



The Remedy

Adam Haslett

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He's a man with a body under siege—and the willingness to proceed with a cure so miraculous all one can do is gasp—in this chilling story by *New York Times* bestselling author Adam Haslett.

After years of traditional treatments and therapies, Derrick still suffers from pain ineluctable enough that it has become his identity. Then he hears of an exclusive, very private New York clinic that promises relief. It comes highly recommended by a friend. The multisession remedy unfolds as a sensorial wonder that's so illuminating it's enough to bring tears to Derrick's eyes. It's all working so well. So unexpectedly well.

Adam Haslett's The Remedy is part of Dark Corners, a collection of seven heart-stopping short stories by bestselling authors who give you so many new reasons to be afraid. Each story can be read in a single sitting. Or, if you have the nerve, you can listen all by yourself in the dark.

The Remedy Details

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Author : Adam Haslett

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From Reader Review *The Remedy* for online ebook

Heidi Ward says

Well-written, but somehow sort of vague. My understanding is that it triggers some people, but it had little emotional resonance for me. Another freebie in Amazon's Dark Corners series. 3 stars

Quentin Wallace says

I'm not sure what to say about this one. It was unsettling, but was also much more cliched than I was expecting. A lot of details were left vague, which was well. Overall not too bad, but not exceptional.

Maybe I'm just jaded, but really the whole Dark Corners collection was a little underwhelming.

Hippie Chick says

Not for the faint of heart

I found this story very upsetting and unnerving. I didn't care for the author's idea of what was the "remedy" of all our problems.

Tori (alwaysbookphoenix) Kisamore says

sigh

Jamie says

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“She hadn’t requested a list of symptoms. Your experience of your condition as a whole—that’s what she wanted to know. It was as if, in a single stroke, she were undoing the very premise of all the treatments that had come before, the idea that the suffering could be anatomized and its components addressed. Her question bypassed all the particulars—the chronic pain, the mental tension, the exhaustion—in search of something else, of the person beneath all that, the one who endured the affliction.”

This little short surprised me in some ways. It follows the story of a man that suffers from physical pain without any cause that can be pin pointed in medicine. He has tried every kind of doctor and therapy out there to try and alleviate his symptoms to no avail. The protagonist eventually stumbles on a highly exclusive, incredibly expensive, and extremely secretive form of therapy that promises a cure to his ailment.

What follows is what I found to be a wonderful philosophical exploration on the nature of illness and the feelings of helplessness that come along with it. It is not uncommon for those suffering from some form of disease or other ailment to feel like they've become a burden physically, emotionally, and financially. Illness can become something of a part of a person's identity, and that can weigh heavily on them as their pain can become something monstrous and all-consuming, difficult to comprehend or control.

There is a touch of science fiction in this novel and the only "horror" part comes around the end, and even then it's not all that horrific. I didn't find anything scary or creepy about the story and so it's hard for me to really file this under the horror category. It was a fast read because it felt like a fever dream with the cold harshness of reality always waiting in the wings. For a short story it's okay, but it's the type of story that I would have liked a little more from, the discussion of illness and the ending were good, but everything in between felt like it was filled in to get from point A to point B.

Jordyn Redwood says

My first read by this author. I picked up this entire series of short stories (they are free on Amazon) and was intrigued by this title as it had a medical angle. **THIS REVIEW DOES CONTAIN SPOILERS!!**

The main character has an illness (not disclosed in the book) that causes him great physical and mental anguish. A friend of his encourages him to seek an alternative treatment (that is crazy expensive) to turn his life around. His friend is in the middle of the treatment and thinks very highly of it.

Our MC starts the treatments (which appears at first to be just counseling sessions) and then on session #3, he's placed in a chamber that shows him the potential of his life illness free.

Then, immediately after, he's murdered by the medical staff and the character accepts this knowing he can never be as happy as what he saw in the chamber.

I have strong feelings about this. I'm not a fan of euthanasia (yes, even as nurse) and this short story seems to be a proponent of such and not a terribly intriguing tale at that.

The writing is good, but the story was personally not for me.

