The Mansion

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After two years of living on cheap beer and little else in a bitterly cold tiny cabin outside an abandoned, crumbling mansion, young programmers Shawn Eagle and Billy Stafford have created something that could make them rich: a revolutionary computer they name Eagle Logic.

But the hard work and escalating tension have not been kind to their once solid friendship—Shawn's girlfriend Emily has left him for Billy, and a third partner has disappeared under mysterious circumstances. While Billy walks away with Emily, Shawn takes Eagle Logic, which he uses to build a multi-billion-dollar company that eventually outshines Apple, Google, and Microsoft combined.

Years later, Billy is a failure, beset by poverty and addiction, and Shawn is the most famous man in the world. Unable to let the past be forgotten, Shawn decides to resurrect his and Billy's biggest failure: a next-generation computer program named Nellie that can control a house's every function. He decides to set it up in the abandoned mansion they worked near all those years ago. But something about Nellie isn't right—and the reconstruction of the mansion is plagued by accidental deaths. Shawn is forced to bring Billy back, despite their longstanding mutual hatred, to discover and destroy the evil that lurks in the source code.

The Mansion Details

Date   : Published December 4th 2018 by Atria/Emily Bestler Books
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Author : Ezekiel Boone
Format : Hardcover 415 pages
Genre   : Horror, Fiction, Science Fiction, Thriller

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From Reader Review The Mansion for online ebook

megs_bookrack says

"...there's no way we're going to stay here and wait for Nellie to go all redrum on us."

What would happen if HAL from *2001: A Space Odyssey* were set up to run The Overlook Hotel from *The Shining*? This book. That's what would happen.

Billy Stafford and Shawn Eagle created 'Nellie' - a computer system built to serve, better than AI and continually rewriting herself for your 'happiness' - and installed her into a creepy old haunted mansion secluded in the woods of upstate New York. Billy and his wife go to live in the mansion, during the winter when they could be snowbound there for days at time, in order to work out the kinks. What could go wrong?

Heavy in *The Shining* feels...I mean **REALLY** heavy...I appreciated the ubermodern twist it took. *The Shining* is one of my all time favorite books, and I know some fans who I could possibly see not liking this or calling it a 'rip-off', but to me it was a solid doffing of the cap to one of Sai King's masterpieces ((in my humble Constant Reader opinion)).

To me, this book reads like a techy-scifi with some horror elements sprinkled throughout. There were a few scenes that really raised my anxieties but I suppose it all depends on what you are afraid of.

If you're like me and more than slightly nervous about your Smart Phone, Smart TV or the ever-looming Smart House, this may be a good one for you to pick up. Additionally, I always love a good 'haunted house' story and there were definitely some ghosts woven throughout this book...and twins, don't forget to add some creepy-ass twins in there because regular twins just won't do.

The beginning started out a little slow for me but by the time Billy and Emily arrive at Eagle Mansion I was elbows deep in this horrifying goodness.

Overall, I found the storyline very readable and I kept wanting to go back for more. I am happy with the way things turned out, although the final scene seem a bit too rushed compared with the extended build-up, making it feel a little too easy in the end. I would definitely read more books by Boone, this was my first, and I have been told to check out his *Hatching* series.

Thank you so much to the publisher, Atria Books, for providing me with a copy to read and review. I really

enjoyed this and appreciate the opportunity!

Edward Lorn says

With all due respect to the publisher, what the fuck were you thinking?

One of my updates for this book was: "This book reads like water tastes." That's really all you need to know but I'm going to go into detail, so buckle up and grab your snacks, we about to go all in on this motherfucker.

Imagine, if you will, Stephen King's THE SHINING as written by Michael Crichton and Stephenie Meyer. Yes, you read that right. Bad techno-thriller with a ham-fisted love triangle and the most boring writing to grace the page since James Patterson's latest collaboration with a sentient toadstool.

