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HEX



Synopsis

The English language debut of the bestselling Dutch novel, *Hex*, from Thomas Olde Heuvelt--a Hugo and World Fantasy award nominated talent to watch. Whoever is born here, is doomed to stay 'til death. Whoever settles, never leaves. Welcome to Black Spring, the seemingly picturesque Hudson Valley town haunted by the Black Rock Witch, a seventeenth century woman whose eyes and mouth are sewn shut. Muzzled, she walks the streets and enters homes at will. She stands next to children's bed for nights on end. Everybody knows that her eyes may never be opened or the consequences will be too terrible to bear. The elders of Black Spring have virtually quarantined the town by using high-tech surveillance to prevent their curse from spreading. Frustrated with being kept in lockdown, the town's teenagers decide to break their strict regulations and go viral with the haunting. But, in so doing, they send the town spiraling into dark, medieval practices of the distant past. This chilling novel heralds the arrival of an exciting new voice in mainstream horror and dark fantasy. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't like witch stories, but I loved HEX. I almost passed it up, thinking it would be a one-trick pony, but decided at the last minute to give it a shot. Then I wondered if I had made a mistake. The opening of the book seemed to be horror light, more focused on the whimsy than otherwise, though it was extremely well-written. It was, as it turns out, author Thomas Olde Heuvelt getting his ducks in a row, giving answers to questions that any reasonable reader would ask, before turning out the lights in the room and letting the rats loose, or worse. I was wrong about the pony thing, too. HEX is a thoroughbred that races, dances and sings well and frighteningly. Think of it this way: Reading this book is like going into an amusement park and entering what appears to be an entertaining but fairly pedestrian fun house, only to discover that you're on the fastest, steepest roller coaster you've ever ridden...and as you look ahead, you see that the tracks end in mid-air. Yes, HEX really is that good. It's a terrifying read that gave me nightmares and probably will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Heuvelt's work is new to the United States, other than for a shorter e-work. (Let me gush again for a minute here, and then I promise to get back on track.) HEX was originally published in his native Holland in 2013. What we're getting is what Heuvelt describes in his Acknowledgements as "Hex 2.0." He went through the book and gave it an American setting, and added a whole new ending for American audiences. I admire work ethic, maybe more than anything else, and for that reason alone I would recommend this novel. He also gives strong credit, as he should, to translator Nancy Forest-Flier, by whose effort and good grace it is available to American audiences.

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