



The Splatter House Rules

Jeff O'Brien

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In Jeff O'Brien's *The Splatter House Rules*, he takes us to rural Oyster River, New Hampshire, where seventeen-year-old Tabitha has reluctantly agreed to the mayor's offer to make her a counselor at Camp Montejo Lake, a camp that mysteriously closed down almost twenty years ago for reasons undisclosed. Many a rumor and urban legend had surfaced since then about a mysterious cabin deep in the woods known as The Splatter House. Thinking of the mayor's offer as just a taste of freedom away from the tyrannical rule of her overly religious parents, she figured it couldn't be all that bad. Finding herself and getting in touch with her true identity out in the woods, she also found true love to perfectly compliment her newfound identity. But as the other counselors began disappearing one by one, she found out a lot more about herself than she bargained for, and something far worse: The Splatter House is real.

The Splatter House Rules Details

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Author : Jeff O'Brien

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From Reader Review *The Splatter House Rules* for online ebook

Russell Holbrook says

That settles it. After reading *Bigboobenstein* and now *The Splatter House Rules*, I am now a certified Jeff O'Brien fan for life. Here we have another underground gem with life-affirming, positive messages floating deep beneath the river of blood and gore that the story is submerged in. This book may be the greatest B-Horror/Slasher/Monster movie never (or yet-to-be) made. I won't go into the details of the story so as to not give anything away, but, I want to publicly say that I feel that the family origin of the mayor that is revealed at the end of the book is totally genius.

Matt Williams says

If you are down for buckets of blood and gore, or just have a soft spot for classic horror films, then this might be the book for you. No . . . actually, wait . . . scrap that! If you like all that blood and guts malarkey . . . then this is - MOST DEFINITELY - the book for you! Influenced by an array of 80's classic horror flicks, this book is a mix mash of all the great things that mindless slasher has to offer; pretentious dicks being mutilated, geeks, outcasts, big boobed chicks, constant knife-wielding, murderous antics, severed limbs and torn organs, a horrid row of killers, such as; *The Camp Site Killer*, a creepy girl with an axe, some bizarre, anonymous creature skulking at the bottom of an untouched lake. Did I forgot to mention that there is sh*t tons of blood in this book? Like buckets and buckets of the stuff . . . I'm still scrubbing it out now . . . don't half stain, I'm telling you. I'm pretty sure half way through reading this my nose started bleeding from excitement, the heavy riffs of Pantera's, *Dimebag*, blaring through my speakers caused me to erupt into a disorientating rage, before I suddenly saw myself taking the straw that I'd been using to drink my coke with and started packing it full of gravel, using it afterwards to stab through my left eardrum and scrape out my brain. I suppose that would explain the chunky, pink stuff that my dog has been licking off the carpet all day.

So, what made it unique? Well . . . for one, it's a well written and nicely delivered horror novel. The idea is that the plot and scenes are deliberately meant to fit the typical horror cliches, but also create a humorous, whimsical fast paced journey of it all; which it does, extremely well, using the body of the characters personalities, and witty, seemingly misplaced, funny one liners that create a wonderful essence of comicalness, even during the most gory and violent of scenes.

I really enjoyed this book. A nice and easy but blood-filled read that leaves you with an urge to go out and buy a 40oz steak and pound it to a mushy pulp on your kitchen counter with a sturdy meat-mallet! Splat . . . splat . . . splat . . .

Venus Smurf says

When I won this through FirstReads, it wasn't hard to guess what the book would be about. And if you're into very explicit, X-rated slasher books, this is probably for you.

Just not for me. I made it to page six, which was the point when the killer cuts off a girl's arm, spansks

himself with it, and then uses it to rape her. Enough said, I think.

Couldn't do it. Did not finish.

Tom says

This was a fun book to read while laid up in bed with a sprained foot. I enjoyed every page of this book. It was an interesting twist at the end that I didn't see coming. Definitely worth the money to pick this book up and give it a read.

