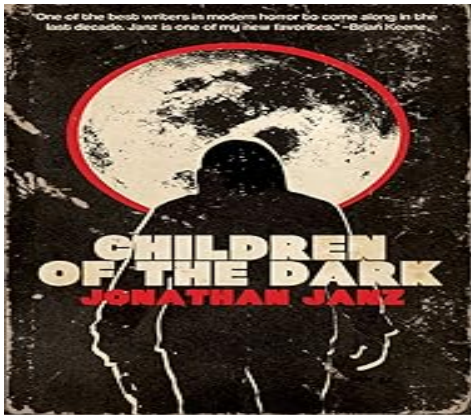


Children of the Dark By Jonathan Janz

Bridge after dark horror book children



and you can follow him on Twitter Instagram Facebook and Goodreads Confession time I've had several of Jonathan Janz's prior novels on my Kindle for months now all unread and so my first experience with this author comes courtesy of this ARC for Children of the Dark courtesy of the man himself I've neglected reading Janz's prior stuff and now feel like a giant fucking idiot for not having dived into those books sooner Brian Keene gets a cover blurb here saying "Janz is one of my new favorites" Well Mr Keene this book put me well over the moon and I think I can safely say he's now one of my new favorites too So what is Children of the Dark? Simple answer - it's a fucking amazing creature feature horror romp Longer answer - it's a smorgasbord of a horror mishmash There's a serial killer murder monsters and mayhem - oh my So much murder and mayhem Children of the Dark is a brutal coming of age tale with a trio of fifteen year old's suaring off against their hometown of Shadeland's urban legend the eerily and inappropriately named Children These suckers are huge and dwell in a network of caverns and caves dotting Shadeland's woods where our brave kids have a tree fort and suare off against bullies and have midnight swims with the girls they're crushing hard on At least until news breaks of a serial killer on the loose and one of said girls goes missing What follows is a fast paced frenetic heart breaking read It's harrowing and tough populated with incompetent local police with heads firmly up their own asses and some of the most well written teenagers since Stephen King's The Body Janz knows how to write man and he wrings every scene sublimely for maximum impact whether it's to tug at the heartstrings or wow you with gory creature feature violence This book gets a solid A 5 stars I want slash demand a seuel immediately rating from me Highly recommended By the way this book is evidently a preuel of sorts to Savage Species but each book covers different ground and characters At about a uarter of the way into my reading of Children of the Dark I bought Savage Species because I already wanted Janz and Children in my life But it's worth noting there is plenty of wiggle room to get another book in this series and I WANT Children of the Dark II pronto Note I received an advanced reader's copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review Jonathan Janz This is the pre seuel to Savage Species Will Burgess and his two best buddies are dealing with being bullied at school and teenage crushes Will is growing up without a father and a mother who is addicted to painkillers Will also has the responsibility of taking care of his younger sister Peach Carl Padgett who is known as The Moonlight Killer has escaped from jail and could be headed for the town of Shadeland Padgett use to live in this town and the people are scared that he may return seeking revenge Legend has it that blood sucking creatures live in the caves and the caverns that surround the town These creatures are known as the children The children will not be denied their taste for the flesh of a human Will is about to enter the gates of hell and there is no turn back The tales is really intense and has plenty of blood and guts Janz does a excellent job developing the main character Will I ask the author recently if there might be a Children of the Dark 2 This was part of his answer Will Burgess and his story is far from done In one way or another his tale is going to be continued There

