



Coldwater

Samuel Parker

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Having forfeited his youth to the state prison system, Michael moved back to the only home he'd ever known. An empty shell of a man who now lived--if it could be called living--in the still vacant house of his parents in a town with one stoplight. A town that hated him. Had always hated him. And was ready to pick up where the prison system had let off.

Now he's on the run from men who've tried to kill him once; but Michael is more than an ex-con. A powerful, sinister force creeps inside him, threatening and destructive. Who--and what--it will destroy next is the only real question. From the bold voice that brought readers down *Purgatory Road* comes a new pulse-pounding, spine-rattling tale of vengeance and justice that will have them up all night.

Coldwater Details

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Author : Samuel Parker

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From Reader Review Coldwater for online ebook

Benjamin Liles says

Reader, when I give this book review you will understand why on the back of the book someone says of it, "Not for the faint-hearted." Samuel Parker's latest book is one heart rending thrill of a suspense ride. My overall assessment of Parker's Coldwater is simply this: Parker is the Christian version of Stephen King for Christian books. I didn't think I would have nightmares considering the overall arch of the book is bent toward the Christian mindset of redemption and mercy, but don't let that fool you.

Don't get me wrong, it's a great book. Parker does a masterful and wonderful job of telling the story. The characters are robust, the feelings they feel are well written, and the beliefs they each have helped shape them to move in the ways that they do. Sometimes each of the character's aims are at odds with each other. More often than not, however, they are part of the bigger puzzle of the narrative Parker has in mind for the characters of Coldwater.

While I don't wish to tell any of the story of Coldwater to give anything away, what I can say is the actual main character of the book is Haywood. Something within Haywood is haywire. In my opinion the book should have solely focused on Haywood. Yet all the participants of the book take place in a very small, backwoods place called Coldwater.

Coldwater is one of those places that when read from start to finish will make your heart pound. You will end up having greater emotional ties to Michael, who is the protagonist of the story. It ends up making Haywood the antagonist, seeking to destroy Michael. Again, you must read the book to fully understand. This book is truly not for the faint of heart.

I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from Revell as all opinions of the book are honest and unbiased.

Helen says

Coldwater, written by Samuel Parker, is a very intense dark thriller. The story starts out very slow and I kept wondering what was going on, but once I got into it, I found it hard to put down.

With the addition of twins in his family, Michael finds his parents too busy and too tired to give him the attention he needs. At just 10 years of age his parents leave him to watch his younger siblings and he orchestrates his brother's death. He is put in a high security prison with adults. His father dies, his mother loses touch with reality and his aunt takes his sister away to never talk about what happened.

Now Michael is back home and a group of men, led by Haywood, take it upon themselves to get rid of Michael. When the attempt on his life fails, they find themselves on a search through the backwoods trying to find him before he brings harm to them. After days of searching for him and many different bad things happen, the men helping Haywood decide they don't want any more to do with the situation. They feel they should not have attempted to kill Michael in the beginning.

The story is not what I would have chosen to read had a little more information of the story been available. Once I got in to it, I found it very hard to put down. Being published by a Christian publishing company, I was expecting a story with a little inspirational. While this story does have a Christian message of redemption, the story is so intense, it may be overlooked.

This is a very dark violent, story. It is fast moving, well written story, with a lot of characters. The author leaves questions unanswered, leaving me to wonder if there will be a sequel. While this story is very well written, I would only recommend it to those who enjoy dark stories full of danger. I received a copy of this book from the publisher, this is my honest review.

Kelli Dickson says

I loved this book. It grabbed me at the very beginning and had my attention til the very end. I couldn't get enough! It captivated me through my fears and ended with salvation and freedom. In between, isn't that what life is all about? Running our path in life whether it be towards or away from something or things; struggling to find our way through to acceptance, salvation, freedom? This book was very relatable and quite often I felt myself reacting to situations like the characters in the book did. I nearly lost my breath in the beginning, felt disgust and anger towards the main character, felt the revenge running through the sister's veins, the changed feelings of forgiveness, understanding, and softening of hearts towards the main character. The main character's simple yet emotional apology. This book was so descriptive and well written that emotions of characters could be felt. That's an amazingly difficult accomplishment! I can't wait for this author's next masterpiece!!

Amy says

-Written by my 16 year old son who is a reluctant reader but did enjoy this creepy read for the Christian market-

I'm not normally a reader of this genre but I was deeply interested in this book. It is a very invigorating read. The chapters are skillfully written to keep the reader from putting it down. It's slightly haunting narrative gave the story a particularly hair-raising supernatural effect. The mystery and the plot points I will leave for the next reader to enjoy. As I said reading this genre is not normally my forte but I extremely enjoyed this book and it engaged my interest.

This book does not have a hopeful theme. The first page starts off dark and continues that thread throughout. Michael, the main character is not a good guy or town hero. He has a dark past and there is an evil always present with him. I did find the learning about his past intriguing. The town, which seemed to consider him the boogey man, was very complex themselves. None of them stood out as heroes and they had their own sins to contend with.

