



MARTY
THORNLEY

PAINLESS

A NOVEL

Painless

Marty Thornley

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What readers are saying...

"...most definitely a recommended read, though it's probably not the best choice for those with a weak stomach."

"Gruesome and twisted. Awesome!!!"

"OMG this book. Holy heck the gruesome descriptions of blood and gore and guts was SO RAD. I found myself cringing and fidgeting and yes, even feeling a bit nauseous in some spots - but totally in a GOOD WAY! Painless was exactly what I wanted in a super-unique, creepy, shocking horror-thriller."

About the Book...

The debut psychological-horror novel from author Marty Thornley is a page-turning ride, a front row seat to a clinical trial gone horribly wrong.

For Greg Owens, this was supposed to be a chance to end years of back pain and escape his reliance on pain pills. If it all worked out, he could maybe even get back the life he left behind as the pills took control.

Instead, as the patients are cured of their physical pain, they encounter a different sort of pain building inside them – obsessive thoughts, depression, self-destruction. The side-effects grow worse, and the suspense ratchets tighter. The patients want answers and violent revenge, setting them on a collision course with a crazed doctor, determined to protect his life's obsession.

Painless Details

Date : Published January 18th 2018 by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

ISBN : 9781979851206

Author : Marty Thornley

Format : Paperback 284 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery

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From Reader Review Painless for online ebook

Michelle Willms says

Interesting and pleasantly terrifying

This book was a compelling look at the effects of chronic pain in all aspects of a person's life, as well as the lengths people are willing to go to eliminate that pain. While the book could benefit from a bit more editing, the overall story was quite good. The author brought the bloodiest, most macabre scenes to life. I easily imagined myself right in the room with characters. While I never became overly connected to any of the characters (except for Cody), I did find myself devouring the book and snarling at any interruptions to my reading. This is most definitely a recommended read, though it's probably not the best choice for those with a weak stomach.

Jaime says

This is an exceptionally well written novel. I'm not entirely familiar with the horror-thriller genre, but I am an avid reader, and this book did not disappoint. The author did a great job at keeping the story moving while thoroughly capturing the setting in exquisite detail. If this is your genre, I think you'll be very happy. I can also see this making for a great theatrical release in theaters.

Jasmine says

Ugh. Just...ugh.

That's a good thing. Trust me.

I'm a huge fan of horror novels, but lately I've found myself disappointed by a lot of the ones I've chosen to read and review. Sure, there have been a few rare gems here and there, but most "indie" horror tends to be a bit of a letdown. *Painless*, however, has restored my faith.

I absolutely loved this story. It has such a basic premise, but it takes it to the extreme. Like, a clinical trial gone wrong could be something so ridiculous and lame, but Marty Thornley seems to have the magic touch. He kept the story interesting and brutal and crazy (in a good way), and it left me feeling like I'd ridden one too many roller coasters in 100+ degree heat. Does that mean it's nauseating at times? Yes. Yes it does.

Now, I'm not normally a squeamish person. I can handle blood and guts and gore better than most people I know, but there were certain scenes in this book that made me cringe.

(view spoiler)

The characters in *Painless* were relatable, at least for me. A couple years ago, I screwed up my back really

bad. There was even a morning where I woke up and couldn't move, thought I was paralyzed, had a panic attack, and once I finally wiggled my way to the edge of the bed, I was able to sit up and have my fiance take me to the hospital for treatment. They gave me morphine, which made me horribly sick. After months of physical therapy, I finally got myself back on track.

Unfortunately for the characters in *Painless*, they don't have it as easy. They all suffer chronic pain (back, neck & shoulders, head(migraines), etc) and just want it to go away. The doctor in charge of the clinical trial they all sign up for promises he can make them feel so much better. But what they don't know is...well, I won't spoil that. You'll just have to read it and find out.

The plot is, like I said before, intense and brutal, but it keeps you hooked, needing to know what crazy scene might play out next, and how it might end. It didn't feel rushed, nor did it drag, so that was definitely a plus.

I really, truly did enjoy *Painless* more than I expected to, and I'm so glad I took a chance on it. If you're a fan of good, gruesome horror, I'd recommend you check out *Painless*. It's fantastic.

Five well-deserved stars from me!

Marty Thornley says

This is my TOTALLY biased review about my own book! I'm excited to have it finally available on Kindle and now here in Goodreads.

If you have read it, please leave your own totally honest review. Thank you for reading!

?Tamara says

Good? Bad? I don't know ?

"For Greg Owens, this was supposed to be a chance to end years of back pain and escape his reliance on pain pills. If it all worked out, he could maybe even get back the life he left behind as the pills took control. Instead, as the patients are cured of their physical pain, they encounter a different sort of pain building inside them – obsessive thoughts, depression, self-destruction. The side-effects grow worse, and the suspense ratchets tighter. The patients want answers and violent revenge, setting them on a collision course with a crazed doctor, determined to protect his life's obsession."

can a book be both good and bad at the same time? Cause I'm on both sides of the fence with this book. I found the beginning very difficult to understand and to follow. but I found the premise of the book very intriguing. I found issues with the writing as in grammatical and spelling errors and yet the descriptive powers of the author when describing the physical torture that the characters put themselves through is unprecedented. Like it literally makes your skin crawl and makes you want to gag! I honestly just don't know what to make of this book. I'm so confused it is difficult for me to even write a review for it.

