



A Dark Matter

By Peter Straub



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An electric, chilling, and unpredictable novel from the master of modern horror.

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On a Midwestern campus in the 1960s, a charismatic guru and his young acolytes perform a secret ritual in a local meadow. What happens is a mystery—all that remains is a gruesomely dismembered body and the shattered souls of all who were present. Forty years later, one man seeks to learn about that horrifying night, and to do so he'll have to force those involved to examine the unspeakable events that have haunted them ever since.



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A Dark Matter By Peter Straub Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In this tour de force from bestseller Straub (*In the Night Room*), four high school friends in 1966 Madison, Wis.—Hootie Bly, Dilly Olson, Jason Boatman, and Lee Truax—fall under the spell of charismatic wandering guru Spencer Mallon. During an occult ceremony in which Mallon attempts to break through to a higher reality, something goes horribly awry leaving one participant dead. Decades later, Lee's writer husband interviews the quartet to find out what happened. In Roshomon-like fashion, each relates a slightly different account of the trauma they experienced. Straub masterfully shows how the disappointments, downturns, and failed promise of the four friends' lives may have stemmed from this youthful experience, and suggests, by extension, that the malignant evil they helped unleash into the world has tainted all hope ever since. Brilliant in its orchestration and provocative in its speculations, this novel ranks as one of the finest tales of modern horror. (Feb.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Six book critics venture into a new novel by a best-selling horror writer. The writer is said to have magical abilities to blend horror conventions with literary fiction to keep the pages turning. He is even said to have touched Stephen King! Four of the critics come away convinced that a transcendent supernatural event has occurred, which may have something to do with the nature of evil. But two are horribly scarred by the event—unbearably bored, convinced they have just read a rejected script from *Lost*. Whose version of events is true? We may never know. All critics agree on is that the only possible way to describe such a plot structure is to reference Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon*--so readers may just have to investigate for themselves.

Review

“Straub’s return to all-out horror. . . . [He] does it on his own terms, beautifully blending monsters and demons and indescribable evil into a melancholy novel shaped and crafted as carefully as literature, not pulp entertainment. Straub’s writing has rarely been better or more precise.” —*Miami Herald*

“An alchemy of psychological suspense, supernatural horror and cultural history. . . . Ambitious in its scope and challenging in its telling. . . . Explosive.” —*Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*

“A modern-day supernatural *Rashomon*. . . . [*A Dark Matter*] leaves one satisfied, still eager for the next book by one of the most adroit masters of the supernatural thriller.”—San Francisco Chronicle

“[*A Dark Matter*] has it all: shifting perspectives, nested flashbacks, a story that spans four decades, and an attractive, charming cast.” —*The Onion A.V. Club*

“Vivid, mysterious. . . . An elegant, multilayered reminiscence. . . . A rich, multi-perspective take on a murky collegiate misadventure in 1966.” —*TimeOut New York*

“[Straub] is a master at blurring the supernatural, the real-world-scary and the monsters in your psyche.” —*Cleveland Plain-Dealer*

“A powerful, original and utterly engrossing novel about the palpability of evil and its costs. . . . Nothing less than stunning.” —*The Globe and Mail*

“Terrifying. . . . *A Dark Matter* is populated with vivid, sympathetic characters, and driven by terrors both human and supernatural. It’s the kind of book that’s impossible to put down once it has been picked up. It kept me reading far into the night. Straub builds otherworldly terror without ever losing touch with his attractive cast of youngsters, who age beautifully. Put this one high on your list.” —Stephen King

“Part *Rashomon*, part *The Turn of the Screw*. Peter Straub may well be the most important voice in suspense fiction today.” —Lincoln Child

“American master Peter Straub takes the sweep of our freaky history over the past forty years, subjects it to all the elegant gifts of madness and arts of haunting of which he is the wicked king, and finds himself in possession of a masterpiece.” —Michael Chabon

“I’ve been reading Peter Straub since I was a teenager, and his work is hardwired into my brain. *A Dark Matter* contains echoes of all that has been great about Straub’s previous work and builds upon it. This *Rashomon*-like tale is as spooky and frightening as anything he has written, but it’s also an intense and moving celebration of love. Out of the darkness comes, ultimately, a surprising and haunting sense of joy.” —Dan Chaon

“Increasingly, Peter Straub brilliantly defies and blurs literary genres. *A Dark Matter* is a page-turning thriller of every sort: psychological, sociological, epistemological. Plus, it’s really scary.” —Lorrie Moore

“A devastatingly good novel. In its investigation of a dark ritual that casts a decades-long shadow, *A Dark Matter* makes you question all you thought you knew about horror and about literature. But it goes well beyond that: it messes with your sense of reality and then, just when you’re getting your bearings, scrambles it again.” —Brian Evenson

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Connie Simpson:

Do you one among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This A Dark Matter book is readable simply by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer involving A Dark Matter content conveys objective easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different as it. So , do you even now thinking A Dark Matter is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Michael Milliner:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The A Dark Matter is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Joshua Canfield:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world really likes. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a book will give you a lot of new details. When you read a book you will get new information simply because book is one of numerous ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, reading through a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you studying a book especially hype book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the figures do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to some others. When you read this A Dark Matter, you are able to tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a e-book.

Patrick Bergeron:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book A Dark Matter it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

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