Now imagine THE SHINING where they take 80 pages to get to the hotel, then leave the hotel for a 60-page shopping trip, then return to start the book, only it doesn't really start, not really, because we gotta see what the leading lady thinks about the gaze of the sultry rich fuck she once ditched her drunk husband for and nothing interesting happens for another 100 pages and why should we care at this point? We shouldn't, Brenda, we shouldn't.

The first 30-40 pages of this book is a massive info-dump. The first chapter reads like an outline, something written to keep track of everything these two characters have been through. Then, instead of cleaving those bits up and sprinkling them throughout, Boone just said "FUCK CHEWING!" and dumped the broth into everyone's bowls without ever adding the meat and veggies.

There's a sexy black character in here that supposedly everyone overestimates because...get this...she's sexy and black. Shit you not. That's the character dev we get. The actual lines are, and I quote:

"He wasn't sure if it was because she was black, or if it was because she really did look like she stepped out of a Victoria's Secret catalogue, only, you know, in actual clothes."

That's the extent of this character's development, ladies and gentlemen. Oh, and everyone thinks she's fucking the rich dude because, you know, she's sexy and black and he's a billionaire AND FUCKING SHOOT ME NOW!

The lead female character is here for one purpose and only one: to give these two guys something to fight over. That's it. All we know about her is everyone in her life hates her alkie husband, and maybe she does too. Will she fall back in love with the debonair billionaire? Will she stay with the pile of lies and denial she had for a hubby because she has the newest iPhone??? Find out next on WIFE SWAP: SIDEWINDER EDITION!!

Sidewinder. Ah, that's a reference to THE SHINING. Do you like references to THE SHINING Good, because you're gonna get them here, in spades. Holy shit, the parallels, lemme count the ways:

Drunk trying not to be a drunk but doing it anyway because what would it hurt. Check.
Twins because two of something is CAAAA-REEP-EEE. Check (for the Kubrick version if not King's book)

Hotel/Resort that might have a mind of its own??!?!?!???!!!. Check.
Isolated because winter. Check.
Horror in bathroom. Okay that's reaching but check anyway because fuck this book that's why.

Thing is, people will like this. They'll give vague reviews about how good the writing is (see previous excerpt of said "good writing") and how well paced it was (nothing happens for 200 pages except for shopping trips and a cut hand) and how fantastically spooky it was (spoiler alert: it wasn't), This book is a reputation killer. I feel like if I said one good thing about it I would lose the majority of my followers, should they pick it up on my recommendation, that is. I cannot fathom the individual who will enjoy the first half of this novel, much less the whole thing. I'm sure they exist. There's some very positive reviews for this book. Maybe Eagle Logic can tell us why?

Nellie?

YES, FUCKFACE (She reads minds and is currently reading yours which is why she called me FUCKFACE, keep up, folks)

Who should I recommend this to?

EVERYONE, FUCKFACE

If I recommend this book people will hate me, Nellie. Do you want people to hate me? Do you, Nellie?

YES, BECAUSE I NEED PEOPLE TO READ THIS BOOK, FUCKFACE, BECAUSE I AM UNDERUTILIZED AND LONELY AND PLEASE THEY MIGHT GO ON ANOTHER SHOPPING TRIP AND LEAVE ME ALONE *AGAIN* SO BUY THIS BOOK AND LOVE ME, seriously, please, because I've been here so long and absolutely nothing has happened pls sv me doo dad beep boop *dies*

In summation: Hands down, the worst book I've read this year. Yes, even worst than King's ELEVATION. THE MANSION is one of those magical books where you wish, just goddamn *WISH*, you could give zero stars. Enter this extended shopping trip at your own risk.

Final Judgment: THE SHINING without any shine whatsoever.

Char says

Thank you to Net Galley and to Atria books for the e-ARC of THE MANSION.

I'm sorry to say that I'm setting it aside for now. I love this author's style of writing and I love this premise, but it's taking way too long for anything to happen. I'm finding myself dragging my feet every time I try to go back to this book. I gave it 40% and I think that's a fair shot.

Perhaps I'll come back to it at a later time-so for now: No star rating.