There is some descriptive violence and the story overall was chilling. Not for those who scare easily. I received a complimentary copy of this novel from the publisher. I was not required to post a positive review and all views and opinions are my own.

<https://pausefortales.blogspot.com/20...>

Maureen Timerman says

When I first started this book, I felt compelled to keep page turning, the author is a gifted writer and although

I was grasping for what the story was about, I had to keep at it.

Now I knew this was a Christian book, but there are no bible verses and we do not go to church, but I could quickly sense the undertones, and it wasn't too far in that I began to understand, and it was so real.

This is a very different read, and yet it brought the justice system to light, a ten-year-old in prison, a man buried alive [how do these people sleep at night, they don't], and then the mysterious deaths.

The ending was so awesome, once you read this, I felt justice was done, but then the evil continues, and I believe it does. So, scary, and yet so real!

I received this book through the Publisher Revell and their Blogger Program, and was not required to give a positive review.

Staci says

After enjoying Purgatory Road, Cold Water was a miss for me. The beginning was good. The writing strong. The plot and characters didn't capture my interest though.

JD Sutter says

4.5 stars

From the very first chapter—even the first few sentences—Samuel Parker had me hooked. The beginning of this book has some of the most compelling and heart-stopping opening scenes that I've read in a very long time. I won't go into too much detail so as not to spoil anything (even if it is the first chapter) but suffice it to say that I could feel my chest tighten and my breathing quicken as I felt the claustrophobia that the main character, Michael, had to be experiencing. Rarely do I have such a visceral and involuntary reaction to a book and I credit Parker's ability to paint a vivid word picture for it happening this time.

And the action just continues from the outset and never stops. As more and more of Michael's story is unfolded for the reader, both in the present and via the glimpses into his past, the more curious I became to know just exactly who this guy was and what on earth was going on with him. He is a very compelling character and a complex one too. So much so that I'm not sure if I can say that I really cared for him or even liked him, but I could empathize with him. The rest of the characters were equally well-developed and very believable to me.

The pacing of the novel is perfect for a book of the suspense/thriller genre. The chapters are short (some only a couple of pages) and the story moves quickly. The tension continues to build throughout the entire book until everything comes to a culmination in the final pages. The climax does not disappoint. A couple of the plot elements were predictable, but for the most part, it was awesome. There were sufficient twists to keep me guessing and the way in which Parker slowly "dripped out" Michael's backstory kept the pages turning. And I must not neglect to mention that epilogue! What a way to cap off the story!

As for content to be aware of, there is a significant amount of violence in this book. There is one particular accident which has a very gruesome and bloody scene. There is a lot of death as well as an attempted violation of a child. There are also some supernatural elements which are not fully explained and are a bit on the nightmarish side. There is no strong language or sexual content. And lastly, although the book is from a Christian publisher there are very few references to God. There is a thin theme of mercy towards the end, but

it is a small thread in the overall tapestry of the story.

All that being said, I thoroughly enjoyed *_Coldwater_* and highly recommend it to fans of the suspense/thriller genre. It is a tale of the folly of vengeance and a warning of the cancerous nature of bitterness and revenge. I will be keeping an eye out for future releases from Mr. Parker.

Thanks to Revell (via LT's Early Reviewers) for the ARC in exchange for my honest review.

Christine Marshall says

This novel immediately drew me in... it started with a man buried alive trying to dig his way out of a coffin... what a great way to start a novel! I didn't know whether he was the protagonist or the antagonist, actually I didn't know all the way until the end the suspense was so real... the best part of the book was that it was a supernatural thriller, but it wasn't overdone like most books, it stayed almost biblical... it was very reigned in and that is what led me to give it a 5 on the rating scale. It was definitely a page-turner I finished it in two days, and if I hadn't had other things that I HAD to do, I would have read it through in one sitting... there was nothing so unbelievable that made me want to put the book down and say it was ridiculous. Very Good!

Tom LA says

(Note: I listened to the audiobook). I thought the audiobook narrator was ok, very good at acting out the various characters, but using a reading tone a little too flat for the narrating voice.

As with *Purgatory Road*, this is not only a very gripping and compelling thriller (if it can be called that), but also a reflection on the burden of sin, in particular the sin of fratricide, with many biblical references of which I caught only a few (the story of Cain and Abel was one). I really enjoyed the fast pace and the tightness of the writing. Look forward to Sam's next work.

Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says

If you are a fan of Frank Peretti, Ted Dekker, or Alton Gansky this book is going to be right up your alley. The opening scene has the main character being buried alive. Yes . . . buried alive! Everyone's worst nightmare.

That opening scene was so intense that I just couldn't put the book down. And the intensity continued throughout the entire novel. The classification that the publisher gave it is suspense and it does contain that but there are also aspects of supernatural and thriller mixed in. I'm going to be honest and say that supernatural just isn't my thing but this story was so well written I couldn't help but keep going.

