



## The Darkest Time of Night

*Jeremy Finley*

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**The Darkest Time of Night** Jeremy Finley

**"The lights took him."**

When the five-year-old grandson of U.S. Senator vanishes in the woods behind his home, the only witness is his older brother who whispers, "The lights took him," and then never speaks again.

As the FBI and National Guard launch a massive search, the boys' grandmother Lynn Roseworth fears only she knows the truth. But coming forward would ruin her family and her husband's political career.

In the late 1960s, before she became the quiet wife of a politician, Lynn was a secretary in the astronomy department at the University of Illinois. It was there where she began taking mysterious messages for one of the professors; messages from people desperate to find their missing loved ones who vanished into beams of light.

Determined to find her beloved grandson and expose the truth, she must return to the work she once abandoned to unravel the existence of a place long forgotten by the world. It is there, buried deep beneath the bitter snow and the absent memories of its inhabitants, where her grandson may finally be found.

But there are forces that wish to silence her. And Lynn will find how far they will go to stop her, and how the truth about her own forgotten childhood could reveal the greatest mystery of all time.

*The Darkest Time of Night* is fast-paced debut full of suspense and government cover-ups, perfect for thriller and supernatural fans alike.

## The Darkest Time of Night Details

Date : Published June 26th 2018 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN :

Author : Jeremy Finley

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# From Reader Review *The Darkest Time of Night* for online ebook

## Erin says

4.5 stars

Wow! I took a risk with my latest reading selection and decided to explore a road less traveled. Set in contemporary America, *The Darkest Time of Night* sounds like it will be a straightforward mystery involving a missing child. As the story progresses and more secrets involving the child's grandmother are brought to light, I was completely thrown by the paranormal/conspiracy theory coverup and thought "WHAT in the heck am I reading?" But that tiny voice quickly faded away and I found myself completely satisfied to jump on the crazy train and allow Jeremy Finley to spin his tale. This is definitely another **contender for a favorite read of 2018**.

I loved the characters, especially the idea that two women in their 70's (Lynn and best friend Roxy definitely feel like series material) could blaze the trail of adventure. Also, that they are mature women that kick ass and stand toe to toe with some fairly shady characters was fantastic to read. But I do find myself with a few lingering questions about some of the final chapters and for that I withhold a full 5 star rating.

My only wish is to see more people go and grab an ARC on NetGalley because it's just an absolutely pleasurable read.

**Thanks to NetGalley for an advanced ebook in exchange for an honest review.**

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## Carrie says

Lynn Roseworth has always had a fear of the woods and has always warned her family to stay away but now as a grandmother her fears are beginning to become real. Lynn's grandchildren were camping out behind their home when the youngest was dared to go into the woods. The next thing the family knows little William has disappeared with the only witness his older brother who can only say "The lights took him."

That one sentence awakens something Lynn has buried for the last forty years she's spent as the wife of a U.S. Senator, a mother and now grandmother. Before she began her family life she was a secretary in the astronomy department at the University of Illinois working for a professor who was looking into the disappearance of many missing people, people who were thought to have been taken by U.F.O.s.

Picking up *The Darkest Time of Night* by Jeremy Finley I honestly thought I was going to be reading another thriller about a missing child. Little did I know this is actually a science fiction read or speculative fiction. The intense thrill of a missing child is still there to get the pages turning but the story unfolds into so much more.

As much as I appreciated that this story was certainly going to be different I think what I loved the most was the main character Lynn and her friend Roxy. These two ladies are seventy-ish and best friends who obviously will go to the ends of the world for one another and made for one strong female team to go kick

some butt and find that poor grandbaby and that made the surrounding story that much better.

Now this one might not be for everyone with the science fiction side to it but if you've ever wondered even a slight bit if the government is covering up aliens or if there is an area 51 then you just might want to check this one out. With great writing Jeremy Finley has written one heck of a tale about those strange lights in the sky. Definitely a great read that I'd recommend checking out.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more review please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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## **Kristy K says**

2.5 Stars

This wasn't quite what I expected. There's a supernatural element to it. It reminded me slightly of The X-Files if The X-Files centered around two grandmother aged women trying to find one's (Lynn) missing grandson.

Told from Lynn's POV, it was entertaining although the suspense and thrills I was hoping for were missing.