is a good chance that the characters from Children of the Dark will collide with story of Savage Species For the readers who devoured Children of the Dark this is a good thing The only hard thing is the wait I highly recommend this book Jonathan Janz Thank you to the author Erin Sweet Al Mehairi and Sinister Grin Press for Setting up the Night Worms crew with copies of this book in exchange for honest reviews There is no greater joy as a book worm than the feeling of finishing an amazing novel knowing that the author has plenty to read I will enthusiastically consider myself a Janz Junkie from here on out Non spoiler review Janz does an amazing job introducing his main character 15 year old Will to his readers I invested into his character immediately and I say this in a lot of reviews but anytime I'm invested in the characters it instantly makes a horror story that much terrifying because the stakes are high I'm a very emotional reader and so any threat to my beloved protagonists becomes heart pounding for me And this book is jammed packed with threatening situations everything from a shady home life to bullies to a serial killer and even some unexplained evil activity lurking around the woods surrounding our Will's small town The pace of the story is damn near perfect Janz brings us back to a nostalgic time in our lives a season where summer nights were long and full of so much magic potential He spends time developing relationships and backstory just really building on the layers of story so that when we get to the point where the conflict starts brewing this book is IMPOSSIBLE to put down And let me tell you without spoilers there were several situations that got my heart racing I'm not entirely sure what freaked me out the most the ugly side of the human nature Janz peels back or the creature feature esue storytelling all of these things coming to a head built up enormous amounts of delicious tension About 100 pages from the end I started feeling that sense of dread where I know the book is almost over but I'm nowhere near ready to say goodbye to the way this book made me feel equal parts fear and love I read an interview of the author on a friend's blog and there is a sequel for this book which makes me positively glowing with book worm delight and eager anticipation In the meantime Janz has stories to read so I can occupy myself with all of that while I wait impatiently for Children of the Dark Buy this book now and read it so that you can roll around on the ground in childish excitement for book two with me Jonathan Janz Author Jonathan Janz continues to amaze me with his growth in writing style as shown in each successive book he pens While CHILDREN OF THE DARK is a prequel of events leading up to his five part novel SAVAGE SPECIES it has its own completely distinctive feel Janz has shown his versatility in his array of story lines and characters all along CHILDREN OF THE DARK is definitely a horror novel but also very much a coming of age tale in the vein of Robert McCammon's BOY'S LIFE I have always been impressed with the depth of this author's characterization Whether dealing with a large cast of main characters or those with shorter but no less important roles I find it very easy to see the individual identity of each These people are not two dimensional stereotypes but complex personalities In one case Will Burgess is internally giving us his views on the motivating force guiding one of his neighbors I think it was the fragility of life that compelled to volunteer to get the little ones to understand that it wasn't worth it to take chances This story stands out in so many ways but especially in how we go through the process of growing up maturing along with Will and his friends Unfortunately real life lessons are often unpleasant and unfair to so many people for a variety of reasons Why did sweet little people have to feel such terrible things? Why did such a good hearted loving girl get treated like dirt? CHILDREN OF THE DARK touched on so many subjects on all levels This novel really showcases Janz' talent in writing not just the horrific elements but the emotional sensitive issues as well He's not afraid to look beyond the facade of what most people see and judge others by and show us what's REALLY behind the curtain Rich or poor addict or law enforcer everybody has a side hidden from public view I always look forward to a new Jonathan Janz book and once again he's raised the bar to new heights Highest recommendation Jonathan Janz Jonathan Janz Erin Sweet Al Mehairi and Sinister Grin Press all made it possible for my group the NightWorms to read this book together so a big thank you is due to all of these folks for supplying our group of 7 horror lovers with copies in exchange for an honest review This is my first book by Jonathan Janz and I'm definitely a fan Children of the Dark was a tense gore filled coming of age horror novel that I read very late into the night I couldn't put this one down Will Burgess and his

friends Chris and Barley have the same problems as most 15 year olds Chris and Will have crushes on two of the prettiest girls in school who also happen to have boyfriends that constantly want to kick their asses Will however has a much harder life than his pals His father is gone and his mother can barely function due to her addiction to pain medication Will is left to take care of his 6 year old sister Peach pretty much on his own and he deeply resents his mother for it He loves his little sister than anything though and being forced to take care of her has created a bond that can never be broken One night the girls Mia and Rebecca tell Chris that they will be camping in their parent's yard so the boys should stop by to visit With hormones raging Will Chris and Barely go to meet their crushes and they end up swimming together in a nearby creek Will's crush and his interactions with Mia really took me back to being a 15 year old and what it felt like to have a crush on someone and then have that crush reciprocated These scenes are such nostalgic fun but suddenly Mia sees a face in the woods a pale face with green eyes and soon everyone in Savage Hollow has a lot to worry about than bullies and crushes Because there is something lurking in the woods And on top of that one of the nation's most notorious serial killers has escaped from prison and he's heading straight for Will's hometown I was invested in this book right from the beginning Will's friendship with Chris and Barley is truly special and his love for his little sister Peach is so pure These are characters that you quickly learn to love and when they start to be in peril I was practically racing through the pages to find out the fate of each character Sure there are some tropes here The bad guys are really bad the cops are inept to the point of rage and the parents are initially clueless but Janz takes this story to places I never would have expected He GOES THERE and once he does he doesn't let up I love how fearless his writing in this book is He knows there have to be consequences he knows that not everyone is going to survive the evil in the woods and he makes the situation as realistic as you can when dealing with ancient cave dwelling monsters There was a point while I was reading that I realized I had reached the place where you don't stop no matter how late it is because you HAVE to know what happened Janz holds nothing back and parts of this book leave you reeling and feeling a bit breathless And those are the best kinds of books The ones where you shout out loud when something terrible and unexpected happens because you are so invested in the characters And Janz writes fantastic characters This is a coming of age creature feature that I recommend to everyone who enjoys horror that doesn't hold back I can't wait to read from Janz Jonathan Janz Will Burgess is used to hard knocks Abandoned by his father son of a drug addicted mother and charged with raising his six year old sister Will has far to worry about than most high school freshmen To make matters worse Mia Samuels the girl of Will's dreams is dating his worst enemy the most sadistic upperclassman at Shadeland High Will's troubles however are just beginning Because one of the nation's most notorious criminals—the Moonlight Killer—has escaped from prison and is headed straight toward Will's hometown And something else is lurking in Savage Hollow the forest surrounding Will's rundown house Something ancient and infinitely evil When the worst storm of the decade descends on Shadeland Will and his friends must confront unfathomable horrors Everyone Will loves—his mother his little sister Mia and his friends—will be threatened And very few of them will escape with their lives Children of the Dark Will Burgess is a kid used to the rough side of life Raising his little sister with a mom who is mentally missing in action thanks to pharmaceutical fire and an absentee father Trying to survive his first year of high school targeted by bullies including one particularly vicious thug who happens to be dating the girl he can't get out of his head or his heart More than enough for any teenager but things are about to take a turn for the worst with an escaped serial killer heading in his direction and something far worse lurking out in the woods Janz takes the coming of age story into horror territory with impressive results melding his already well established ability to create characters that ring true characters with heart and soul that you can't help but feel empathy with and his prodigious talent for monster mayhem and big props from this reviewer for his take on mythological creatures that have been personal favorites of mine since the first horror story I've ever read the one that made me a fan of dark fiction for life This one reminded me of Dan Simmons' SUMMER OF NIGHT but stripped down built for speed without giving up any of the horsepower This one burns rubber folks and you'll want to take it for a spin Pre order your copy