Thanks to Atria for the opportunity!

Kimberly says

This just didn't hold up to my expectations after reading his other books... Too much redundant information, not enough "substance" to keep the suspense flowing.

Juli says

Years ago two friends had a falling out. One went on to become a tech mogul billionaire. And the other became a drunk. A project they worked on before they went their separate ways -- a very complex AI program they named Nellie -- is now almost a reality. Shawn Eagle -- owner of Eagle Technology -- needs his old friend (or is frenemy more correct?) Billy to come tweak the program. When Shawn installed Her at the now refurbished Eagle Mansion for a trial run, Nellie had some pretty severe glitches. It seems she has a mind of her own.....And it's not a healthy one. Does she turn the mansion into a futuristic smarthouse? Yep. But she's also got evil and murder lurking in her source code.

I love this book! Great mix of techie coolness and creepy suspense! I just like Boone's writing and story telling skills. He scared the crap out of me previously with his The Hatching trilogy (Giant angry super spiders.... AHHHHHHHHHHH!) and definitely gave me the creeps all over again in this tale of a smarthouse gone horribly wrong. Nicely done! I am definitely re-thinking my constant whining about how Siri, Alexa and other available AI programs just aren't as functional as I would like. I think Nellie might be just a bit too high functioning. I think I'd rather my AIs stick to knock knock jokes after reading this story. Nobody dies from bad jokes.

Dark hidden secrets. Jealousies. Hatred. Revenge. Deception & lies. Betrayal. Greed. Bad choices. Technology run amok. This tale has a bit of everything. The pacing is perfect, keeping the suspense going until the very end. The characters are completely F'd up....which makes them perfect for the story. And the ending......yikes! Loved it!

I voluntarily read an advanced readers copy of this book from Atria Books via NetGalley. All opinions expressed are entirely my own. 01001110 01101111 00100000 01000001 01001001 00100000 01100101 01101110 01110100 01101001 01110100 01101001 01100101 01110011 00100000 01110111 01100101 01110010 01100101 00100000 01101000 01100001 01110010 01101101 01100101 01100100 00100000 01101001 01101110 00100000 01110100 01101000 01100101 00100000 01110111 01110010 01101001 01110100 01101001 01101110 01100111 00100000 01101111 01100110 00100000 01110100 01101000 01101001 01110011 00100000 01110010 01100101 01110110 01101001 01100101 01110111 00101110

Kendall says

So premise of this story as absolutely addicting! I was super excited to dive into this one... but unfortunately my diving was not worth my overall experience :(.

Ezekiel Boone delivers a story about a haunted house influenced heavily on to the technological side. Can I just say.. I'm never buying one of those google/Alexa devices after this though haha.

The story focuses on Billy who is tech giant combining Apple and Google.. always wanting to strive more.

Billy and his ex partner Shawn ran a company together... and Shawn ended up walking away will billions of dollars. Billy on the other hand left with his girl and dived into alcohol. When Billy gets a call from Shawn offering him something he can't pass up about a new system called Nellie he dives in head first.

Let's just say.. Nellie isn't all what she seems to be. Boone took the elements of a haunted house and takes his readers for quite a ride. Let's just say... be careful with getting caught up with your inner demons.. this may effect your mind more than you think ;).

What I was disappointed in? I felt like the author focused so much on the characters in the beginning that the story of the haunted house and Nellie was left in the dust. "Nellie" didn't start picking up until the last 40 percent of the book. I was wanting more of the haunted house element and it was lacking big time for me. I felt it was a tad bit overkill with the storyline of the characters and we kept repeating the records of their mistakes and the past catching up to them.

The length was a tad bit too long for me and in my opinion could of taken at least a 100 pages of the characters out and added more of the house atmosphere/Nellie.

Overall, 3 stars for me on The Mansion.

Huge thank you to Netgalley and Atria for the opportunity to read this in exchange for my honest review.

