despite her diving capabilities, she doesn't even spend much time in the water—Keene delegates most of the action to land, with the two brief diving scenes we do get being the highlights of the book. Said diving scenes are thrilling and intense, but they're over just as they begin and are both in the first half of the novel, leaving the rest of a book about a diver to beach itself on land permanently. The novel's first half shows some pulp promise; Keene writes like a modern Guy N. Smith, but the divers vs. sea monsters aspect is soon thrown out in favor of...divers vs. evil corporate entity (nowhere near as fun or interesting).

The book is basically the written version of a Syfy movie, complete with monsters you barely see and a revolving cast of characters that only show up when the plot needs them to. (That the creatures themselves are never really given a clear description and are explained away in the laziest way possible could very well be the literary equivalent of cheap CGI.) It certainly reads like it was written in a month; halfway through the book we're still meeting new main characters. Characters don't exist in this world because they've always been there—they exist only to show up, give some exposition, and wait around until they're called again. A large chunk of the novel's opening section is devoted to a reporter and her camera crew determined to break the real story of what's happening in Mauritius, but they disappear for most of the book only to be briefly seen again at the end. They don't drive any of the plot, are far removed from any of the action, and take away pages that could've been dedicated to Carrie or more creature action, leading the reader to wonder why they fill pages. What should be Carrie's novel is instead diluted by many instances of this; Carrie's story frequently gets sidetracked by other POVs or supporting characters. One of the creatures even randomly (albeit well-done) gets a POV, but it's brief and only in one chapter—then, never again.

Pressure seems content to subvert reader expectations whenever possible, and not in a good way—wherever you want or hope the book to be going, it probably isn't. It's not much of a spoiler to say that the creatures that you're reading the book for are killed off just after the book's halfway point—and that's it, the rest of the book just happens without them. For a book marketed as "Jaws meets Alien", it feels like a bait and switch. It's like if Brody killed Jaws halfway through the movie, and spent the rest of the movie being chased by FBI agents for not having the proper shark-hunting license. Sure, we like Brody, but...it isn't what we came here to see/read. The second half of *Pressure* devolves into some kind of low-rent action movie, with our heroine and friends involved in sleuthing, shoot-outs, car chases, and other generic action plot points. The entire second half has neither diving scenes nor the creatures, and one is led to wonder how much of this

strange plot design was Keene, and how much was publisher. Did the publisher want a light action thriller that Keene chose to add monsters into, or did the publisher want a gory monster novel that Keene watered down with all the action tropes? Again, it's the problem with this kind of "writer for hire" publishing—could Keene have done much better given free reign of the plot, or would he never have even bothered writing something like this on his own?

At the end of the day, *Pressure* is a complete disappointment. Plot holes abound (Carrie, injured and hallucinating, somehow out-swims a creature that later keeps up with a speeding boat), characters and side-plots fill pages and then are brushed aside, and all the best monster scenes are early on, leading to one of the most anti-climatic endings in recent memory. Check it out from the library should you want some light reading—the pressure isn't very high here.

Chris says

I received an advance copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I am a huge fan of Brian Keene and have read pretty much everything by him that I can get my hands on. *Pressure* was not one of my favorites, although I find anything he writes at least enjoyable because he always tells a good story.

Pressure is an environmental monster romp with a healthy dose of evil corporation malice thrown in for good measure. What it didn't have, in my opinion, was that edge that I usually expect from Mr. Keene. This book had B-Movie level characters and action, and not really even enough of that for my taste. Keene does monster romps very, very well—case in point being the *Clickers* series, which I loved. He also does evil human protagonists and tortured characters quite well. *Pressure*, however, felt like a lighter version of his usual stories in both respects.

3 stars.

Carrie says

World-champion free diver and marine biologist Carrie Anderson had been called to help investigate the cause of an ecological catastrophe, just off the coast of Mauritius the ocean's floor is collapsing. The scientific expedition team had gathered to try to find a cause and put a stop before the incident turned into a huge disaster.

Carrie and her dive partner however run into trouble with Carrie barely surviving and her partner never resurfacing. Something happened under the water and Carrie is determined to go back down and figure out just what it was she saw and what had happened. Gathering up a new team Carrie heads back into the depths of the ocean only to discover something more horrific than she ever imagined.