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## **Nancy McFarlane says**

When 4 yo William disappears from the woods behind his house in Nashville, the only witness is his 7 yo brother who says 'the lights took him' and then refuses to speak again. William's grandmother, Lynn Roseworth, the wife of a senator and potential VP candidate is afraid she knows what those words mean. They are a link to her past – a past she has never talked about with her family, and one she fears will destroy her entire family. The Darkest Time of Night is a truly remarkably written story. It is fast-paced and suspenseful ... a thriller that is a combination of science fiction and government cover-up. Once you start, you can't put this one down. A little bit scary, a whole lot heartrending; a complex plot, and many brave people make this a book that will make you question what might or might not actually exist.

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## **Hpnyknits says**

Wow. Themla and Louise meet the X-Files! The book unfolded effortlessly, the narrator going back and forth between past and present. The characters are well drawn even as they seem to occupy perfect roles and professions to advance the plot. Since I'm a big fan of The X-Files, I was fine with that aspect. I loved the fact that the main characters are 2 women in their 70's.

This would have easily been 5 stars if not for a sloppy "major reveal" involving a laptop without password, and a not very convincing lack of vetting of the past.

From the ending, it seems this wants a few more installments. And it would make wonderful film, with major roles for older women.

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## **Chad Denning says**

Full disclosure: Jeremy is a good friend of mine. I cautiously asked to read his book and he cautiously put me off until I made him send me an advance copy. I think we were both afraid I wouldn't like it and then things would just get awkward. And who wants an awkward friendship?

I honestly can't say I liked it. I LOVED IT! I locked into the story from page one. I was very busy with work and start and stopped my way through the first quarter of the book, always longing for more time to get to it, day-dreaming about where he was going with this story. Well, Memorial Day Weekend came and I parked myself by the pool and read 250+ pages, completely lost in the story. I honestly could not put it down.

To say it is a page turner is an understatement. Jeremy paints a fantastic picture, but doesn't linger on "precious" scenes like many first time authors. His years as a journalist really shine in his writing style. He sets the scene, gives us the who, what, when and where and then it's off to the races. "The Darkest Time of Night," is the tidiest 320 page book I've ever read. It's "X-Files" meets "House of Cards" meets "Stranger Things." There's really no other way to put it without spoiling the book. I can't wait to see what's in store in the future for these characters.

Which brings me to the characters. They are amazing, well fleshed out, strong women, especially the main character Lynn and her lifelong partner-in-crime, Roxy. If I didn't know Jeremy, I'd wonder what type of sorcery he used to conjure up these fascinating female characters. Knowing Jeremy and his wife and 2 daughters, I have a pretty good idea where he gets his insight into strong women. They are with him 24/7.

I can't recommend this book enough. If you don't trust the review of one of his friends, let me leave you with this nugget: There's no way in hell I'd have taken the time to write the review. Being raised in Iowa by the epitome of a midwestern mom, if I didn't have anything good to say, I wouldn't have said it. I would have just stopped returning Jeremy's calls and texts and stare at my shoes like any other midwesterner when confronted with the awkwardness of the situation. But then again, seeing how Jeremy was raised in the midwest as well, he'd never ask me in a million years what I thought of the book. The fact that this review exists at all should be testament enough to run out and snag this book the second it comes out. You won't regret it.

P.S. When you get to the story about the dog and the robot vacuum, just know that my suffering was not in vain. It's forever memorialized in print.

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## **Angela Schoemehl says**

I loved this book. It was refreshing for a scifi reader to have a story not told by a man in his 40s or younger. This is a story about a woman in her 70s who is desperate to find out what happened to her missing grandson. She relives her own life and it's so, so wild.

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## Judith says

I would compare reading this to eating a bag of Fritos. Yes, I knowingly reached for junk food, so I knew I wasn't getting nourishment for my intellect or soul. But I \*thought\* I was getting the powdered-nacho-cheese pleasure of Doritos. And then I grazed through the entire bag anyway since I had already opened it, but afterward I thought, well, ok... that was indeed salt and trans fat.

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## Mary Katherine says

This is an incredible debut novel by Jeremy Finley, who is a friend and a former colleague. I promised him an honest review and I can say, friendship aside, I loved this book.

