



The Beast of Barcroft (The Fatal Folklore Trilogy Book 1)

Bill Schweigart

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Fans of Stephen King and Bentley Little will devour *The Beast of Barcroft*, Bill Schweigart's brilliant new vision of dark suburban horror. Ben thought he had the neighbor from hell. He didn't know how right he was. . . .

Ben McKelvie believes he's moving up in the world when he and his fiancée buy a house in the cushy Washington, D.C., suburb of Barcroft. Instead, he's moving down—*way* down—thanks to Madeleine Roux, the crazy neighbor whose vermin-infested property is a permanent eyesore and looming hazard to public health.

First, Ben's fiancée leaves him; then, his dog dies, apparently killed by a predator drawn into Barcroft by Madeleine's noxious menagerie. But the worst is yet to come for Ben, for he's not dealing with any ordinary wild animal. This killer is something much, much worse. Something that couldn't possibly exist—in this world.

Now, as a devilish creature stalks the locals, Ben resolves to take action. With some grudging assistance from a curator at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and the crackpot theories of a self-styled cryptozoologist, he discovers the sinister truth behind the attacks, but knowing the Beast of Barcroft and stopping it are two different animals.

The Beast of Barcroft (The Fatal Folklore Trilogy Book 1) Details

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Author : Bill Schweigart

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From Reader Review The Beast of Barcroft (The Fatal Folklore Trilogy Book 1) for online ebook

Emma says

Very entertaining and original take on the shapeshifter story. This was fast-paced and very humorous. It's a quick quality read. Consider it Recommended!

Storm Reads says

Ben didn't know that he would lose everything when he moved him and his fiancée to Barcroft in Arlington. What he thought was going to be a dream home ended up having him living alone beside a nasty house. The house next to him was lived in by a woman who seemed to take in all animals, from rats to raccoons and it was an eye sore.

Ben has been having a hard time since his father died and he thought the move would help but he still hadn't snapped out of it and eventually his fiancée left him. Then one day he was letting his dog out and his dog is taken by something that looked like a big cat, but different. The police won't take him serious but then other strange things start happening around Barcroft. Pets have gone missing, etc.

The town has a meeting about the nasty house that is no longer occupied by the woman as she died, but nobody is doing anything about all the rats and other animals. They bring in a zoologist to help explain things and she ends up being curious about Ben and his big cat that he complains about. They go looking for it and run into more than they bargained for but the policewoman still doesn't believe him until she witnesses some things herself.

The Beast of Barcroft is a bit different than what I thought it was going to be as it's not a werewolf, nor a big cat, but it seems to be several different things and I will let you find out what it is. The story gets off to a bit of a slow start but it picks up and then gets pretty interesting.

Ben annoyed me a little at first but I am assuming his attitude is because of his depressive conditions and the loss of his dog, but he quickly loses the whine when faced with grave danger. Lindsay, is the zoologist who tries to help Ben fight the beast, she ends up enlisting the help of a cryptologist who she thinks is crazy, but maybe not as crazy as she previously thought since they are dealing with something that is not normal. She was pretty brave for a zoologist who studies cats...lol.

Overall I found the novel to be interesting and I liked that it was not your typical beast. I didn't find it to be too scary but I have a higher tolerance than some so others might find it creepy. If you are into light horror novels then you might enjoy this one.

Lena says

Ben McKelvie has lost his father, his wife, and now a mountain lion with glowing orange eyes has eaten his dog. The only thing worse would be if no one believed him but his neighbors are so angry about their pest problems they are happy to add mountain lion to their list of complaints.

Lindsay Clark is a hard working zoologist and curator of the great cats at the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo. Her girlfriend Faith, who treats Lindsay like a doormat, is the daughter of a County Board member to Ben's neighborhood. Faith asks Lindsay to help her mother out at the community meeting which is how she gets involved in the hunt for the alleged mountain lion.

Neither of these main characters interested me but the secondary cast has much to offer!

