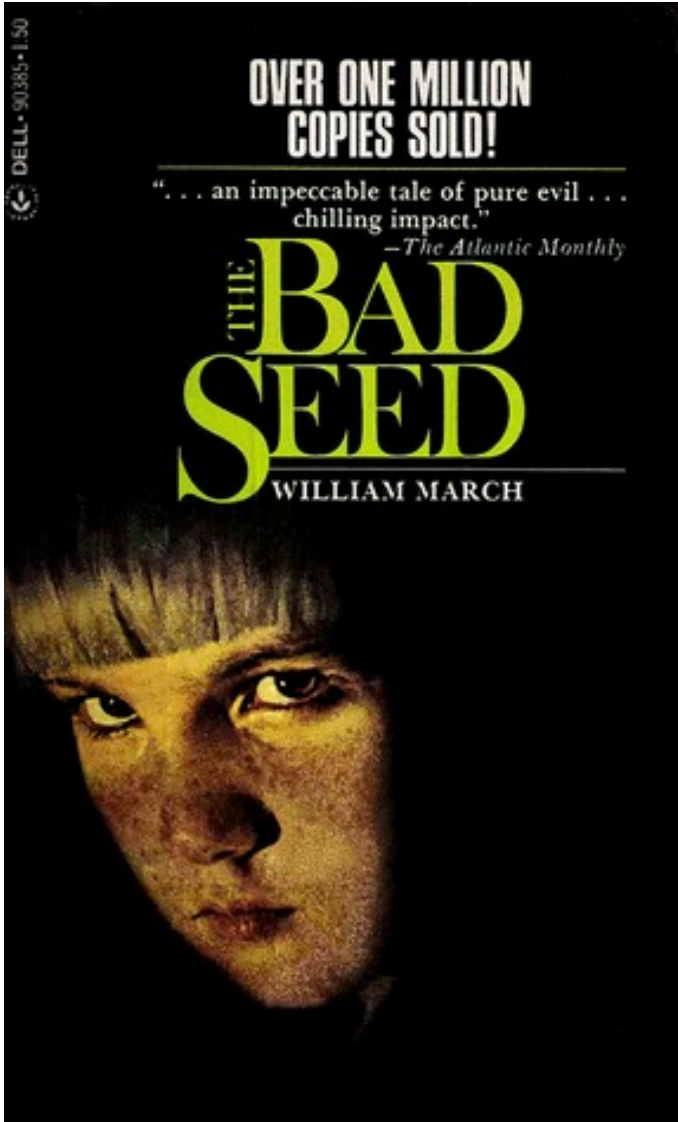

William March

The Bad Seed



Title: The Bad Seed

Author: William March

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 224

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0440903858

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 6.3 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Now reissued – William March's 1954 classic thriller that's as chilling, intelligent and timely as ever before. This paperback reissue includes a new P.S. section with author interviews, insights, features, suggested reading and more.

What happens to ordinary families into whose midst a child serial killer is born? This is the question at the center of William March's classic thriller. After its initial publication in 1954, the book went on to become a million-copy bestseller, a wildly successful Broadway show, and a Warner Brothers film. The spine-tingling tale of little Rhoda Penmark had a tremendous impact on the thriller genre and generated a whole perdurable crop of creepy kids. Today, *The Bad Seed* remains a masterpiece of suspense that's as chilling, intelligent, and timely as ever before.

Insightful reviews

Laura: I am glad this was a book club read or I would have never experienced this book. It was thrilling and interesting and creepy. It was somewhat predictable and I wasn't biting my nails but I wasn't reading this in 1954. If I had read this back then I would be shocked and running to my neighbors and shoving the book at them and demanding them to read it. The ending is soooo good!

Cindy: A classic for a reason, this novel examines the creepiest little girl in literature. I'm sure that back in the more innocent age of the 1950s when this was first published that it was truly shocking with its portrayal of an 8 year old sociopathic killer. Rhoda is the darling of her apartment building, doted on by the matronly women in the adjacent apartments. But behind that saccharine exterior beats the heart of a calculating, cold-blooded murderess. March does a wonderful job, with his spare prose, of setting the scene and building the action to an unexpected (*especially if you've seen the movie that is based on this novel*) climax. The author explores and leaves the reader to ponder the whole nature vs nurture question. Hear his perfect description of the sociopath: "...most of us were able somehow, under the molding force of precept and example, to develop the strange thing we call conscience, to acquire a reasonably acceptable moral character; but others did not have this ability at all, no matter what benign influences they were subjected to. They were not even able to love another except in the crudest manifestations of the flesh...They were true, inborn crimes that can neither be changed or modified..." Years before the term *serial killer* came into popular usage, March described 'monsters of real life [that] usually looked and behaved in a more normal manner...presented a more convincing picture of virtue' than the average person. Rhoda's mother is a wimpy character for much of the book, but she is definitely of the time period, dependent on her absent husband's guidance and opinions. ([view spoiler](#)) Utterly horrifying and creepy, this novel stands the test of time. [The Bad Seed](#) does for little girls what [It](#) did for clowns - makes them the stuff of nightmares.

