



The Mortal Religion

Marc Horn

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Alternate cover edition for ASIN: B009UG9L2S

Best Rabid Reader's Reads of 2013

From the bestselling author of PERSONA

Chalk Cutter suffers constant ridicule and rejection because of his looks.

Now he's had enough.

So when the pretty brunette picks on him in the pub, he kidnaps her.

He's going to change her. Undo what she is. Brainwash her.

And when the brutal conditioning's over she'll treat people like him as her equal and teach others to do the same.

That's the plan.

But when she starts to take a liking to him, emotion gets in the way. Lust. Weakness.

He's never been wanted before.

No one will sympathise with him if he takes advantage of her.

Somehow he has to fight the consuming urges and stay focused.

Or no one will follow the revolutionary new religion he's created, a religion that will change and unite us all.

E-thriller headlining Thriller of the Month April 2013

Featured on 42 Books to Read for Towel Day

A dark, disturbing and thought-provoking psychological thriller that explores the effects of social exclusion, THE MORTAL RELIGION takes you deep inside the soul of self-discovery, desperation, and obsession. Unique and perceptive, it will grab you from the first page and not let you go until the last.

The Mortal Religion Details

Date : Published January 2015 by Marc Horn (first published October 20th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Marc Horn

Format : Kindle Edition 232 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Mortal Religion for online ebook

Barbara Tsipouras says

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

The Mortal Religion is an intriguing and gripping thriller, at times quite sickening and disgusting. At the beginning Chalk seems to be quite reasonable and you begin to understand his radical actions because you feel his pain but as the story develops he is gradually losing his mind.

It is a book about acceptance and rejection in our society and what might happen if an individual isn't accepted by anyone.

Helen says

This book is really gruesome and shocking. A compelling case of Stockholm syndrome.

It's one of those stories that you can't bear to read the next chapter, but at the same time you just have to know.

Some books just submerge somewhere in the back of your mind, not to be remembered, this one though I will never forget!

Sandra Braund says

That is a fantastic book. Very chilling, dark psychological read. It makes you think about how people's feelings effect others.

Rabid Readers Reviews says

There are people who simply won't like this novel. A man who feels that he has been wronged by society at large on the basis of his appearance takes captive a woman who insulted him in a bar. He soon finds that his captive is actually a missing teenager and knows at once that he has put his plan at greater risk as she's a missing child but decides to go ahead with the plan. He's not looking for revenge, he's looking for change. He's looking to mold a human who will accept people as they are and who will finally give him that validation he feels that he needs in being recognized for a superior mind held back by looks and the great need to be liked.

I found this novel quite interesting. Chalk Cutter is an idealist. The ways in which he "molds" Elizabeth are quite brutal - violent but not sexual. Chalk does not see himself as a monster so whatever feelings he

develops during Elizabeth's "change," she's still a child. He gives us quite an interesting backstory of torture and revenge via revelation to Elizabeth and recognizes when a mistake is made. He is a new god, in his mind, but not perfect. The twists and turns this story took were fascinating all the way to the end - which I will not spoil in this review. Chalk makes changes but he makes them at a great price. There's nothing really that I would criticize about the novel except that I would have liked to have seen more of certain elements. This is a well thought out work of fiction that comments on the way we look at society and pop culture/general outlooks and their place in the world in general. If you are a fan of psychological thrillers, this is the novel for you.

Diana Hockley says

Normally I do not choose psychological thrillers to read for pleasure and this outstanding novel by Marc Horn would tend to back up my cowardly decisions! Was there pleasure in reading this novel? One couldn't say that because of the content, however my admiration for this author knows no bounds.

From the first lines, the reader is aware that something terrible is going to happen - and it does, but in a different way. Chalk - unfortunately loved by no one, even his parents - because of his huge round face and tiny features- is pushed to the limit one night when a young woman humiliates him in a bar. Taunted beyond belief by his peers as a child and until he is an adult, this man is forced to live his life alone, purely because of his appearance. Chalk decides to take revenge and show the woman that she cannot judge people by their appearance and so the set of events are set into motion which end in...no spoilers!

Marc Horn takes the reader though a journey into the black side of society, where appearances are everything. If you are not beautiful, you are nothing. I would warrant there are few people in this world who have not been bullied or judged wanting in some way, and Horn's protagonist and victim - Chalk - is set on a downward path from the moment he is born. Chalk's efforts to change society's perspective - starting with Elizabeth - is like watching an approaching train wreck.

It is due to the skillful writing of this author that one sympathises with Chalk, even as his world deteriorates and his mind manipulation of Elizabeth sets off the ultimate tragedy.

Horn poses the question - are the protagonists in this story the victims of societal expectations or their creators? Ultimately, he challenges you - the reader - to decide.

Marcia Witherspoon says

Don't know why I even finished it

Finishing this book was like trying to complete a very hard task, don't know how I made it to the end. This book absolutely made no sense to me at all, no action, boring characters and a ridiculous plot. I kept skipping over chapters thinking, no hoping, something would grab my attention so my determination and struggle to finish would not be in vain. No such luck. It continued to just be the chaotic rambling of a lunatic with a facial deformity and was teased about it his whole life. So he kidnaps a young girl

Lanette says

I won this book in a goodreads giveaway. I haven't read any stories like this before. It was very interesting

Kimmy says

Unexpected and interesting. A true page turner

Jenell Diegor says

The very beginning of this book grabbed my attention and I couldn't put it down. It make me wonder, "What is wrong with him?" even before the first paragraph was finished!

After getting some background into Chalk "Moonface" Cutter's life, we begin to see exactly how he thinks and feels, especially since we are seeing things from his point of view. We get glimpses of the emotional turmoil he faces, both in the present and from the past. It was actually refreshing to read a story from a different angle than normal thrillers.

It is also full of suspense, and makes the reader feel the anticipation of what is about to happen in the next page. And I believe that there are lessons to be learned from the unique situations in this though-provoking novel. It certainly teaches us not to judge others by their outward appearance!

Karrie says

I'm really not sure how to rate this book. It's definitely different than anything I have read. It's a roller coaster so strap in and get ready for the ride. I went through a lot of emotions; sadness, horror, anger, happiness. It was really strange but gave me food for thought.

Sam says

I am very much a dean koontz fan and this book caught my eye. The cover is appropriate as the story revolves around Chalk Cutter, an outcast from the moment he was born, not fitting with society's expectations.

The author does a great job of taking you on a roller coast of feelings from empathy to repulsion in a very well written thriller, that leaves you wanting more from this author.
