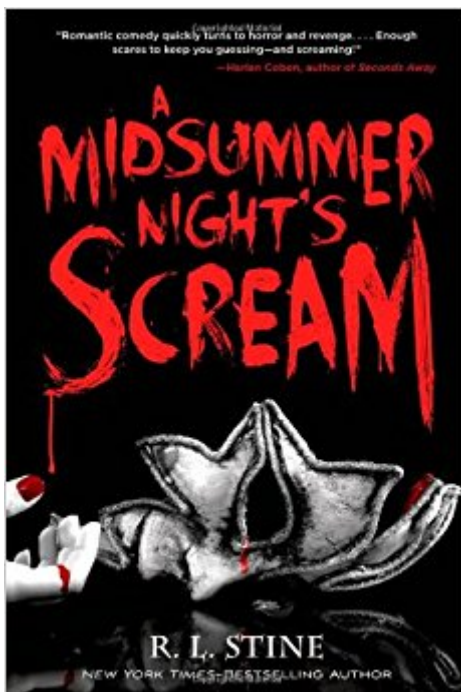


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A Midsummer Night's Scream



Synopsis

In R.L. Stine's *A Midsummer Night's Scream*, the Master of Horror takes on the Master of Theatre! Oh, what fools these actors be! It was a horror movie that turned into real horror--three young actors lost their lives while the camera rolled. Production stopped, and people claimed that the movie was cursed. Sixty years later, new actors are venturing onto the haunted set. In a desperate attempt to revive their failing studio, Claire's dad has green-lit a remake of *Mayhem Manor* and Claire and her friends are dying to be involved. At first, Claire laughs at Jake's talk of ghosts and curses. He's been too busy crushing on her best friend Delia to notice that she's practically been throwing herself at him. What does he know? And anyway, this is her big chance to be a star! When shooting starts, though, the set is plagued by a series of horrible accidents--could history be repeating itself?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 470L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Feiwel & Friends; First Edition edition (July 2, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 125002434X

ISBN-13: 978-1250024343

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 24.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #670,799 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in *Books > Teens >*

Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Film #905 in *Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers >*

Thrillers & Suspense #1563 in *Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography >*

Performing Arts

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10--Sixteen-year-old Claire and her friend Delia have just gotten their big break in show business: they are starring in a remake, 60 years later, of *Mayhem Manor*, a film that started production in 1960. The movie was never completed due to multiple deaths on the set. Some say that the film is cursed, although Claire's parents, who own the studio, are banking on it being a hit.

But the remake is also marked by multiple gruesome deaths, and the cast and crew begin to think that the curse may be real. When Claire meets Mr. Puckerman, a strange, hairy little man in an unmarked trailer, who claims to be a master of potions, she finds him suspicious—especially since she is the only person who sees him. Claire wants to be a star, but she doesn't want to die. Stine, master of light horror for middle grade readers, seems slightly out of his depth in the young adult market. The characters are superficial and flat, the plot is disjointed and lacking an air of menace, and the incorporation of Shakespearean elements is clumsily done. No doubt this book will attract some readers looking for something a step up from the author's usual fare, but horror aficionados are more likely to find themselves laughing rather than shuddering. —Misti Tidman, Licking County Library, Newark, OH

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It's the ultimate publicity stunt for a failing Hollywood studio: remake an infamous horror movie in which the actors were literally killed on set. While the original was never completed, it became legend, and, for Claire, landing her first lead role in the film is her ticket to stardom. Even the footage of the gruesome deaths and rumors that the set is cursed don't discourage her. Her first day, Claire meets Puckerman, a strange little man who possesses magical potions, and soon she's trying them out on her friends. But the potions are a diversion: Puckerman intends to finish what he started 60 years ago. Stine's latest is rife with shallow characters, implausible behavior, and laughable dialogue. It's hard to believe that filming would continue when actors are being murdered on camera—again—and even harder to believe that Claire would continue to steal potions, making her friends violent, old, and (in a nod to Shakespeare) in love with a dog. Diehard Stine fans exist in droves, though, and they might approve of this array of bloody murders. Grades 6-9. --Krista Hutley

I loved Fear Street growing up, and know that many of RL Stine's books don't have happy endings, but since the main character, Claire is such an awful person, I was somewhat looking forward to seeing Claire come to an awful end. Instead, she's a star. Ugh. Claire's parents run a movie studio, along with her neighbor/crush Jake. They're trying to remake a movie that was originally filmed in the 60's. In the original movie, 3 of the actors were actually killed, so production was shut down. The movie deals with Claire and her friend Delia who are in the new movie, and with their hopes of getting the guys that they like. In a (very slight) nod to A Midsummer Night's Dream, Claire comes across a mysterious trailer on the movie lot with a strange man named Puckerman inside. He has a

collection of potions, including a love potion, which shallow Claire grabs believing that it will make Jake want her. Of course, each attempt at using the potions ends in disaster, but she keeps grabbing more. The story leads to Claire's 17th birthday, held on the movie lot, and a very ridiculous attempt by Puckerman to finish the movie, which again has been shut down by deaths. Not a bad read if you want something light and ridiculous, but not too scary.

I've loved Stine all my life and continue to read a Goosebumps here or a Fear Street there because they are easy reads and fun. When I saw this title with the Shakespeare reference I couldn't resist. This story features a typical Stine formula that works all the way until the end when it gets too weird and not in a good way. Not something I would recommend unless you've read most of Stine's works anyway and are just looking for something new. I listened on audio and thought the reader did great. It is a little more violent than most of his stuff so depending on how you feel that could be a good thing or a bad thing.

Are you a Shakespeare Fan? Love reading Renditions of famous tales? For me, I've never really been over the top with the original tales of classics and plays. However, since I was little I have been fascinated with the renditions of them all from 10 Things I Hate about You to She's the Man and Elizabeth, The First Wife. Now famous Horror writer R.L Stine has released a horror twist on Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer's Night Dream" The story starts off sixty years ago when a group of actors were filming a movie in a Haunted house. They had to cut the movie though as three of the main stars died in the supposedly haunted house. Now Claire's dad's production company is re-filming the movie and Claire and her friends have parts in the film. However, it seems that what happened sixty years ago was left incomplete and a little strange man named Puck wants the movie he has been waiting for all these years to finally be completed - the way he wants with "real" horror scenes. Can Claire help put an end to this before more people die or will this screening be an extended version of the original with more deaths? Find out in this awesome read in which you won't want to put it down as I read it in one sitting.

Not one of Stine's best books. Has a great build up that leads to...meh... There's tons of suspense and a great build up full of gory deaths but the climax was, well, boring compared to the rest of the book. It felt very rushed and was over in a snap! I wouldn't recommend it unless you want a big disappointment... I expected much better from an author as great as Stine!

As an child, I loved everything Stine had to offer. The wackier the better! This though - was not impressive. As an adult and this book having more mature themes, I was hoping for more. The characters were transparent, the plot predictable, the story line weak. I kept hoping for something more to happen. But then the story ended and I was left wondering if that was really all.

It was really amazing, at first when I brought it I didn't read it, but thank god I did! It was amazing and I couldn't stop reading it! I almost finished the book in a day, but I couldn't. It truly kept me on the edge of my seat.

R. L Stine should stick to children's books

I love reading R.L. Stine books I grew up on them and this book was amazing to read. and it kept me on my toe's

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