Eve: "What will you give me if I give you a basket of kisses?" How about a friendly shove off the stairs? Creepy little child, but an enjoyable read! Made me want to put some red lip stick on and

get a blunt bang cut.

Adrienne Alba: After interpreting this vintage novel, my after options have been "Rhoda is a bit SHE-DEVIL!!! good i will not blame the child because it is in her nature to KILL!" My point of view in the direction of vintage horrors had all at once changed into a brand new view after I learn "Bad Seed". I by no means knew how the classics can preserve such nice suspense in the direction of the viewers round the Nineteen Fifties till now. while I first acquired the book, i did not locate it compelling to read, yet web page via page, each scene grew to become such an interest. I turned engaged in the textual content that I fail to remember I stay within the glossy time of 2015 and that i admit, my mind's eye for this publication had grew to become every little thing black and white. i'm fairly happy i didn't watch the motion picture of this classic novel. In my opinion, i feel having a toddler being the murderous killer is a brilliant villain to show inside a horror-theme tale since it is the final individual humans might ever expect. Rhoda is what I name a symbolism of the "unexpected" with a cute, blameless gains which can include natural evil within. Who can blame Rhoda for being any such genius murderer, she is just a toddler and "always" get what she wants. i actually wanted the mum of Rhoda, Christine Penmark, can have informed someone approximately Rhoda's undesirable SEED. She may have stored it a mystery and advised every thing to her stable friend, Mrs. Breedlove, or larger yet, she can have known as her husband. yet because of Christine's self-consciousness, it did saved her personality real. a true mom would not do whatever to hurt her child. on the finish of the book, i discovered Christine's ultimate activities super brave. One web page at a time, I had ultimately reached the tip of this wonderful ebook till "BANG!"...it was once done. "That's it!" my brain stored repeating again and again as I checked in the course of the final couple of pages of the book. the problem wasn't the definitely disappointment, it was once the extraordinary experience of being horrified within the final bankruptcy of the novel. The did a outstanding paintings inside of her writing as she brings in a real emotional feel of worry and suspense for her readers feeling the goosebumps forming all through their hands to their shoulders and feeling a piece nervous till the very end. It appears like March was once going to provide his readers a middle assault in each chapter. even supposing the e-book was once finished, i think like Rhoda Penmark is on the market hiding. She could be a fictional personality that was once born and lived round the 1950s, however it yes does believe like i'm being watch by means of her as I closed my book. *silent scream

Dfordoom: This used to be the foundation for one in all my all-time favorite movies, a delirious and scrumptious camp classic. the unconventional differs quite a lot from the movie – particularly the ending. whereas the movie concentrates at the evil and murderous little woman and her mother, the booklet is going into massive aspect in regards to the mother's personal adolescence and her personal mother, and the real importance of the name turns into a lot plainer. either motion picture and novel are outstanding examples of Nineteen Fifties American paranoia, yet this isn't paranoia approximately communists below the bed, this can be paranoia that's even more a laugh – it's now not communists who has to be feared, yet America's personal children. anyone of them can be a lethal psychopath, and there's no method of telling – the main harmful ones of all appear like the sweetest and so much blameless sons and daughters you'll ever imagine. yet who is aware what evil lurks in the back of these dimples and ponytails! And irrespective of how cautious you're approximately elevating your kids, they could nonetheless turnout to be homicidal maniacs! should you don't flip them into killers via bringing

them up wrong, there's continually genetic evil to fret about! Outrageous fun.

Wendy's Thoughts: five Oh, the thoughts it Brings again Stars * * * * This booklet and the motion picture has a massive position in my heart...no, no longer due to an identity with the characters....but as a result of youth reminiscence of my sister being in Forensics in the course of excessive school. My sister is four years older than me and used to be a drama student. She could try for performs and in addition perform the Forensics competitions. in the course of her senior year, she selected to do a monologue from The undesirable Seed. For months i'd both listen practising or functionality in this script. She first needed to study the phrases and that i will be her associate in crime...holding the paper and prompting her if she forgot a line or two. After she had the phrases down... then she may flesh it out with the appropriate inflections to make the phrases real...cutting and down correct scary. It turned a online game of types as to which considered one of us may well recite the strains simply right... and infrequently I felt quite vital while she may say I did it higher after which copied how I acknowledged them. As a family members we might visit the tournaments and watch her turn into Rhoda Penmark, as sickly candy after which evil bit by means of bit...and repeatedly she gained first position along with her performance. She introduced into the room the sensation of anything very fallacious with this little woman she was once imagined to be... and each time she did it, it made me proud I helped her get to that place. Now what the hell does any of this need to reviewing a book....Well, i feel the reissue of this can be incredible since it supplies new generations the event of why there are such a lot of different books and films with this idea. It was once the first... powerful and unknown on the time...it was once groundbreaking and for readers to adventure the foundation of the place genres come from is usually a plus to me. So, thanks for indulging me at the telling of my reminiscence and please glance to others at the web site simply because i've got obvious a few impressive stories in this book.

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