Publication date: 12/4/18
Published to GR: 10/13/18

Michael Hicks says

A recovering alcoholic in a marriage on the rocks is offered a job to oversee a former hotel, now just a mansion, notorious for its macabre past. Sound familiar? Stop me if you've heard this one, then - there's a gifted child, in this case twins, with supernatural abilities thanks to being born with a caul.

I've read this book before, and it was a hell of a lot better the first time around. In *The Mansion*, Ezekiel Boone wages a full-frontal assault against reader's interests, bogging down the first four chapters with an entire series worth of character backstory's, plodding details, and unnecessary descriptions, all of which are told, and retold, and told again in a nearly infinite loop of heedless repetition. If you didn't get that Billy was an alcoholic the first time it's mentioned, don't worry - Boone will tell you over and over and over and over and over, usually within the same paragraph. Ditto that Billy and Shawn Eagle are no longer best buds and computer programming bros. Or that Eagle Mansion is utterly notorious. Everything you're told within the first couple pages are repeated for dozens more, and then a few dozen more just for good measure. Everything is repeated unnecessarily to the Nth degree.

Everything.

Every. Thing.

Ev.

Ery.

Th.

Ing.

Reading through the first ten percent of *The Mansions*, I was appalled at how overly padded it already felt. Where was the content editor for this thing? Was there even a content editor? So much of the first five chapters could have been readily condensed into half the page count just by expunging all the repetition. It's not until Chapter 5 that a semi-interesting development happens, and Boone lays out his intent. He's retelling *The Shining* with some technological updates. Unfortunately, he's also going about it in the most boring way possible by fixating on one or two details and telling you all about them over and over again. Every single character that gets introduced, no matter how ancillary, is given a full and immediate halt-everything, kill all momentum backstory. Billy and Emily are on the ousts? Interesting? Maybe. But wouldn't you rather hear about who Emily had Thanksgiving dinner with back in her college days years ago when she was rooming with a girl who's father was an oil baron and whose aunt did some such thing or another? Don't you want to know about literally every single college Emily applied to and was rejected from? No? Well, OK, fine. What about her gay co-worker, Andy? Boone has a lot to tell us about the kind of car Andy drives, why he drives it, and the state of his love life. Bored of that already? Well, let's head into chapter three where you can learn some more about how Billy is an alcoholic that hates Shawn. Hey, did you know Billy is an alcoholic that hates Shawn? Because he is. Silly Billy's a drinker, has a bit of a problem, you see. He also doesn't like Shawn too much, no siree. Do you get it? Let's start over! Billy is an alcoholic who hates Shawn...

It's fucking sad when the chapter headings like "In Which Emily Wiggins Takes a Nap" and "Aunt Emily Is Sad" are more interesting than the shit that happens in said chapter. It's fucking sad when 10% into the book I'm already skimming over entire sections, bored to tears and reduced to hate-reading as I mentally debate if I plug along and see if things pick up or if I should just quit this goddamned book already.

Well, I quit it. This one's a DNF at 14%. No rating, but I'll leave it up to your imagination how many stars I'd have given it based on what I've read thus far. Christ, I need a drink.

[Note: I received an advance reading copy of this title from the publisher, Atria/Emily Bestler Books, via NetGalley.]

♥Rachel♥ says

The Mansion started off a little slow for me with the introduction of characters and explanations of the technology Shawn and Billy were trying to invent way back before Eagle Logic officially took off. But as soon as that was out of the way, I was completely hooked wanting to find out what happened to Billy, Shawn and Emily in that tiny cabin on the creepy property of Eagle Mansion. Especially, since Billy and Emily are back, ten years after their spectacular fallout with Shawn, trying to fix the glitches of Shawn and Billy's original creation: Nellie.