Pressure by Brian Keene is one of those books I debated on picking up not being completely sure if I could

enjoy it or not. When finished I'm certainly glad I decided to take the chance with this one. It's billed as a mix of Jaws and Alien and since I like both of those I figured what the heck and I do see the influences of both while this took on a whole new life of it's own.

The first half of this story is incredibly intense as we dive down deep into the depths of the ocean to find out what horrors await the characters. Then the book turns into a land based thrill ride of a read as the characters try to come to terms with what was found. It became a nice mix of a horror read and thriller when finished.

I completely enjoyed the imagery in this one too as just starting off the descriptions of the ocean depths had me nearly holding my breath as it brings you down into the depths. The characters were also great. Carrie was strong and fierce not giving up until she got the answers she was looking for. Extra points for the naming of this character too!

Overall, a great read that I'd definitely recommend checking out.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress...>

Frank Errington says

Review copy

The story in *Pressure* takes place in and around Mauritius, an island nation in the Indian Ocean. There's something new in the ecosystem off-shore, something turning the normally warm waters cold and causing life in those waters to fail.

Carrie Anderson, is a former world-class free diver turned oceanographer, hired by Alpius Biofutures, to investigate what's going on.

What she and her team find is absolutely monstrous, it makes the great white shark in *Jaws* look like a guppy. But what they find just scratches the surface of the truth. Dealing with this previously unknown species is just the beginning as Carrie and her crew unravel the mysteries found in this African nation.

Keene's action scenes are exciting and well paced. Is there gore, oh, you betcha. Plus the work is peppered with names of a number of Brian's writer friends and it's fun to see what he does to them in this story.

Part monster book, part thriller, all fun, with a terrific ending

Pressure is published by Thomas Dunne Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Press, and is currently available in paperback and e-book formats.

Brian Keene writes novels, comic books, short fiction, and occasional journalism for money. His work has won numerous awards and a number of his novels have been developed for film, with more on the way. The father of two sons, Keene lives in rural Pennsylvania.

Danger says

A horror novel disguised as an action-thriller disguised as a corporate espionage novel WITH A GIANT SEA MONSTER thrown in for good measure, Brian Keene blends these seemingly separate tones into a fast-moving and cohesive whole that consistently works, from top to bottom. While this novel lacks some of the hardcore brutality of some of his other work (save for a few of the crazier scenes) it more than makes up for it with general tension and an ever-present I-wonder-whats-gonna-happen-nextness that I loved. The writing is vivid and accessible, and the main heroine and her sidekick are about as charming as protagonists can get. And although *Pressure* didn't quite reinvent the wheel when it came to any of the genre tropes it employed, it certainly knew how to use those elements to take me on a helluva ride. This was a fun book. Recommend.

Char says

Who doesn't love a good creature feature, especially if the creature is a sea monster? Throw in an evil corporation and a bunch of characters named after authors and what have you got? Brian Keene's *Pressure*.

This was a fun thriller, with bouts of gory action interspersed with treachery and corruption. The story moves right along and even though I'm sure there was a lot of research involved, *Pressure* doesn't get bogged down with a bunch of boring scientific facts.

Many of the characters have the same names as authors in the horror and sci-fi genres, so each time one of them showed up, it added to the fun. Even Clickers got a mention and I thought that was pretty cool-not only do clickers fit the story, it was a nice nod to author J.F. Gonzalez.

Pressure doesn't take itself too seriously, at least I didn't think it did. I have a vague feeling that Mr. Keene had one hell of a good time writing this book. I'm glad that I had the good sense to let it take me along for the ride.

Highly recommended for fans of thrillers, especially creature-features!

You can pre-order your copy here: <https://www.amazon.com/Pressure-Brian...>

*Thanks to Net Galley and St. Martin's press for the e-ARC of *Pressure* in exchange for my honest review. This is it.*

Empress Reece (Hooked on Books) says

Free Diving the "Mouth of Hell" - 4.5 stars...

Mauritius is an island off the Indian Ocean known for the spectacular "Underwater Waterfall" illusion that can be seen off the Mauritius coastal shelf. It's also the home for Brian Keene's new book *Pressure*. With a setting that unique and gorgeous, I knew I had to read it immediately.