Richard Severance is a wealthy manor dwelling cryptozoologist whose intelligence is matched by his wit. He is that debonair guy who knows his shit. My favorite character was Dr. Alex Standingcloud, professor of Native American indigenous studies at George Mason University. It didn't hurt that he was tall and good looking but I do like a strong Native American character.

This isn't a monstrosity tale where the main character(s) suffers much doubt and ridicule. It's a shorter story and everybody gets on board fast which leaves room for plenty of action. I would love to read more tales with Severance and Standingcloud, it could be a classy adult *Supernatural*.

Lyn says

An entertaining and relentless page turner.

One of the best compliments that can be given a book is that "I couldn't put it down" and I almost literally could not, blazing through this tight, fast paced novel in a couple days.

Protagonist Ben McKelvie has moved to Arlington Virginia, in an older suburban neighborhood and has unfortunately put down roots next to the local crackpot, a woman who's conservationist ideals and love for animals has been sidetracked by mental illness and substance abuse. But Ben and his neighbors soon learn that they have more to deal with than an infestation with rats and a nut. Next comes paranormal activity, Native American folklore and a rich, charismatic cryptozoologist.

Though the publisher has marketed this in the horror genre with invitations to Stephen King fans, and there are ample examples of horror elements in the novel, I would group this more in the urban fantasy sub-genre, akin to Jim Butcher and Kevin Hearne. Like the Dresden files and Iron Druid series, Bill Schweigart has a great idea and has crafted a damn fine story around a solid design.

This all makes me think – and I cannot believe I am typing this – that Schweigart has a great idea for a series. True, the market is glutted with book 3 of this and the fifth installment of that, but WHAT THE HELL?? This was a fun book to read, and if we're hunting cryptids, Schweigart seems to be well prepared to deliver.

Schweigart's writing is a lot of fun, well paced and enjoyable. His prose is smart and witty with many cultural and pop references to keep things moving. His characterization and dialogue, frequently a soft spot in this genre, is well defined and approachable.

Finally, author Bill Schweigart has created a tense, fun thriller with psychological and occult elements. He also used a fantastic term that I will be looking for in my fantasy selections: Cryptozoology.

And I'll look for more books from this talented writer.

Elizabeth says

OMG this was so good, so glade I wanted to pick this up and give it a try, there was some things I didn't understand but I'm hoping that since this was an uncorrected copy that it'll be fix when it comes out to buy, with that said I also want to say that I loved how it pulled me in the story and kept me wanting to read it, loved how it also used Native American myths and legends as part of the story.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life.

Wow! I ended up enjoying this book a lot. I was in the mood for something a little different with a bit of blood and freaky stuff and this book filled that need perfectly. This story kept me guessing and I found it really hard to put down once all the weird stuff started happening. I ended up reading most of it in a single night.

This is the story of the Bancroft neighborhood. The neighborhood has that one house that is causing everyone trouble and Ben happens to live next door. The woman who lives at the problem house has created a bit of an animal problem for the entire area. She nursed raccoons back to health in her house, fed every bird in the area, and created a huge rat infestation. When she dies, you would think that things would get better but it doesn't. Ben's large dog, a 90 pound greyhound, is killed in his own backyard by an animal, possibly a cougar. This event starts a chain of events that will terrorize the entire neighborhood.

This story started out strong and really stayed strong throughout the story. There was a lot of action with quite a few bloody moments to keep things interesting. I will admit that I was really wondering where everything was going in the story which is a huge plus. I just love a book that is unpredictable and keeps me guessing. Some of the weird things that happen in this story are outside the realm of what would be considered normal.

I thought that the characters in this book were strong and likable. I think that anyone who owns a house in a neighborhood has that one house on the block that drives everyone crazy. Let me tell you...that house is a palace compared to the Bancroft house. I think that Ben has done much better than I ever could have with his next door neighbor. I did like how the author showed how the stress had had an impact on Ben. Lindsay works for the National Zoo and specializes in big cats. Her job and the way she deal with the situation were very well done in the story.