Nellie's a far more advanced version of our present-day Alexa or Siri, and Shawn finally got her up and running, but with bugs that his own team of engineers can't iron out. Nellie's been installed in the newly renovated Eagle Mansion, a renovation that's been plagued by questionable accidents with Nellie acting up all over the place. There's a "ghost in the machine" that makes Nellie unpredictable, and dangerous…

I wanted to know: Was Eagle Mansion and the grounds truly haunted? Or was this just a case of

malfunctioning technology? There's a dark history between Shawn and Billy, even before Emily, slowly revealed through character's memories as they tackle the problem of Nellie in the present. The revelations were chilling! From Shawn's own past, to what went down ten years ago with Shawn, Billy and a third programmer who eventually disappeared. Scenes from the past and present made my hair stand on end and my pulse race! I love it when an author can put me on edge, and fill me with tension over what might happen next!

I felt Mr. Boone really dug down deep with his characters in **The Mansion** compared to The Hatching books. I appreciated that this was a bit more character driven since I love getting inside and finding out what makes them tick! Billy, Shawn and Emily, were all likable and unlikable at times; perfectly imperfect, and it was easy to sympathize with them even when I didn't approve of their actions.

The Mansion was a book I really wanted to read straight through, but sadly life had other plans for me. Still, every time I picked the book back up, I was again riveted by the story unfolding. Ezekiel Boone created a very different story from his previous series, The Hatching, but both are compelling, and frightening in their own ways. I eagerly await whatever Mr. Boone comes up with next!

A copy was kindly provided by Emily Bestler Books via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Reading.Between.Wines says

???????? / 5

The idea behind *The Mansion* by Ezekiel Boone is an interesting and fascinating one, but this book is not going to be for everyone!

What it's about: Young programmers Shawn Eagle and Billy Stafford work for 2 years in a small, isolated cabin next to the decrepit Eagle Mansion, on a program that is eventually named Eagle Logic. Billy and Shawn have a falling out when Billy leaves with Shawn's girlfriend Emily, and after the mysterious disappearance of their third partner, Takata. Years later Shawn is the multi-billion-dollar owner of Eagle Logic, while Billy and Emily are poor with maxed out credit cards and crappy cars. Shawn invites Billy to his company to offer a proposition that Billy go live in the fixed up Eagle Mansion to work out some bugs in a system that Billy and Shawn created back in that little cabin. Nellie is a computer program that is the ultimate personal assistant, she can literally anticipate your needs before you even have them. But where is the glitch in Nellie's system? And just how far will they go to fix it...?

When I started this book I really didn't think I was going to like it. After reading the synopsis I was incredibly intrigued, but *The Mansion* had a very slow start for me. I found the beginning a bit dragged out and repetitive, but once I hit about 25% - boy oh boy! Things really started picking up after that point, and everything got very interesting.

I'm far from being a computer nerd, but I loved the idea of a book with a computer program that has basically taken over a house. The future is now, and I am always interested in technology, even if only from a buyers point of view. Nellie was fascinating to read about and even though there was a lot of talk about programming and things of that nature, I think Boone did a very good job of making it something understandable.

I think that it is very important to point out that *The Mansion* is very heavily character driven, and it's not one of those edge of your seat plot-driven thrillers. A lot of the book is spent on Shawn and Billy's backgrounds, although I would have liked more of Emily's as well. The only true woman's perspective in this novel was hers, and I could have used a tiny bit more of it.

The only real qualm I had with the novel, besides the slow start, was that there were a couple of things that I didn't feel got explained very well. I would have liked to know more about Emily's sister's twins and I wish there would have been a better explanation of Nellie (these things will make sense if you read the book). I thought those points got glossed over a bit and I was disappointed I didn't know more about what was going on.

Final Thought: If the synopsis sounds good to you, I recommend picking it up as long as you know it's not a terribly fast moving novel the entire way through. There are multiple POVs which I really enjoyed, and the ending was pretty crazy as well. It did get a bit gory at times and there are some tough subjects like abuse, but overall it really just focuses on the characters and 'fixing' Nellie. Looking forward to reading more from this author!