I read books of just about every genre. I love thrillers but I haven't read much, if any, sci-fi. "The Darkest Time of Night" is full of suspense but, to me, at its heart it's a great love story. It's about the lengths we go to and the risks we take to protect those we love. In this case, a grandmother must resurrect the secrets of her past in order to find her missing grandson.

"The Darkest Time of Night" leaves you wondering, "What's going to happen next?," which is terrific because there's a sequel on the horizon. I can't wait.

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## Reading.Between.Wines says

??????? / 5

I don't remember how I found out about *The Darkest Time of Night* by Jeremy Finley but I'm happy I did! This book was very different from what I normally read, although it is still a mystery - and I do love a good mystery.

*The Darkest Time of Night* is about the family of a woman named Lynn Roseworth whose daughter's son goes missing in the woods behind their home. The only thing they know about the disappearance is what his brother says - "the lights took him." Lynn thinks she might have an idea of what is going on, but refuses to say anything because it could damage her husband's political career as a Tennessee senator. So Lynn does the only thing she can do given the circumstances, goes on a hunt to figure out what really happened to her grandson William.

This book is definitely not going to be for everyone since there is both a sci-fi and alien aspect to the story. It was a storyline I had never read before though and I found it interesting. I never have had much interest in conspiracy theories, nor have I ever watched shows like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, but I still had no trouble enjoying this book.

It was a very fast read as well, and the story is told completely from the perspective of Lynn with a few jumps into the past. I think my favorite character (besides Lynn) had to be her best friend Roxy whom is with her on most of this journey. Roxy provided some great comic relief to the story and I was a fan of her sarcasm.

The only 2 things that were downsides for me was that the book is pretty slow for the most part, so be prepared for a slow burn of a story. However, it does pick up, especially as you get towards the end. The other thing that bugged me is that there are a few editing mistakes. I gotta tell you, there is nothing I hate more than hitting an editing mistake in an intense part of a book, and unfortunately that happens in this one. I do understand these things happen though, and it didn't really affect my rating of the novel overall.

Final Thought: If you have any interest in aliens and/or conspiracy theories I would recommend this book. Also, you **MUST** like a slow burn or you might be disappointed. If either or both of those things are in your wheelhouse I would check this book out. I couldn't really tell that it was a debut novel which is something I appreciate as well, and I would definitely be willing to check out Finley's next book if he has one!

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### **debra says**

I liked this more than I thought I would when I first started it. Read the real reviews written by Diane S and Reading Between Wines .

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### **Alex Bledsoe says**

This is one of those novels that a summary can't really capture, because the good things about it are so subtle. First, it's told in first person by a senator's elderly wife, and she's got a marvelous voice. She's no Miss Marple, but a smart woman struggling with disturbing revelations as she tries to find her kidnapped grandson. She's also quintessentially southern, which I really enjoyed. Second, although it moves into X-Files territory, the story remains focused on the people and their emotions, not the mechanics of plot; we care about the story because we care about the people. It becomes a real page-turner toward the end, and the climax is entirely appropriate. There's not a lot of southern-flavored SF out there, so grab this one.

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### **Mae Clair says**

A little slow getting started—there are a lot of characters introduced in a short period of time—this book really picks up steam in the middle when we learn about Lynn's background working for an astronomy professor. The ending was intriguing, but I did find the pace lagging a bit. An entertaining read but I was hoping for more eeriness and sinister suspense. 3.5 Stars.

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### **Michelle Hart says**

Wow. This book is excellently written! I have watched Jeremy on our local news for years and never knew he had this talent. I can't wait to read more from him!

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## **Diane S ? says**

Entertaining and entirely implausible.....or is it? I have learned to never say never, so who knows, this could happen, may be happening in places we don't know, don't hear about. Government condprscies, cover-up,ups? Say it isn't so. The story begins when a four year old son of a congressmen goes missing, literally from his backyard. His slightly older brother who was with him, will only ssy, the lights took him, and doesn't speak again.

Lynn, his grandmother, knows more than she is telling, and is bound and determined to find him. I liked that it is two sixty something women, who Thelma and Louise style, but with s better ending, take off on a road trip that is definitely out of this world. Lynn, will find out a big secret from her past, and way more than she dver expected to encounter. As I said, very entertaining, a little different from normal thrillers, with two kick but older women who will stop at nothing, and an ending that may leave some wondering, Is any of this possible?

ARC from Netgalley.

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