I really enjoyed this author's writing. The pacing of the story was well done with lots of excitement. The story seemed to flow together very nicely. The characters were average people and I found myself chuckling

at their dialog at times. I love how the author worked a few movie lines into the story sometimes tweaking them to make it work. All in all this book was just a lot of fun.

I would highly recommend this book to others. It has just the right blend of horror, unexplained events, and even a few comical moments to keep the pages turning. This is the first book by Bill Schweigart that I have had a chance to read. I look forward to other book in the future from this author.

I received an advance reader edition of this book from Random House Publishing Group - Hydra via NetGalley for the purpose of providing an honest review.

Initial Thoughts

I really liked this one. Just what I was in the mood to read.

Ken McKinley says

What IS the Beast of Barcroft? That is a very good question. And as you continue reading the story, the answer my surprise you. Ben's fiance dumped him for being an angry nutcase and that he lived next door to a house that is so rat infested, it should've been condemned long ago. All of the surrounding neighbors file complaints left and right, but to no avail. The crazy lady that lives there always seems to skate by with a slap on the wrist. When the lady dies, the dilapidated house is tied up in legal red tape and continues to draw vermin. While out one night walking Bucky, a cougar attacks them and kills Ben's dog. How in the hell is there a cougar in Barcroft, a suburb of Arlington? Is the infested house next door drawing in the wild beast? What can Ben do about any of this?

For me, I thought the Beast of Barcroft was going to be one of these paint-by-the-numbers suburban horror stories without any substance and an annoying lead character that was hard to have any sympathy for. He stops taking his happy pills and then mopes about while bad things keep happening in his life. And then, Schweigart does something really clever with his characters - they ridicule Ben's missteps and it creates this kind of anti-hero main character filled with flaws. No you can't feel too sorry for Ben because of all the stupid things he does and thats exactly how Schweigart wants it. Things really kick into high gear around the half way mark in the book and you'll be flipping through the pages at light speed. The dialogue is witty and clever with shades of Quentin Tarantino and I found myself really enjoying the story. Schweigart's writing flows easily and its easy to see how he got picked up by a large publisher like Random House.

4 1/2 bloody greyhound carcasses out of 5

*** I received an e-copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

You can also follow my reviews at the following links:

<https://kenmckinley.wordpress.com>

<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/5...>

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/A2J1...>

Sofia Lazaridou says

Rats, rats, rats and rats. That's all I can think about in when I try to come up with something to say in this review. I can remember a lady eaten alive by rats. In the end, I was surprised the beast wasn't a rat. I get that this book belongs in the horror genre, but the rats are gross and a little weird. I swear that if the book wasn't mostly from Ben's point of view I those tiny creatures would have been the thing that has appeared the most in this book.

The book has many elements from various lores and creatures that exists in our imagination only which was a little confusing first (I didn't have my google at the time I was reading it), but it was appreciated later when I saw the book was a whole. I didn't even know that this is a paranormal and fantasy book and I was taken by surprise when Ben started to discover things about this beast.

Ben is a complex character and he was nicely built. His background story is nicely built. I don't think I saw a character in this book that was one dimensional. Each had something that made him unique and I will read more of the author's works in the future. A sequel is coming next year and it has already been added to my to read list.

I must admit that I missed my genre while reading the book. I missed my dose of romance, but it wasn't very bad. I would like to see the direction Ben's like taking after the events in Barcroft. I guess I will have to wait for book number 2.

Mommacat says

4.5 stars

It twisted. It turned. It reached out and grabbed. Literally. THE BEAST OF BARCROFT was the Matterhorn of stories. What's a guy supposed to do when he moves into a new house and doesn't check out the neighborhood first? Hint to prospective homebuyers: always look over the neighbors! Well, for Ben McKelvie, it meant nothing but problems.