Have you ever wondered if redemption is possible for someone that has committed a heinous act? What does it look like in a practical sense? How does one go on after serving their time? Mr. Parker takes us on a journey that explores this. I found myself having an inner dialog while I was reading the story. How would I

react? Where does my faith come in? This isn't a novel to make you comfortable but I guarantee it will make you think.

If you like a book that pushes the boundaries and leaves you a little uncomfortable while making you think then this book is for you. It does have intense themes so I would recommend it for older teens and up.

Christian Fiction Addiction says

Offering up another unique addition to the world of Christian fiction, Samuel Parker has crafted a thrilling, brilliantly written novel that plumbs the depths of human evil. From the first opening scenes to the unexpected conclusion, "Coldwater" held me in its grip and did not let go for a moment. The novel simply races along with short, action-packed chapters that breathe with supernatural tension that made me want to start sleeping with the lights on! The author carefully unpacks the complex plot chapter by chapter, and he has created one of those characters in Michael that you both feel sorry for and are shocked by at the same time.

I was intrigued by the lack of any clear reference to God in this novel, as at first this made me question why it has been offered by a Christian based publisher. But then I considered the book of Esther from the Bible, which makes no reference to God at all and in so doing highlights how God is working behind the scenes, and causes you to consider God's presence all the more. In Coldwater, evil is clearly embodied in the actions of the characters and the chilling events that occur, while God's greater power is displayed in the choices for good that characters make and the power of forgiveness. My hope is that people who don't yet know Jesus will read this book and then be drawn to the Bible to consider Him who has power over evil, Jesus. I, for one, am left with much food for thought in regards to justice versus vengeance, and for the way that sin can be so insidious that we can think we are on the side of righteousness when we are not fighting for good at all. Parker has done an amazing job at crafting a truly suspenseful novel that will have me thinking over its message for days to come.

Supernatural suspense doesn't get better for this, and while this type of novel may not appeal to all, I encourage you to give it a try. I loved it and rate it as 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc.

Randy says

This story was so very unique, and yet so powerful. A boy born with something residing in him that he can't remove, and it will not allow harm to come to him. One horrible act as a young boy begins a span of years being incarcerated for killing his brother, and then being ostracized and tormented by the town's residents when he is released and returns to the only home he knows. I especially loved the unexplained supernatural aspect that left us guessing what it is and where it comes from. Great book if you like KING or KOONTZ

Amy says

I have conflicting thoughts about Coldwater. It is an intriguing read, but yet confusing at times for me. There

are some thrilling action scenes with hang on to your seat adventure and at times suspense filled mystery. I just do not believe it was completely my kind of read. I was hoping for a more spiritual type message, but that was not to be.

I do believe many will love Coldwater. However, it was just not for me.

I give this book 3 stars.

I received this book from the publisher. This review is 100 percent my own honest opinion.

Ashley says

Im speechless.....

I did not read the back of the book when I chose this book to read so I had NO idea what I was in for. "So Ashley, how then did you pick this book? Did you judge it by its cover?" No, in fact I didn't which Im famous for. Fact is that I'm waiting on books to come out from some of my very favorite authors and so I did as I do when lost for what to read next, I checked out the Christy Award winners.

I have read 2 of the 3 Mystery/Suspense/Thriller. The WINNER being "The House on Foster Hill" by Jamie Jo Wright which was SO good....like SO good and you can check my review out here. "Coldwater" being the second.

Spectacularly descriptive and gloriously chilling. Each word chosen to describe each character and their surroundings makes it simple and slightly unnerving to find yourself right in the middle of each page.

Michael Sullivan commits a terrible crime at a very young age and as a result is sent off to spend the rest of his childhood in prison. When he gets out he returns to the only place he knows. Coldwater. And the residents are not happy about it. As bits and pieces of Michaels past are revealed we also learn of a darkness that lurks with in him.

What is this darkness? Where did it come from? These and questions like them are what we spend almost all of the 315 pages trying to answer.

The battle between darkness and hope battles until the very end where, just like in our daily lives, mercy wins.

Mercy

Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.

When someone who could harm you makes the choice to show love instead. Mercy, just like in this book seemingly comes from no where out of the woods and above all else saves.

Kelly says

I received a complimentary copy of "Coldwater" to review from a Christian standpoint. I finished reading Coldwater three days ago and I have yet to fully decide if this book deserves to be on the Christian bookshelf. I liked the book and it would have easily scored a 5 star if I removed the low rating I gave it for the Christian message category. Michael is a very intriguing character. He carries a living sin within him that mysteriously kills living things near him. He is on the run from a lynch mob that faults Michael for every evil thing that happens in their town. Throughout the book there is no mention of salvation, faith or trust in God. When the "evil" finally leaves Michael there is no sense of his own redemption from a Christian

standpoint. But overall, a very interesting and intriguing read – just not Christian.