I guess I wish the editing would have been done better. That would definitely have made it more readable for me because when I find grammatical, and especially spelling, errors it's like nails on a chalkboard for me. ? I also wish that the writing style was a little more intriguing like the story itself was intriguing. I found the writing style to be very dull and as I stated before difficult to read and understand what is going on.

I wanted to like this book, and I did in some ways, but as with any book that I find editing errors with I

cannot recommend it until the errors are fixed.

Sherry Fundin says

Okay...I see where the title came from.

Intense, excruciating, debilitating, paralyzing, nonstop pain. Drugs and more drugs. What if there was a cure, instead of just treating symptoms?

Going from barely making it through the day, to jumping and dancing for joy, seeing the day in a whole new light.

How far will the patient go? Even more important, how far will the doctor go?

Well, if something is that good, there must be a down side. What about the side affects? What about if you knew what would happen? Would you do it anyway?

Whoa...I don't know what to say. A mad scientist, a crazy nurse, an illegal experiment.

Graphic, bloody horror of the weird kind. All I can say is, if you want to cringe, have shivers up and down your spine, have your stomach doing flip flops, jumping at every bang of the door and growl of the dog, then Painless is for you.

I voluntarily reviewed a free copy of Painless Marty Thornley.

See more at fundamental

Chandra Claypool (wherethereadergrows) says

Good lawd, this debut novel! If you had chronic pain that you had to self medicate and it caused you to basically lose the most important things in your life... wouldn't you want to go into a clinical trial to take it all away? I've been dealing with some slight back pain for the past few weeks and am just about to this point (might be exaggerating a little). I just want the pain to go away!

Enter Dr. Dante Menta (D. Menta, ha!). A group of people are going through the procedure and while it did work, the side effects are harrowing and gruesome. I am here for every single minutes of it!

The book does start a little bit slow (the prologue doesn't but after that...). There are some parts where it feels slightly choppy and repetitive. However, get into the meat (no pun intended) of the story where they've been primed and ready for the procedure... well, this is where the book launches into overdrive. Gruesome and cringe worthy scenes included. It's been some time where I've actually winced at a book and the actions contained within. All in the best way. I'm one of those people who love this type of read.

Now, keeping in mind this is a debut novel.. there's certainly some things that could be improved on such as a flow and slight repetitiveness. **HOWEVER**, I am a fan. There's a reason our body feels pain. It's a warning

to keep yourself from danger and certainly much more. I am certainly hesitant to enter into any kind of clinical trial after reading this.

Will certainly pick up the next book by Thornley.

Thanks so much to JKS Communications for this copy.

Cheryl says

What is your price to be "pain free" for life? I luckily, have not had to experience excruciating pain that I would want to "die". Yet, this is how Greg felt. He has been in so much pain for years that he lost his woman and fell into a stupor. So, when he was offered the opportunity to go to a medical clinic with the promise of being pain free, he volunteers.

There are several other residents at the facility. They are all suffering from pain in different ways. The doctors and nurse seem normal. However, they are more like mad scientists. The patients feel great after their procedures; yet, it is not long after when they start showing signs of crazed beasts. They go after each other as well as self inflict pain on themselves. Yet, they don't feel pain. Examples: one guy chews his fingernail and skin off, another guy burns a hole in his hand and swirls his finger around in muscle, tendon, and blood. Then, there is a woman who stabs herself in the eye with a knife.

I read a lot of other readers who were grossed out with these descriptions. I personally could handle them as I like these types of books. The gorier the better. What I was disappointed about this book was that it read slowly before any of the events happened. Plus, I never fully connected with any of the characters. Overall, though this is still a good read and I would read more books from this author.

Irene says

The first half of this book mainly focuses on Greg and how his desperation to be rid of chronic pain has led him to become a patient of Dr. D Menta, your basic mad scientist type who sets up a "hospital" in the middle of nowhere, the better to conduct his experiments. The second half is a gruesome gore fest as Greg sees the violent after effects of the patients before him who have already undergone Dr. D Menta's procedure to rid them of chronic pain. It will make you squirm and cringe in all the right ways. Not for the weak of stomach.

4 out of 5 stars.

I received a complimentary copy for review.

Carissa says

As someone who suffers from chronic pain and had a Chiari surgery, leaving me with about a 10 inch scar down the midline of my skull and neck right where the surgeries in the book are performed, let's just say this book touched VERY close to home. Also, I'm very much aware of the effects of manipulating or causing damage to the dorsal horn and the nerves that would be effected by this surgery. Dysautonomia is something

I suffer due to autonomic nerve damage because of my Chiari Malformation. That all being said, I understand the desperation each of the patients willing to go through this clinical trial were feeling. When in constant pain or fighting off attacks from your own body, you will absolutely do anything you can to escape those things. As the author brought up, physical pain often results in emotional manifestations for chronic, long-term sufferers. The anxiety, depression, helplessness and hopelessness compact the daily effects of the pain on your life.