Bill Schweigart expertly wove a tale that kept me guessing right up to the end. What is terrorizing this quiet Virginia town? Why did it kill Ben's greyhound, but not Ben? As the creature goes on it's murderous rampage through Barcroft, I was glad that Schweigart did all his research. He kept me hanging on and tapping pages as fast as I could! I loved his believable sub-plot and the outcome of that storyline. It was positively refreshing.

Random House/Hydra gave me a copy of THE BEAST OF BARCROFT in exchange for my review. I think it will take any horror reader on a wild ride.

Frank Errington says

Review copy

I must admit, I never heard of Bill Schweigart until I came across this book in Netgalley, but I found the title, description, and cover to be enough to pique my curiosity. I am so glad I took a chance. The Beast of Barcroft was a genuinely pleasant surprise.

Great writing and interesting storytelling. The author is quite skilled in character construction and creating believable situations out of beyond believable events.

There are a number of twists as the facts slowly come to light and several "Oh, Wow!" moments.

The story begins in the Arlington, Virginia, community of Barcroft where, recently divorced, Ben McLelvie is having a bit of a rat problem due to a neighbor, Madeleine Roux, who calls herself an animal rehabilitator. Her activities have lead to all kinds of vermin which seem to have attracted a bigger predator to the neighborhood.

As deaths mount and the story changes, Ben is put in touch with Lindsay Clark, the curator of great cats at the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo. She has a friend who is a cryptozoologist, and that's when things really get interesting.

I'm kind of beating around the bush here because I don't want to give too much away, but I will tell you I did enjoy the read and will likely read the sequel when it comes out in February of 2016.

The Beast of Barcroft is currently available, as an e-book, and is published by Hydra Books, a division of Random House LLC.

Recommended.

Bill is a former Coast Guard officer who drew from his experiences at sea to write the taut nautical thriller, SLIPPING THE CABLE. Bill currently resides in Arlington, VA with his wife and daughter, who along with their monstrous Newfoundland and mischievous kitten, provide him with all the adventure he can handle.

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

REVIEW: THE BEAST OF BARCROFT by Bill Schweigart

A compelling supernatural-themed horror novel starring a pair of unlikely heroes. Ben lives alone, supporting a mortgage after his fiancée's departure and struggling through depression and newly, panic attacks. Lindsay is a curator at Washington D. C.'s National Zoo, with a shallow itinerant girlfriend. Ben's drug-addicted neighbor's misbehavior has infested the quiet, formerly peaceful, neighborhood with raccoons, pigeons, and rats. But the worst is yet to come, and in no way is this a spawn of Mother Nature. THE BEAST OF BARCROFT is the exciting first entry in a new cryptozoological series, with wildly horrifying beasts and excellently characterized individuals.

Amanda says

Sometimes in life you need to read a book that is both pleasure and entertainment. The Beast of Barcroft provides it in bucketloads.

The story opens with our feckless anti-hero Ben, girlfriend left him, neighbour from hell and then just as the universe tends to do, it kicks him even more when his dog is killed by a mountain lion. And it's all the neighbours fault. Trouble is, she's now dead and it's only getting worse.

This book has a great mix of characters, and a fast paced plot. If you enjoy cryptozoology and mythology then this is a book for you. Me? I enjoy a good creature feature and this ticked all my boxes. 4 stars.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

In this book, we met for the first time Ben McKelvie who together with his fiancée moved to the Barcroft, a suburb in Washington, D.C. However, what they didn't know that they would be neighbors with crazy raccoon-loving Madeleine Roux. Everything just gets worse with Ben's fiancée leaving him and his poor dog gets killed. But, it even gets worse than that when the predator that killed his dog seems to start to kill his neighbors one by one...

I read Northwoods and absolutely loved the book so I had to get The Beast of Barcroft that is the first book in the series. And, this book is good, not amazingly good as Northwoods, but still pretty darn good and I especially liked getting to know how Richard Severance, Ben McKelvie, Lindsay Clark, and Alex Standingcloud first met. And, now everything I read about Barcroft in Northwoods makes much more sense. Ben McKelvie is a normal guy and he never expected to have to deal with a supernatural predator that seems to be targeting his neighbors (and him), but thankfully with some help from new "friends" will he try to save the neighborhood (and himself). And, it's action, some gore and even some humor in the book. Just the way I like it!