Sylvia says

Short novella from the Dark Corners series and very much in the tradition of *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson. It's the story of a young man who suffers from debilitating emotional pain. He has sought treatment from all manner of therapists, counselors and psychiatrists all to no avail. His friend then tells him about a new course of treatment that seems miraculous albeit very expensive. It's what this treatment or "remedy" is that has caused mixed reviews for this book. I found it interesting but if you are in a fragile place emotionally, it's probably not the best choice for reading material.

Cindy says

So far, this is my least favourite of the Dark Corners collection. Very short and confusing. I love short stories but this one seemed like the author was trying to pack too much info into 29 pages. I found it rather boring, to tell the truth.

I liked the cover best of all. But the story wasn't as creepy as the cover looked like it was going to be, which is a shame.

Cathy says

Short book - I had the impression it was going to be scary and it wasn't at all. A bit disappointing.

Juli says

****CAUTION:** If discussion of depression, self-harm, suicide and other dark topics are triggers for you -- please avoid reading or listening to this story.**

Derrick has been dealing with extreme, untreatable pain for years. Nobody has been able to help. Then his cousin tells him about a miracle cure offered by a New York clinic. The treatments are expensive, but Derrick sees the improvement in his cousin so he decides it is worth trying. The treatment does work....but in very unexpected ways.

The Remedy is the sixth story in the Dark Corners Collection, an Amazon/Audible Originals horror series. This series doesn't offer run-screaming-into-the-dark horror, but more emotional, creative tales designed to horrify in a more cerebral way rather than scare readers. There are seven stories in the collection, each written by a different bestselling author. I listened to the audio book version of each one. I'm reviewing the stories separately as most of these stories are vastly different and the authors new to me. I didn't want to lump it all together in one jumbled review.

I have to say that this is my least favorite of all the stories in this collection mostly because I found it bordering on offensive. I can't come right out and say why without spoiling the story.....so I will just say it offers up something as a solution that might trigger a reader dealing with depression to harm themselves. I understand the author's intentions....and his point. But that doesn't mean I have to like it. Nope....this story is just not for me. All of the stories in this collection have been more psychological in nature and not really horror stories. I can enjoy them for what they are and have liked most of them. This one just went too far for even me to give it space.

Adam Haslett has written several other books including *Imagine Me Gone* and *You Are Not a Stranger Here*. He seems to focus on some dark, depressing topics so although this story was well-written and interesting, I'm going to pass on reading more by this author. The audio book, narrated by Will Damron, is just under an hour long. Damron reads with skill and at an even pace. I have partial hearing loss but was easily able to hear and understand the entire story.

Stephanie ((Strazzybooks)) says

It was a slightly interesting story with some pretty spot-on descriptions of chronic illness, culminating in a creepy (yet predictable) ending.

Bev Gleave says

Book

There was no story to this and was rather boring. I would not recommend this one. The ending was not good either.

Blair says

Our narrator, Derrick, has been suffering for years from an unspecified – possibly unidentifiable – condition that causes him both acute pain and psychological distress. When a friend recommends the treatment offered by Dr. Lang at the 'Remedium Corporation', Derrick is intrigued – especially as the friend (who remains unnamed) is noticeably changed, clearly better, yet seems unable to describe what the treatment involves. Derrick's family are wealthy, so he's able to afford Lang's astronomical prices, and he checks in for his first session with no idea of what to expect. He is disconcerted when she asks him to simply 'describe your experience of your condition as a whole'.

This story hovers somewhere between sci-fi and horror, but a very soft version of both. In the most effective scenes, Haslett beautifully describes the powerful nostalgia that can be evoked when something – a song, a glimpse of someone's face, the light falling in a certain way – awakens a long-buried memory. The story builds to a dramatic climax which feels both surprising and, as Lang tells Derrick, inevitable.

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Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

I don't dislike it, necessarily, but... this is not horror. I'm not sure how it gets built into a "dark corners" collection, and to be frank, I'm a little peeved about it. What, precisely, about someone finding a remedy to their pain is so horrifying? I can only see this being horrible for people who maybe haven't lived the majority of their lives with a mental or physical illness that is debilitating.

For me this story was about finding peace and not being in pain any more.

CARLEEN says

I mean seriously...WTF?