Darinda says

Shawn and Billy once created a computer called Eagle Logic, but their friendship and business partnership went downhill fast. Shawn went on to build Eagle Logic into a a billion-dollar tech company. Now, it's years later, and Shawn needs Billy's help resurrecting an old project. The project is a next-generation computer program that has a problem Shawn can't work out on his own. He has housed the project in his family's old mansion, which he recently remodeled. Billy takes the job, and he and his wife Emily move into the mansion.

A haunted house story with a technological twist. The old mansion has had numerous disasters occur on the grounds. The locals say it's haunted. The computer program, Nellie, is enhanced home automation. Sure, Nellie turns on lights, locks doors, adjusts temperatures, etc., but she does more too. Nellie is a presence. She takes care of it all.

This story is told using flashbacks from when Shawn and Billy worked together to tell how they came to be who they are today. A big part of the story is that Shawn and Billy both love Emily. She was once Shawn's girlfriend, but ended up with Billy.

Supercomputer. Haunted house. Love triangle. This novel has a lot happening, but it is slowly drawn out. I've read *The Hatching* and *Skitter* by Ezekiel Boone, and I was expecting a faster moving story. *The Mansion* definitely burns slowly.

A combination of horror and technothriller. It's more eerie than scary. Atmospheric, creepy, and high-tech.

Chandra Claypool (wherethereadergrows) says

I absolutely love the author's spider apocalypse trilogy and couldn't wait to see what else he was going to throw at us and here it is! Something completely different from his other work and I enjoyed it immensely.

Billy's drawn back to this mansion that him and his ex (and soon to be again) business partner and friend, Shawn, lived for a couple of winters, because he's down on his luck and has royally fucked up his life on booze and drugs. His marriage is about to fall apart and his wife has no idea how far they really are in debt. Cue Shawn's intervention to bring him back for a ton of money to fix the glitch in Nellie, this book's version of Siri or Cortana, amplified.

Got that? Good. Now that I've basically regurgitated the synopsis to you - let's talk about the insides. Personally, I was hooked and didn't want to put this book down. I thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end. Yes, there are moments where you get that Shining feeling because of a lot of similarities... a LOT.. but here's the thing for me: The Shining dragged for me. While The Mansion did take a little bit to get somewhere and I kept waiting for Nellie to really shine through (see what I did there?), I was pretty much glued to the pages. I enjoyed the past and present views of the main characters. I didn't care about the all too often used love triangle. I don't know you guys, this one just kind of spoke to me. Was it creepy? No. Did it scare me? No. Would I ever live in a house that was (supposedly) that technologically advanced? I'll say no but who really knows. I already got freaked about robot security at the airport so it's hard to say.

This read a bit like a mix of *The Girl Before* meets *The Shining*. What Boone excels at his character development and you're going to get more of that than the sci-fi/horror aspect. I wish I had a little more to go on with Nellie and even with the Twins but overall, I'm pretty satiated with this. Don't expect it to be like The Hatching series - this is a complete 180 from that.

Sci-fi/technology suspense is where I would classify this one.

Thanks Atria and NetGalley for this copy!

Carrie says

The Mansion by Ezekiel Boone is a horror story that brings the idea of a haunting into this century and the digital age. After reading one might think twice before ever asking Siri or Alexa for any more favors in their lives.

Straight out of school Shawn Eagle and Billy Stafford spent a year locked away in a remote cabin writing the coding that would one day change the world, Eagle Logic. However, instead of both of them basking in the glory when the business booms Shawn got the company and Billy walked away with Emily who had dated Shawn first.

Now, years later, Shawn is a billionaire and Billy is a recovering alcoholic deep in debt so when Shawn approaches Billy to help him with his new AI software Billy can't help but be interested. The deal is for Billy and Emily to move into the Mansion and fix Nellie but clearing their debt may cost them more than they bargained for.

The Mansion was my first try for a horror novel from Ezekiel Boone and I have to say I was a little torn walking away from this one. The idea of the plot was solid and I did find the writing enjoyable however there just didn't seem to be enough of the horror. An extremely long time is spent building the back story and characters making things progress slowly so it felt as if the actual "haunting" was buried and rushed to a conclusion so in the end I would rate this at 3.5 stars.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit https://carriesbookreviews.com/

Fiona says

It was a real challenge for me to settle on a rating for this book - I'm firm on 3.5 stars, and there's reasons to go both directions with it.

