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The Boy Who Drew Monsters: A Novel

By Keith Donohue

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From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Stolen Child* comes a hypnotic literary horror novel about a young boy trapped inside his own world, whose drawings blur the lines between fantasy and reality.

Ever since he nearly drowned in the ocean three years earlier, ten-year-old Jack Peter Keenan has been deathly afraid to venture outdoors. Refusing to leave his home in a small coastal town in Maine, Jack Peter spends his time drawing monsters. When those drawings take on a life of their own, no one is safe from the terror they inspire. His mother, Holly, begins to hear strange sounds in the night coming from the ocean, and she seeks answers from the local Catholic priest and his Japanese housekeeper, who fill her head with stories of shipwrecks and ghosts. His father, Tim, wanders the beach, frantically searching for a strange apparition running wild in the dunes. And the boy's only friend, Nick, becomes helplessly entangled in the eerie power of the drawings. While those around Jack Peter are haunted by what they think they see, only he knows the truth behind the frightful occurrences as the outside world encroaches upon them all.

In the tradition of *The Turn of the Screw*, Keith Donohue's *The Boy Who Drew Monsters* is a mesmerizing tale of psychological terror and imagination run wild, a perfectly creepy read for a dark night.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Clearly, we are in the territory of the wholehearted, up-for-anything gothic, which even as it undertakes a melancholic exploration of the lost, forlorn and bereft operates with the volume cranked and the plot on greased wheels. As a writer, Donohue always seems to know exactly what he is doing....and in *The Boy Who Drew Monsters* he twists the screw on Jack with the finesse of an expert. It is a pleasure to watch him glide along, pulling one squirming rabbit after another from his copious hat.” ?*Peter Straub, The Washington Post*

“Ingenious... Donohue unspools his simple story patiently, delivering jolts when necessary, but mostly concentrating on the stress generated in a family with an unhappy child. It's a modest novel, elegantly worked, with a nice chilly twist at the end.” ?*Terrence Rafferty, The New York Times Book Review*

“[A] chilling Christmastime horror yarn... Like a child's attention, the book may seem to wander in its final third before ultimately revealing itself to have been horribly on point all along.” ?*Entertainment Weekly*

“A classically hypnotic horror story... *The Boy Who Drew Monsters* dissolves notions of reality and fiction and leaves behind an eerie narrative about what haunting aberrations might lurk just outside our peripheral vision.” ?*Tiffany Gibert, Time Out (New York)*

“*The Boy Who Drew Monsters* is a masterfully controlled example of the literary horror genre. The setting is vividly Gothic and evocative, and Donohue builds tension and fear in that strange, snowbound world at an exquisitely slow pace.” ?*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

“This novel ranks with the best of modern-day supernatural thrillers.” ?*Bookreporter*

“The novel is a pressure cooker, an airtight room with limited oxygen, and an astute study of the mysterious demons that loss breeds.... The book's final twist--and by final I mean, like, in the very last sentence--is satisfying in a *Sixth Sense* kind of way, but the manner in which Donohue keeps us in the dark until then is the novel's real reward.” ?*Popular Mechanics*

“This story is genuinely, deeply frightening....*The Boy Who Drew Monsters* is dazzlingly electrifying, full of portending dread, and genuine creepy scares. Never have I have been so unnerved by a novel, at least in some time, and as a literary horror novel, this succeeds on just about every level.” ?*PopMatters*

“Look out, Ichabod Crane. Donohue delivers a new gothic literary horror tome just in time for Halloween.... Let's just say these spirits make the headless horseman look like a friendly guy.” ?*New York Post (Required Reading)*

“Donohue has created the slow, clicking, stomach-tightening anticipation of a roller coaster on the rise. He draws readers in with creative prose that outlines images that are both innocent and creepy.” ?*Portland Press Herald*

“With a mind-bending final twist, *The Boy Who Drew Monsters*--much in the tradition of the classic *The Turn of the Screw*--will leave readers shaking in their boots.” ?*Bookpage*

“Donohue's (*The Stolen Child*, 2006, etc.) writing is as evocative as Jack Peter's drawings, both startling and

heavy with emotion...A sterling example of the new breed of horror: unnerving and internal with just the right number of bumps in the night.” ?*Kirkus Reviews*

“The ghostly influence of Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* haunts this chilling novel by Donohue (*The Stolen Child*)... Donohue is an adept creator of atmosphere... A brisk and winningly creepy narrative.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“The novel unfolds through rich prose and a deeply imagined story. The final page--the final sentence, really--comes as a clever surprise, but one that resonates soundly. Fans of Donohue's first novel, *The Stolen Child*, will be pleased. Also recommended for readers of Joe Hill.” ?*Library Journal*

“It will raise the hairs on the back of your neck. Keith Donohue manages to peer into the darkest nightmares of childhood and beckon forth the monsters from the closet...Atmospheric and haunting. *The Boy Who Drew Monsters* is all the more chilling because it is grounded in real family life, with its heartbreaks and tenderness.” ?*Eowyn Ivey, New York Times bestselling author of The Snow Child*

“Both an eerie, engrossing tale of the supernatural, with a sting in its tale, and a superb evocation of troubled youth. *The Boy Who Drew Monsters* reminds us that there is no rage like the rage of children...” ?*John Connolly, New York Times bestselling author of The Book of Lost Things and The Wolf in Winter*

“An eerie, unsettling novel about the monsters outside your door...and the ones inside all of us. Donohue fills his pages with intimacy and dread, and whips up an ending that'll take your breath away.” ?*Christopher Golden, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Snowblind*

“There are no monsters. That's what Jack Peter's parents tell him, and what I kept telling myself as I got sucked deeper and deeper into this delectably chilling novel. But still, as I read, I found myself looking out the window at shadows moving in the darkness, until finally I had to get up and flip on every light switch in the house. *The Boy Who Drew Monsters* left me breathless and reeling, questioning the line between what is real and what is imagined -- and realizing that the meeting of the two is where true terror dwells.” ?*Jennifer McMahon, New York Times bestselling author of The Winter People*

“Keith Donohue has crafted a brooding, Serlingesque tale of tragedy, heartbreak, and the things that go bump in the night. Creepy, nostalgic, and understated, *The Boy Who Drew Monsters* is a tale meant for the dark of night, but most will want to enjoy it with all of the lights on.” ?*C. Robert Cargill, author of Dreams and Shadows*

“Keith Donohue evokes the otherworldly with humor and the ordinary with wonder.” ?*Audrey Niffenegger, author of The Time Traveler's Wife on Keith Donohue*

“Utterly absorbing...A luminous and thrilling novel about our humanity.” ?*The Washington Post on The Stolen Child*

“A wonderful, fantasy-laden debut...So spare and unsentimental that it's impossible not to be moved.” ?*Newsweek on The Stolen Child*

About the Author

Keith Donohue is the national bestselling author of the novels *The Stolen Child*, *The Angels of Destruction*, and *Centuries of June*. His work has been translated into two dozen languages, and his articles have appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, among other publications. A graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Donohue also holds a Ph.D. in English from The Catholic University of America.

He lives in Maryland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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