Something bad is happening off the shelf though and it's causing the seafloor to collapse at record speed. The island is preparing for evacuation as the trench continues to expand. In effort to find out what's causing the collapse, champion free diver, Carrie Anderson and her crew, lead an expedition into what the press are calling the "Mouth of Hell." They soon find out, the name couldn't be more fitting.

I just love stories set in the deep ocean so this was right up my alley. I think what I like most about it was, that the story wasn't too over the top and the elements behind the collapse were plausible in the end. I also thought it had just the right amount of build-up, enough action, a little gore and the story moved at a good pace. I do wish though that Carrie and her crew would have spent a little less time on land and more time in the ocean. It was still a great story though and definitely worth checking out if you want a little fun in the sun! :)

*Pressure is due to release June 21, 2016.

**I received this ARC from NetGalley and St. Martin's Press in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Ummm no! But I'll read all I can about it. Because stoopid.

Off the coast of Mauritius, something is going on with the gorgeous area that looks like an underground waterfall.

Something is taking over, turning the ocean very dark, cold, and the animal life is either leaving or disappearing.

World-champion free diver and marine biologist Carrie Anderson joins in the mix working to find out what is going on in the deep. The ocean floor is starting to collapse and a big bio-technical company is hiring her to go in to see if she can figure out why.

Frick that! I hate deep water. I'm okay just looking at it but like I heard on a video.."That's the shark's table." You can get your arse eaten or worse.

Now it didn't matter to me whether this book was completely believable or not, I gave no cares. It was perfect summer reading (to keep me away from the beach)..I ate this stuff up. It sent chills up my spine and

reinforced my belief that unless you can see wear your foot is going..you just keep that sucker out of the water.

I think this was my first Brian Keene book and it looks like my friends like some of his other books better so I'm completely sold on him if this is one of his worst.

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review.

My fellow Netgalley junkie Michael is getting the blame for my nightmares on this one.

Steve says

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

This was my first Brian Keene book, and truth be told, I wasn't impressed. This is being marketed as a deep sea horror/thriller, but I wasn't horrified nor was I thrilled. It all just felt kind of forced. The writing wasn't bad, but the plotting didn't make sense a few times, and some of the decisions and jumps in logic didn't make sense either.

Bill says

A pretty good thriller from Brian Keene. Corporate corruption. Biotech mercenaries. Catfish Dragonflies. And sea monsters from The Mouth of Hell.

I'm not sure if my expectations going into this one were too high or too low. I do enjoy a good thriller, but my preferred genre is horror. I have read several Keene's and have enjoyed them all. This one is no exception, but in all honesty I prefer Horror Keene to Thriller Keene and thought there could have been a bit "more" to this one...whatever the hell that means.

I received an advanced copy of this ebook from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kimberly says

PRESSURE, by Brian Keene is what I'd consider to be a "fun" Creature-Feature, more so than pure horror. The floor of the ocean off the coast of Mauritius is rapidly collapsing--an event that has current and far-reaching problems. A champion free-diver, Carrie Anderson, is one member assigned to study the problem and try to figure out the cause.

What she finds is NOTHING that she could have prepared for. A giant creature--the descriptions of which put me in mind of something Lovecraft, himself, might have dreamed up--has suddenly taken up residence on the bottom of the ocean, causing frigid temperatures and hallucinations to anything close enough. There is a lot of action and speculation in the beginning, a bit of a "slow down" in the middle (where the focus is taken off of the creature and more on several characters and an interested corporation), and a dynamic ending!

While this book was a fun, complete read on its own, I'd love to see a sequel of some kind to it in the future. This was a great idea that could be explored so much further. I also loved the mentions of "Clickers" and a few other recognizable references.

Recommended!

Craig says

Yeah, this is good fun; it'd make a good Saturday night SyFy channel movie. I could've done with a little more undersea adventure and a little less Spy Vs. Spy shenanigans, but what the heck. The plot is fast-paced and has a fun premise, the characters are all interesting, and it has an interesting setting. There are also quite a few in-jokes for those familiar with Keene's work and the horror literature field in general. Something of a change of pace for Keene, but lots of fun.

Paul says

Good clean monsterific fun. I loved the Crichton-esque approach to the science and set up, but with a some solidly built characters, and then everything goes nuts, in a good way.