Mkittysamom says

Very unique plot but I felt that it ended abruptly. I loved the gore, and the campy scene. But I wish there was more background about the "killers". I did not guess the ending in the least, I expected everyone to die lol.

Seth Tucker says

I'm not usually a reader of Bizarro, but this book wasn't too bad. It was a good Lovecraft-themed Friday the 13th romp. If you don't like strange sex and gory scenes then this book is definitely not for you. While that isn't normally my cup of tea, I thought that this book was well done and it kept me reading straight through to the end.

Rick says

This is yet another book that I would not have read if not for it being a group read in the Bizarro Fiction group, and yet again it's a winner. I have really come to enjoy reading shorter bizarro books (as opposed to 400 page novels), I am really impressed at how invested I can become in the characters even at the much shorter page count.

I have a feeling that anybody who didn't grow up with cheesy 80s slasher movies may not truly appreciate this story to its full extent. The tropes are here: the jock, the jock's hot girlfriend, the nerd etc. The goth girl was a nice addition to the cast even if a tiny bit out of the time period (to my memory anyway). I loved all the music references, right up my alley.

This was far from the typical slasher plot however. I got a real Lovecraft vibe from it, partly from the eternal evil and partly because I had visions of the Whately family in the second half of the book. I think my favorite part was the explanation of where politicians come from, I won't spoil it but it was goddamn funny.

I think that the author was able to capture a great balance of horror, violence and humor which is no small

trick. It is even more impressive that he works a normal day job like the rest of us and is still able to turn out great fiction on the side. I am very glad that I found yet another great bizarro author to follow and am looking forward to reading more from him. In fact I was reading an e-book initially but it was so good that I bought a paperback copy of this and another one of Jeff's books (Bigboobenstein) directly from him.

Pedro Proença says

I loved this book. Simple as that.

Jeff O'Brien writes about one of the biggest clichés in horror fiction: The camp killer, with boucy-boobed blondes, dark-haired outcasts, nerds, jocks, a corrupt politician. But this book is so much more than that.

It's a true masterpiece of horror fiction, it's entertaining as hell, and you'll immerse yourself in this world. When it's over, you'll want to cry.

"This can't be it! I want more! This can never be over!"

I did that. I ran naked through my house, crying that the book was finished.

This NEEDS to be turned into a movie. It is yet another extremely well written horror novel by Jeff O'Brien, an author that impresses me every time I read one of his books.

Kaisersoze says

There is so much going on in **The Splatter House Rules'** relatively lean page count that it's daunting even considering how to summarise it adequately. But here we go. There's the legend of a camp site killer, a ghost with an axe, a great evil stirring at the bottom of the lake - not to mention its off-shoots that pave the way for its coming by committing murder and mayhem - and then there's the government secret labs, the sexual awakening of a young woman, and a corrupt man of power trying to come to terms with what he has done. For this reader, it all got a bit out of hand. O'Brien tries to juggle all of these balls and inevitably some hit the ground before he has demonstrated what skill he has.

Of course, **The Splatter House Rules** is meant to be a piss-take on a number of different sub-genres of horror (see above), most notably the old-school 80s slasher flicks. And on that level it's amusing to read the ludicrous reasons the characters have for splitting up, as well as the constant attempts to down play any worrying development as due to something normal rather than dangerous. The various cliched characters are also set to hyper mode so each is so extreme they are completely unrealistic. All of which would be fine, were it not for how rushed everything felt. Parts of the story that I wanted to follow in detail (eg. what happened to many of those who were stabbed before the narrative cut away) were barely sketched in, while way too much time was spent exploring main protagonist Tabitha's realisation she likes girls.

Technically, O'Brien's writing is straight-forward and easy to digest, though there are numerous editing and formatting errors spread throughout the Kindle edition I read. He's no Laird Barron, but then who would want Barron writing a book like this?