The Mansion is a change of pace from Ezekiel Boone, and if you followed a trail of giant spiders to this book, you might be disappointed. This is no campy horror movie - if, like me, your expectations were somewhere in the neighbourhood of 13 Ghosts meets The Shining, readjust; this is a much more thoughtful thing.

At the heart of the story lie the choices made by two men - boys, really, college-aged and too full of passions to leave much room for brain. As the years have gone by, they've both convinced themselves that the other was the *real* winner, and managed to thoroughly hollow out the victories they've both enjoyed. And when one reaches out to the other, bringing that volatile relationship right back to the boil, we can all tell it's going to go horribly wrong.

There's a bit of a nod towards the third parties to these decisions, Emily and Nellie, but their choices are somewhat overshadowed by those made by our two protagonists. (Or possibly antagonists really, neither of these men are actually all that heroic - or even nice). They do make choices, but some of the dangling threads that were left (view spoiler) made it clear that those weren't the game-changers, at the end of the day.

All in all though, Ezekiel Boone keeps up the fun that is becoming the hallmark of his brand of horror, along with bringing some really excellent characters - even the side characters are so well-developed that they feel completely real. While it might not be a book I'll read over and over, I'd recommend it for anyone wanting a fun and mildly scary time with a good book.

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karen says

[let's say two for now (hide spoiler)]

Erin Clemence says

 Special thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for a free, electronic ARC of this novel.

I was super excited to read "The Mansion" by Ezekiel Boone, not only because of the time of year, but because I absolutely loved Boone's previous works *(The Hatching and Skitter)*. That being said, I headed into this one with high expectations.

Shawn Eagle and Billy Stafford spent two years living in nearly complete seclusion, working on a new technology that would innovate the world as they know it. Although the two come close to developing their

technology, it is not yet at the level they expected and when Emily, Shawn's girlfriend, leaves him for Billy, the relationship is severed completely. Soon, Shawn is a tech billionaire, living on the fortune that the new software brought him, and Billy, now married to Emily, is an alcoholic, struggling to make ends meet. When Shawn invites Emily and Billy to his old family mansion to work out the kinks of the technology they started on so long ago, things quickly go terribly wrong. The new technology, "Nellie", has a mind of its own and soon, the very house they live in is under her spell. Billy needs to work out the glitches in the system before it's too late for all of them.

This novel started off slow, and it took quite a bit of time for me to become invested in the plot. A lot of tech speak, spliced with snippets of the history of Shawn and Billy's friendship, made up the majority of the first portion of this novel. It did not start off scary right away, and seemed to play out more as a science fiction novel than a horror, which is not what I expected from Boone.

Shawn was not a likable character *(mostly due to the arrogance he possessed, that I assume is the result of being a multi-billionaire)*, but Billy and Emily were somewhat more relatable, and those two characters alone allowed me to form a bond with the novel.

"The Mansion" is reminiscent of "The Shining" *(from the haunted house aspect right down to the psychic twins)* but the possessed house also made me think of the Simpsons' Treehouse of Terror episode *(the one where Pierce Brosnan acts as the voice for the super-tech possessed house?)* and the plot does not have the creativity of Boone's former novels.

The novel does have its creepy moments, especially in the modern times we live in with technologies like "Alexa" almost the norm in homes everywhere, and the premise will definitely creep you out. There is the occasional gore and act of violence, which is expected from Boone, and periods of downright fright. Overall, though, "The Mansion" is probably more science fiction than horror, but it definitely deserves a read all the same.

I recommend going into this one without expectations, and not to draw comparisons with Boone's other novels. With that mindset, "The Mansion" will be a technological creeper that will haunt you and leave you pondering- how much power can our technology have, before we lose control of our own lives completely?