here possible recommendation I received an eARC of this book in exchange for an honest review Jonathan Janz Times like this I'm glad I have a second chance policy for new to me authors I read Janz's novella OLD ORDER and found it not to my liking This one I enjoyed The writing is clean and tonally perfect but I didn't care much for any of the characters In the end that's why I knocked off a star Recommended Jonathan Janz 4.5 stars Jonathan Janz is the real deal Granted I've come to this conclusion after reading only 3 of his books but it's hard to ignore the fact that the guy can write In this coming of age tale I could not help but to root for the young Will Burgess who has to take care of Peach his younger sister and his mom a pill popping addict On top of that his dad is no longer in the picture and he often finds himself a target of the local bullies Mr Janz has the ability just like Stephen King to make you care deeply about his characters only to put them through the wringer shortly thereafter This story reminded me a lot of King's work specifically The Body aka Stand By Me and It I cared for Will and his friends just as I cared for Beverly and Richie of the Losers Club Unfortunately for Will and his buddies the ending of It seems like a party compared to the fate of the kids in Children of the Dark After a slightly slow start the pace of the story took off and it was all I could do to hold on Every time I thought I had a handle on where the plot was going it turned around completely which made it difficult to put this book down You know that whole I'll just read one chapter type deal and before you know it it's 2:00 am? Yeah that's where this tale took me and I loved it I can't say anything about the plot because it should be revealed as the author intended I CAN say that this book was a blast and I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a sequel How 'bout it Jonathan? Children of the Dark II? You know you want to My highest recommendation to fans of coming of age stories extreme horror creature features serial killers cannibals and basically any fan of dark fiction in general There's something here for every horror fan to sink hiser teeth into BEWARE the Children of the Dark You can pre order this book [HERE](#) In the interests of full disclosure I know Jonathan Janz online only and consider him a friend Neither this or the fact that Sinister Grin provided me a free e ARC of this story affected my honest review You can find this review and others like it at [Horror After Dark Jonathan Janz](#) I wish all horror novels were like this Or at least most of them This book was great Suspenseful and action packed throughout The narrative flowed perfectly keeping me engaged the whole time There were enough plot twists to keep M Night Shyamalan happy Horror fans should be very pleased with this one I can comfortably say I recommend this book to you if you like horror Carl Padgett says But view spoiler he is of a Darth Vader if ya know what I mean hide spoiler Jonathan Janz When the Moonlight Killer breaks out of prison Will Burgess and the rest of the people of Shadeland live in fear of the vicious serial killer returning home Yeah it's a lot complex than that but it's hard to write a teaser than encapsulates teenage love a serial killer and supernatural horror without making a mess of things Children of the Dark is a coming of age horror tale in the tradition of Boy's Life The Traveling Vampire Show Bay's End and of course The Body Can it hang with the big dogs of the sub genre? Yes Yes it can In Will Burgess Jonathan Janz crafts a sympathetic lead Will's father died years ago and his mother is a pill popper leaving Will to raise his six year old sister Peach On a side note Peach is adorable Will plays baseball has a couple of good friends and is ass over tea kettle for Mia the girlfriend of his arch enemy When Carl Padgett busts out of jail the whole town goes into lock down It just so happens that this coincides with the time Mia invites Will to hang with her and her friends in the woods See where this is going? I haven't even mentioned the titular Children of the Dark yet After seeing a strange creature in the woods Will's friend Barley tells him of The Children giant evil monsters supposedly living underground in the cave system below Shadeland They reminded me of eight foot tall versions of Gollum from Lord of the Rings Anyway Janz does a great job juggling the suspense of having a killer on the loose the creeping horror of monsters in the woods and the everyday horrors of being a teenager in love When everything finally comes together the book goes into survival horror mode and no one is safe As I read this on the plane to San Francisco I kept looking at the other passengers wondering why they were so calm with monsters on the loose and a serial killer serial killing people Apart from a twist I saw coming about ten pages into the book I have nothing bad to say about this book It's a gripping read and well worth the kindle price of only 2.99 I'll definitely be reading

Jonathan Janz Four out of five stars Jonathan Janz.

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