So even though I may have learned I prefer my horror straighter up than what is served here, I have no hesitation in recommending **The Splatter House Rules** to those wanting to have a bit of fun and take nothing seriously - including crucifixions, dismemberment and slashed open throats.

2 to 2.5 Spankings With a Severed Arm for **The Splatter House Rules**.

David says

This book is an incredible amount of fun. O'Brien takes me right back to all the comedic horror movies I spent so much time watching back in the late eighties and early nineties, and manages to tell a very new story within that framework. He does it so well, giving me something I can't quite get by reading other kinds of horror fiction or even re-watching some of my old favorites. It's a wonderful use of the form and yields some great reading. It's well worth checking out and a splatter-filled good time.

Michael says

I am a huge fan of O'Brien's and the more I read the more I realize that you can't just dump his books into one category. He brings the punk, DIY aesthetic to his writing and it works. These are books that remind me of those classic B-movies that are full of cheese but have an interesting plot that holds it all together. Splatter House is a combination of the bizarro/horror hybrid that he's become the master of. His fiction may not be for everyone but it's a blast to read and that's really all that matters. Splatter House is a lot of fun to read.

If you're familiar with slasher films then you'll recognize the plot, but O'Brien throws a few curve balls that keep it from being a straight ripoff and more of an homage. I love that there's a healthy amount of cheesy dialogue and gore and like all B-movies you have an underlying issue that throws the plot into unpredictable territory. You have an abandoned camp and counselors that know a little of the history and then like all good slasher hell is properly unleashed. O'Brien is a talented writer that doesn't even try and take himself seriously, *The Splatter House Rules* is the kind of novel you read just for the fun of it. The plot moves quickly and O'Brien is the type of writer that knows his subject matter and isn't afraid to take a few risks.

As it says right on the cover this is a summer camp slasher with a bit of an edge. Finding out what's lurking in the camp is what drives this novel. Think *Sleep Away Camp*, or *Friday 13th* and you have a pretty good idea of what you're in for. This is for fans of classic B-movie slashers and if you're looking for a novel that will make you think you're reading the wrong book. O'Brien is a writer who is comfortable taking risks and venturing just outside of the rules of horror and bizarro. There's really no way to classify this guy and that's what makes this novel so damn good. Of course it wouldn't be an O'Brien novel without an underlying moral issue. This one you'll just have to discover on your own,

The Splatter House Rules is a solid read that shows O'Brien growing into his role as a writer that knows how to craft a decent story with just the right amount of humor and gore. Horror and bizarro fans will no doubt enjoy this, and even if you're not a fan of either genre this is one of those books you should check out. This is the equivalent to a Saturday morning creature feature that you watch while eating bowl of cereal.

Gianfranco Mancini says

A funny ultra-gory mash-up of genres: slasher movies Friday the 13th style, lovecraftian monsters in lakes, axe-wielding ghosts, politicians monsters for real and secret government organizations reminding "The Initiative" from Buffy the Vampire Slayer series and the "Cabin in the wood" awesome movie one.

A not bad reading if you like insane trash/horror b-flicks.

David Shevenell says

If Lovecraftian Camp Splatterslash were to become a marketable niche genre, this book would serve as a keystone for the arch you'll have to walk through.

Kris Lugosi says

The Rules of the Splatter House are simple: Shut the fuck up unless you are expressing physical pain that is inflicted upon you by me.....(not a direct quote but first rule of Splatter House.....)

A perfect homage to the 80's slasher films like the Friday 13th franchise, or Sleep Away Camp or even most recently The Cabin in the Woods (there is indeed a cabin in the woods). Absolutely a perfect little horror movie in the form of a book. The delivery and formula stays true and is spot on without being redundant. Jeff O'brien just made an incredible screenplay for a classic slasher movie with an amazing cast and concept.

