



Witch Island

David Bernstein

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A witch's curse from beyond the grave!

Witch Island used to be feared. Even the bravest would not dare go there. Legend said a witch had been burned alive at the stake, and upon her death she cursed the town. Terrified residents performed rituals to keep her spirit trapped on the island where she was buried. Now, over a hundred years later, a group of high school seniors have decided to forgo the local graduation parties and have a small gathering of their own—on Witch Island. They don't fear the legends. They scoff at them. But the group will soon learn these particular legends are nothing to scoff at. And Witch Island will prove far worse than they could have ever imagined.

Witch Island Details

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Author : David Bernstein

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From Reader Review Witch Island for online ebook

Noigelloverlord says

Great read that slowly builds a good steady pace through the 1st half with great character building then BAM! Full speed ahead for the 2nd half. I hope David Bernstein takes us back to Witch Island again and soon

Peter says

Legend has it that back in the early 1900's a woman was accused of being a witch and was burned to death. Before the witch died, she put a curse on the island and the descendants of the people who took her life. The town people performed a ritual that would keep the body of the witch trapped on island forever. A hundred years later a group of high school seniors decided that they would hold a party on Witch Island to celebrate their graduation. The group did not believe in the old wise tale about the island. Soon the group would find out the legend was true and it would lead to many horrific deaths. After each death, the witch would gain more power and hope that she could escape the island for good. This was a fast pace book with a lot of action. It was interesting how the author weaved the history of the witch with the modern times.. This is the first book that I have read by David Bernstein. It was an enjoyable read with an interesting plot. I plan to check out other works by this author. I recommend this book to readers of horror.

Catherine Cavendish says

I love a good witch story and Witch Island has a great mix of violent, in-your-face horror, a strong storyline and characters that leap off the page with all their human fallibilities, qualities, emotions and struggles. David Bernstein has written a story that whips the reader up and takes him/her on a perilous journey, with many twists and turns to ensure there is no chance of escape.

Margaret Rivers was burned as a witch decades earlier. Her spirit has been trapped on Witch Island, but a group of teenagers decide on a rite of passage trip to this place they have been warned to avoid. They find the witch's grave and, unwittingly release her spirit. Some of those present are the descendants of those who killed her. Now Margaret Rivers' spirit is free and filled with hate. She will be avenged. A great read. Loved it!

A.E. says

Told through alternating sequences set in the past and as the story unfolds in the modern day, horror writer David Bernstein's latest, "Witch Island" takes place in a small town in New York state where a witch was burned at the stake years ago. Unsurprisingly, the witch vows to curse and haunt the island forever, making way for the place's eventual name, which it shares with the title of the book.

"Witch Island" is a bit raunchier than Bernstein's previous offerings, so if that's your bag, you're in luck. The violence factor is also quite high, so fans of his gruesome descriptions are in luck for that, as well. In some ways it's a throwback to horror flicks of the early 90s like "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and the "Scream" franchise, so if you enjoyed them and films along the same lines, you'll really dig "Witch Island."

Mercedes says

This book started out great but didn't sustain the hook that started the story. The author seemed to ramble and was using too many speech tags (said, asked, etc). When the story should be building tension and suspense it gets dry. Its not a bad book, just needs the editor/proof reader to help the author tighten up the story.

Denise Keef says

Reading this book was like cuddling up on the couch with the lights off and a big bowl of popcorn on your lap watching one of the best horror flicks on TV! Mr. Bernstein's descriptive writing of this tale had me cringing...cowering into the couch and saying "NO...don't go off into the woods...you KNOW what happens when you do that"!!! The story starts out with a little history of how the island was named and why the townspeople avoided it like the plague. With many venturing near it and never returning...they were right not to go close to it! So when a group of friends...fresh from high school graduation planned a night of fun and drinking on the island you can kind of surmise that...it ain't gonna end too prettily! Some in the group are decedents of the men who had put the suspected witch to death in the early 1900's and were given a talisman in the form of a ring to wear for "protection" but as we all know...they can only protect so much...especially when you have an evil witch who is hell bent on getting her revenge on the people who had killed her husband and herself so many years ago!

The cast of characters is long but each and every one plays an important part in this thrilling...gory...bloody...horrifically good adventure that you embark on while reading this story. So...sit back in a nice comfy chair with the lights down low for effect...get a nice cup of your favorite beverage and maybe a snack or two and be prepared to read one of the most chilling tales that I have read in a very long time!

Thank you Mr. Bernstein for one helluva scary...entertaining story! You Rock!!!

Melani says

Can I give a book 0 stars? It was simply awful. Terrible writing, plot from any dozen horror movies, really awful characterizations. It's just clunky and clichéd with nothing new at all. I dont know how this book came on my radar or what it was that made me think it was worth reading but I regret that day.

The worst thing about this book is that it is a horror book that isn't scary. It's really not. It relies on a plethora of blood and guts to do the work, but there's no atmosphere to carry the actual horror. It's all just very mechanical.

I am normally one who cannot read a scary story after dark, I had no problem with this one and fell to sleep easily after finishing it. Even the supposed twist at the end (which COME ON you can see coming a million miles away) left me cold.

Char says

3.5 Stars! (Rounded up to 4)

Witch Island has a terrific premise that sounds like the plot of a of horror movie. A group of teenagers heads out to an island to party after graduation, and they plan to stay overnight. So far so good, right?

The island is deserted and is a perfect place to party with no fears of being caught. Never mind that the island is nearly buried in old stories about a witch that was burned there and the curse she put on the island as a punishment. Never mind that some of these teens are direct descendants of those persons that originally burned the witch. Never mind that they've been constantly warned (and a few provided protection) against ever going to the island. I will leave off the rest of the plot here.