Where the book failed for me was that none of the medical or surgical topics were really touched on in great detail. For example, Deanna's constant itching/scratching was not psychosomatic, the nerves contained within the spinal cord, especially in the dorsal horn, control itch, heat, cold and even autonomic nervous system functions like heart rate, blood pressure, breathing, etc. For such a detailed book, you would think it could be made better with explaining WHY some of the effects of the surgery were likely occurring. We actually get almost no explanation as to why or what exactly happens to the surgical patients or much of what the surgery entails and why that approach of surgery is taken in order to cure, not just treat the symptoms. So, there's detail in the book, but not focused where I feel it could have really affected the readers.

The ending is clearly a let down and leaves far too much to be untold, undiscovered and resolved, so I'm guessing it is formatted for another book. In the case there is another book, there should be more focus on the sources of the outcome of the surgery. In this book they had the surgery and then all got weird, but WHY? How were the doctors still ok after each having had the surgery? What were the injections Dr. Georgia and Dr. Menta have and what role did they play in their long-term outcome and staying "normal" post-surgery? There's just too much missing in this book and I gave it 3 stars only because it does talk about the pharmaceutical company's mistreatment of pain sufferers and helps to shine some light on true effects and emotions of a chronic sufferer. I don't think I'd necessarily recommend this book, but I'd be willing to read a sequel in order to get some answers!

Thanks NetGalley for my copy of this book and all opinions are completely honest, unbiased and my own.

Laura Hernandez (TheVoluptuousBkDiva/YABkDivas) says

This gruesome and graphic read is absolutely mind-blowing and keeps you chomping at the bit with every turn of the page. I honestly felt repulsed at times and my stomach churned over and over again while reading this diabolical read. Full of horrific turns which in turn makes it into my top five reads of this year.

{I requested a copy for reviewing purposes and made no guarantee of a favorable review. The opinions expressed herein are unbiased and my own.}

Jessica says

This is not the type of genre I usually read, but I was intrigued by the story line. The author did not disappoint! I was drawn in from the first page...a quick page turner that I didn't put down. Cheers to the author who converted me to "horror"!

Kate Vocke says

Excuse me for a second, while I go barf. OMG this book. Holy heck the gruesome descriptions of blood and gore and guts was SO RAD. I found myself cringing and fidgeting and yes, even feeling a bit nauseous in some spots - but totally in a GOOD WAY! Painless was exactly what I wanted in a super-unique, creepy, shocking horror-thriller.

Greg Owens is in pain. A LOT of pain. He fell off a ladder on a construction job, injuring his back, and his entire life has gone to shit. He lost his wife, his kid, he can't work, he's addicted to pills. He's desperate, and can't find anything that will help him get relief, so he can return to construction, or any job he doesn't need "Pills to pay the Bills" in order to work. His addiction is keeping him from his little girl and he's resorted to getting pills illegally from dealers, just to make it through the day.

Dr. Dante Menta is running an exclusive clinical trial. He's been working on a pain relief technique for years, and promises a complete cure of all physical pain. Sign me up, right? We meet all the patients involved in the trial who have arrived before Greg. There are even animal patients. Some of them are seeking relief from back pain, or car accident injuries, others from auto-immune things like Lupus - and even chronic migraine headaches.

The patients are taken in one by one to get the procedure and at first, it's exactly as promised and the results are impressive! But soon, shit starts hitting the fan. Patients are starting to act really strange, obsessive, destructive. Things start to go horribly, horribly wrong. And it's incredible awesome to watch!

I thought this story was really different and the premise was immediately intriguing - it was a quick read, but written really well, and explores a dark side of both how people deal with pain management and also Dr. Menta's obsession with his life's work to find a cure. I would love to see this translated to a horror movie, and I'd be first in line to buy a ticket!

Thanks to Marty Thornley and Goodreads for hosting this giveaway!

Valerie -Cats Luv Coffee says

From the first page, I was captivated by Greg. Having fallen off a ladder while on the job, simple daily tasks are now maddening and all consuming. He embodies the spoon metaphor frequently used by those with chronic pain. You start the day with a limited amount of spoons and every activity performed throughout the day takes one of those spoons. When you are out of spoons, you're done. That's where Greg is. He's done. Rock bottom. When the opportunity arises to live "normally", Greg seizes the chance and sets off to join others in a clinical trial that promises to cure them of their pain.

Read more at Cats Luv Coffee

United Indie Book Blog says

WOW This book is different. It's scary, creepy, sad and just plain out there. It took me a bit to rid. I really had to put the book down and walk away. Its hard to see people dealing with pain on an everyday basic and not know how to help. What's that saying if it seems to good to be true then its not. When you wish to be pain and you get your wish with a bunch of side effects. Are the side effects worth it, or is it better to be in pain? This book makes you think about the choices you make. Towards the end of the story I was intrigues and kind of grossed out. I give this author props for writing this book. I would have never thought to write anything like it. I would highly recommend this book to my friends. Thank you United Indie Book Blog for letting me read this book.?

review by Maribel