Our heroine is like any other female role in a slasher flick; she has her own inner demons to combat while her co-counselors start disappearing one by one. The setting of the story is of course the woods, where four junior camp counselors and four senior camp counselors arrive early to Camp Montejo Lake to start preparing for the campers arrival. There's a legend that surrounds Camp Montejo Lake, a legend that holds dark secrets deep in the woods in a cabin appropriately named The Splatter House. What these counselors don't know is that there is much much more to that legend than just the cabin. A darker sinister well kept secret....until now.

O'brien opens up this flick with a flashback scene. Taking us back to 1995, we are witness to a grisly murder by our Splatter House killer. Flash forward to the present and we meet our heroine. Enter Tabitha; an outcast with her different colored hair and emo like demeanor she is regarded by many of her peers as a freak.

Tabitha is one of the junior camp counselors arriving at Camp Montejo Lake, named after the owner's family name. Along with her, you have your run of the mill hodge podge of characters, the jock douche Ken, the preppy bitch dating the jock douche Brianna, and the nerd that has the hots for Tabitha, Sean. Tabitha hasn't the hots for him and no interest in anyone at the camp until the senior counselors show up. Enter Veronica; an upbeat, outgoing, tough as nails, hottie (at least to Tabitha). Veronica treats Tabitha differently than anyone else has ever treated only furthering Tabitha's lust and love for her. Along with Veronica, we have Rob the level headed one of the bunch, Paul the grownup douche jock, and Becky, the strange quiet one.

After arriving at the camp, everyone gets acclimated in their cabins and the legend of the Splatter House begins its tall tale amongst the counselors...

O'Brien's style in this book is spot on. From the beginning opening murder scene, to the cut aways of each camper getting murdered. It was just like watching Friday the 13th when one of the counselors would "step out" or walk away from the group you just knew Voorhees was just around the corner to inflict a gruesome death upon the teen. You will not be disappointed with O'Brien's death scenes. They are not drawn out but again the way he is able to keep the story flowing while giving us those cut aways is so entertaining. Along the way the author drops misleading hints about who the killer might be! There were times where I was questioning everyone in my mind and a few people I kept going back to thinking, "That's the killer! I just know it!" The killer isn't the only thing to fear as the counselors find out when they see a mysterious ghost girl who is carrying a hatchet....who is she? Where did she come from, and what does she have to do with Tabitha?

Once again, O'Brien has written characters that are relatable despite their stereotypical descriptions. I'm beginning to think that's the point; make the characters seem like your run of the mill stereotype and then be proven wrong with the voice the author gives making you feel for the character rather than pity them.

The ending is actually pretty surprising with elements of family secrets revealed, monsters in the lake, and here's one that will throw you off, a political revelation. Reminded me very much of Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 4 with The Initiative. I loved the ending. I loved how everything came to light and the conclusion is truly unique.

I was given a PDF version of this book. I feel like I just rented an awesome horror movie and now I want to buy the DVD. I will be making this book an actual purchase for my DVD rack...I mean book shelf.

Jan says

I think (could be total bullshit but just leave it that way for the review :P) this is one of Jeff's earlyer works. It's "just" a horror story, bloody, disgusting at some pages but nothing really surprising (Like Friday the 13th, Evil Dead or Halloween) oh and even if it's by far not as funny as his later books but still an ocasional giggle on every other page.

The writing is (how should I name it!?) lets say more "rude" not as "smoth" as in Big Boobenstein or the two books from The Leedham Chronicles (November Comming Fire and Cassie both are a must read)and a big draw back it's not taking place in Leedham (readers of Jeff's books will know what I'm talking about :D)

Bla Bla Bla...I haven't said anything about the story yet but here it is:

A bunch of young people of different origin some know each other some not preparing to be supervisors of the summercamp at Lake Montejo. And one by one the young folks start vanishing...ok so far it's Friday the 13th but it wouldn't be written by this author if there wasn't a little twist.

Highly recommended ;)
