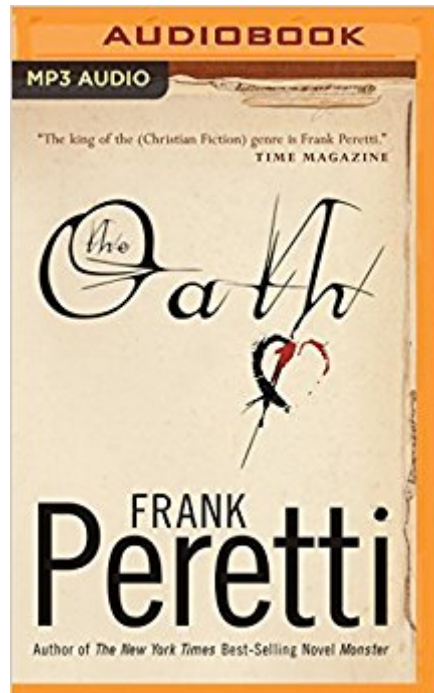




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The Oath



Synopsis

An ancient sin. A long forgotten oath. A town with a deadly secret. Something evil is at work in Hyde River, an isolated mining town in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. Under the cover of darkness, a predator strikes without warning—taking life in the most chilling and savage fashion. The community of Hyde River watches in terror as residents suddenly vanish. Yet, the more locals are pressed for information, the more they close ranks, sworn to secrecy by their forefathers' hidden sins. Only when Hyde River's secrets are exposed is the true extent of the danger fully revealed. What the town discovers is something far more deadly than anything they'd imagined. Something that doesn't just stalk its victims, but has the power to turn hearts black with decay as it slowly fills their souls with darkness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Under cover of darkness, something evil is at work in Hyde River, an old mining town deep in the mountains. Its latest victim, nature photographer Cliff Benson, was brutally killed while camping -- and his wife Evelyn has been driven nearly mad by what she saw, but she can't remember what it was. The sheriff thinks a rogue bear killed Cliff. But townspeople whisper -- and Cliff's death is just the latest in a long string of bizarre "accidents." Cliff's brother Steve is determined to find out the truth about what's concealed in the old caverns near Hyde River, a mystery that the local folk legends only hint at. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

A wildlife biologist named Steve Benson has come to the remote mountain town of Hyde River to investigate the gruesome death of his brother. Benson tracks down and kills a grizzly, but then more people are killed and the bears are exonerated. Benson begins to listen with seriousness to the ravings of an old hermit who says that there's a dragon who lives in Saddlehorse Mountain and who lives on sin. It seems that in the 1880s, when Hyde River was a booming mining town, a fire-and-brimstone preacher was hanged, and the perpetrators then signed an oath embracing Reason as their god. In more than 100 years, their sins have grown into a monster. Steve tracks the chimerical dragon, which toys with him and lets him go. Steve is the embodiment of reason but feels the weight of sin when he begins an affair with a married woman, a local deputy named Tracy. A red mark appears over his heart, and gradually it begins to ooze black slime. Judgment Day arrives, and the dragon comes to claim its own. Steve, at last a believer, stands alone to do battle, rather like Bilbo Baggins of *The Hobbit*, except that Peretti writes with a grim fervor rather than playfulness. Largely because of the success of *This Present Darkness* (1987), Peretti's name inspires awe in the religious publishing world; *The Oath* is so heavily anticipated that its prepublication sales placed it fifth on the Evangelical Christian best-seller list. John Mort --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Sometimes it takes me months to read a book, and many times I never finish them. After buying this sample book, I quickly bought the book and within a month I had it read. I had started Peretti's "The Monster" a few years ago, and halfway in, I found myself lost and getting more and more bored with the evolution vs. creation argument and the science that Mr. Peretti spent hours, I'm sure, investigating and making sure his book looked professional. The Monster became one of the unfinished books on my shelf. The Oath starts much like The Monster, in that an attack takes place in the wilderness, and suddenly you're with main characters investigating the attack. Unlike The Monster, I feel The Oath stays strong in character development and story continuation, instead of becoming simply a stage for the theology that Peretti wishes to share. Don't get me wrong, I'm a big fan of Peretti, and a Christian, but the mastery of Peretti shows in this book in that he keeps the paradigm of the main character based in the non-believer mode. He also doesn't overload the reader with science and argument (which I feel is what happened in the Monster). The Oath is known as Peretti's best-seller and it stands to reason. It's filled with characters you care about, a hint of romance, but with it (the romance) the reality and ramifications of many romances on the big screen seem to never touch on. It's filled with thrill, suspense, and even a dark sinister plot line that many might find to be Stephen King-esque. And as Peretti mentions in his foreword (offered in the

Kindle edition I received), sin's never been so real. As you read the book, and if you're a Christian, you're given great illustrations, and you'll find yourself nodding at each metaphor, "that's true." With the rest of the fandom, I have to ask, why isn't this a movie yet? Perhaps with the success of a few big-name Christian movies lately, it is my hope a good director will pick up the book and see its potential.

I wish I could give this book 10 stars!!!! It was just that good. I actually listened to the audio version, which I highly recommend. The narrator is superb and his voice was an excellent choice. Mr. Peretti's ability to write a metaphoric novel explaining the wages of sin without actually preaching about it was brilliant. The book written about ten years ago was a foreshadow of the hyper grace message preached today, that you can basically live any way you want and God is alright with it because He loves you. Without giving anything away, a poignant point to remember is that when a Christian loses their conviction (stops caring), it's time to worry! The dragon is waiting. Thank you Mr. Peretti, for writing such an engaging book. I cannot say enough about the descriptions of the people, the small town, etc...I am still haunted in a good way about the importance of living a life with a pure heart, a heart that is set on repentance and loving God with integrity and reverence. Just downloaded another book to listen to with my spouse.

This was definitely a page turner. I actually felt guilty because I put everything on hold and let it consume me. It took a little while to get into the book as the characters were being set up. Once the setting was finished I just couldn't wait to see what would happen next. Lots of secrecy, a little romance, and lots of action makes this an entertaining and engaging read. I will recommend this to everyone and probably buy a few books and give out.

Again FRANK PERETTI has captivated the battle of GOOD VS EVIL in a story that engrosses the reader. The easy to follow story is entertaining, yet deep, as you follow the characters battle within themselves. He makes you believe in the impossible. It was another can't-put-down, do-not-miss story that makes the reader think about sin, and the battle within ourselves as we struggle between what we want and what is right. It was a bit long, with a lot of "filler" about the background and the scenery that I felt did not enhance nor enrich the story but just made it longer and drawn out. But it was, nevertheless, a book I will always cherish as a classic and favorite to read.

I like Peretti and have read most of his other work...this was a little more predictable and read a bit

slower...might just be me expecting, but I do think it just wasn't quite as strong as others he's written.

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