I liked this premise a lot, which is why I chose this book for review. However, I ended up being a little disappointed with it. I like stories about curses and witches. I especially enjoy stories with a back and forth type thing between the present and the past. In this book, I would have preferred more sections about the past, the witch and the burning. The portions regarding the teenagers were okay, but I couldn't help thinking that this all had been done before.

Once everyone was introduced and the teenagers are finally on the island, all hell broke loose. In addition to the historical portions of the story, this part was my favorite. The reader learned more about the witch and what her capabilities were. There wasn't much she was not capable of and originality points go out to the author in regards to modes of death. Very cool!

Even though I wished for more information regarding the witch and the past, I still liked how the story came together. Even though the teenagers were all characters I have seen before, I did have empathy for some of them. The prose was just okay to me, it wasn't bad, but it didn't really stand out. (I'm fresh off a re-read of *The Haunting of Hill House*, so I admit, it is tough to compete against that.)

Overall, I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to those readers that enjoy stories about witches and curses. It's just that the originality bat didn't hit the ball out of the park. It was more like a long double, perhaps maybe even a triple, due to the graphic events on the island. I will look forward to reading more of this author's work.

A free e-copy of this novel was provided to me by Horror After Dark to honestly review, and that is what I have done.

Find this review and others like it at www.Horrorafterdark.com

Kate says

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Margaret Rivers is burnt at the stake, proclaimed to be a 'witch' by the local townspeople. She threatens revenge on them for taking her life and the life of her beloved husband.

Over a hundred years later, a group of high school friends decide to make Witch Island their party destination to celebrate the end of school. They've all heard the stories of Witch Island but its seclusion is a big draw and they head off for a night of drinking and debauchery.

The curious teens manage to free the spirit of Margaret Rivers and she decides that she will have her revenge on the descendants of the townspeople and also permanently escape the island, gruesome mayhem ensues.

This was great fun and read very much like a slasher teen movie, the pacing was pretty fast and although at times some of the plot was a little ridiculous it was easy to just go with it and enjoy the fun.

Character wise, the kids were pretty likeable and whilst they didn't have huge backstories it was more than enough for me to have been rooting for some and glad of the demise of others.

One of the best things about it was that it didn't have a pretty ending, its resolution was messy and there was no happily ever after. I personally love it when authors do this, more realistic and ultimately satisfying. Great fun and recommended.

Mommacat says

This is a difficult book for me to review because it goes off in a couple of different directions. On one hand we have the awesome story of the witch and how she came to be (5 stars), on the other hand we have the sex crazed teens in woods party (3 stars). I wish Bernstein had spent more time on the witch and come up with something better than a teen party; this would have been an epic book. As it was, we still had Bernstein's writing to make for a fast, fun read. I was never bored and would recommend WITCH ISLAND to fans of the genre.

Marie says

I loved this book! I was captured from the first chapter and it didn't let me go till the end!

Witch Island is off limits to the town residents as an actual witch put a curse on the island back in the early 1900's when she was burned alive. She cursed all the people that had a hand in killing her and she cursed their future generations.

Of course, it is all a myth, right? There is no such things as witches and curses. A few friends decide to forego everything that their parents have warned them about the island and go have a graduation party on the island to prove that there is nothing to the legend.

Little do they know that they have just stepped into a nightmare when they dock their canoes on the island. Out of all the friends, only two of them are protected as they have magic rings to protect them from the curse. When one of the friends finds something interesting under the ground and digs it up, no one is prepared for the consequences of that discovery.

Mother Nature literally comes alive and the friends are in for facing their worst fears as the killings and gore

start flying.

Lots of gore, suspense, and action within these pages! Giving it five stars for keeping me glued to my kindle and up in the wee hours of the morning trying to finish it.

Dixie says

I LOVED this book. I'm never disappointed with David Bernstein's books, but this one was by far his best. Read it and enjoy

Majanka says

Book Review originally published here: <http://www.iheartreading.net/mini-rev...>

Actual rating: 3,5 stars

In *Witch Island*, you have all the classic ingredients of a horror movie: teens staying the night on an island cursed by a witch. It doesn't help that half of these teens are descendants of the families who hurt aforementioned witch. You know you're in for trouble when you read that plot. The book offers a ton of violence, some gruesome scenes that are definitely not for the squeamish, and also some background story of the witch. The parts talking about the witch's story were my favorite. The teenagers just weren't that much fun. It's a fast read though, and if you slasher movies or anything of the like, you'll enjoy this one.

Douglas Castagna says

A witch is slaughtered on an island a century ago. She curses the kin of the offenders. This happens on an island. All anyone has to do to avoid the curse is stay away from the island right? Pretty easy? Well, not so much. The decedents of those there on that fateful night decide to party it up on the island to drastic results. Great premise that I can easily see becoming a film. The violence is swift and graphic, and Bernstein manages to make you care about some of these characters that can easily be cardboard cutouts, but thrive within the world between these pages. Highly enjoyable.

Cats of Ulthar says

Review: *WITCH ISLAND* by David Bernstein

Exciting and implacably terrifying "classic" horror from the ever-thrilling author David Bernstein, *WITCH ISLAND* interweaves a brutal crime more than a century old with contemporary spookiness and horror. In a tiny upstate New York community in 1904, religious bigotry combines with fear of the different to result in an accidental death plus burning at the stake of a falsely-accused witch. A self-fulfilling prophecy occurs, with the unjustly accused becoming that character of which she was accused, leading to superstition and horror for 4 generations.