I'm a big monster fan. I just love those X-files episodes with monsters in the woods, etc. So, reading books like this, well-written and interesting and intense is pure happiness for me. The Beast of Barcroft is thrilling to read, but it never gets as fascinating and heart pounding to read as Northwoods did. I guess partly because I was more worried about whom would live and who would die in Northwoods, but also because I found the story in Northwoods with its monster more exciting.

So, if you like monster books, then I recommend this book to you and after you read it should you definitely go for Northwoods. Me? I'm waiting for the next book to be released!

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Ben and his fiancée buy a bigger house..they just don't realize they are moving next door to this.

Ben has a few other issues because his fiance has decided to dump him and he is left with his dog and a rat problem from his neighbor's animal hoarding.

(I hate rats so that's about the scariest I'm going on that one)

Then that same neighbor passes away in her home. Shortly after that some weird stuff starts going on in the neighborhood.

The animal problem is getting worse since the hoarder lady is not around to feed the animals and the neighborhood has gotten together to try and get something done about her house and the critters that it is attracting.

Then Ben is outside and his dog is attacked by a mountain lion in front of Ben's eyes.

Ben calls out the feisty police lady and she gives him the brush off, because mountain lion in fancy suburbs? Plus Ben admits to flushing his antidepressants and smells like pee. Come on people-I would smell like pee too if I just saw a critter chomping on my dog.

Then some more attacks begin to happen.

Ben finally gets someone to halfway believe him when he teams up with Lindsay, the National zoo's assistant curator for great cats.

Of course, Ben tries to put some moves on her.

"You know who makes a move like that in the woods? After they show you their basement? Serial killers, that's who."

"This isn't the woods, it's a park. With roses in it."

"They're not even in bloom!"

Ben is full of smooth. When he isn't busy on Wikipedia or ~~internet porn watching~~ watching the Discovery channel.

(He is actually pretty snarky and I loved his character.)

The monster finally gets figured out and it's good. Really good but

Towards the end of this book I kept thinking this would be great as a series. Yes, I know I can't believe I just said that..but it would. Then I look and it's going to be.

Dear author, please keep up the story line that you are starting and pick a better cover. This cover was pretty fugly.

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review.

Mommacat's review is the featured review for this one. I don't catch Mommacat on here much but I love her reviews when I do.

Alisi ? wants to read too many books ? says

Finally finished this. LOL.

So this story is about a man named Ben. One night, he watches his poor dog get killed by a mountain lion and decides to find out WTF is happening (well, he starts by trying to inform ppl of said lion but he's ignored.) As he "investigates", things turn a bit more supernatural in nature.

You know how good a book is when you forget the MCs name like 5 minutes after finishing the book. True story. Just finished it a couple minutes ago and realized I'd already forgotten his name. LOL.

This felt like a first draft of a story. The idea isn't bad. Neither is the technical writing, but it had no depth to it. It like almost like the author decided this book needed X things, so he just stuck them in there. The plot is very straight forward. There's no minor plot lines, no character development, or any of that. So the stuff the MC says sounds incredibly cheesy and strange, and very disjointed.

As an example, he's met this woman about a week ago. They aren't in a relationship. So, together they go off to find this monster and he locks her in his car. She's understandingly upset about this, saying that she's already saved his life once. Why lock her up? And he, very seriously, presses his hand against the window and says "I know. You saved me from everything" with a soulful look. He was being serious.

Who says that to some he met a week ago, who is gay (so no chance of a relationship), and their only together because of this monster?

Another part of the book has him saying, after he sends a monster packing, 'I best not see you here again... or else!'

Really? I'm waiting for the CSI Miami start music to play.

The book is riddled with shit like that. I'm going to give book 2 a shot. Hopefully he's improved...
