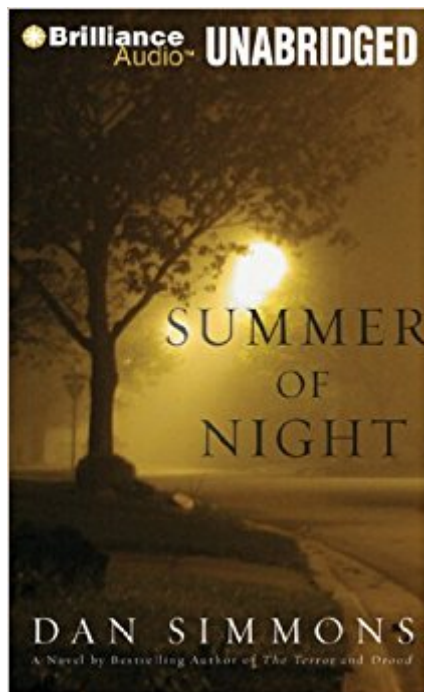


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# Summer Of Night



## Synopsis

It's the summer of 1960 and in the small town of Elm Haven, Illinois, five twelve-year-old boys are forging the powerful bonds that a lifetime of change will not break. From sunset bike rides to shaded hiding places in the woods, the boys' days are marked by all of the secrets and silences of an idyllic childhood. But amid the sun-drenched cornfields, their loyalty will be pitilessly tested. When a long-silent bell peals in the middle of the night, the townsfolk know it marks the end of their carefree days. From the depths of the Old Central School, a hulking fortress tinged with the mahogany scent of coffins, an invisible evil is rising. Strange and horrifying events begin to overtake everyday life, spreading terror through the once-peaceful town. Determined to exorcize this ancient plague, Mike, Duane, Dale, Harlen, and Kevin must wage a war of blood against an arcane abomination who owns the night. It stands with the best of King and Straub in the traditional modern horror genre. • Seattle Post-Intelligencer • Impressive • combines beautiful writing and suspense into a book for which Dan Simmons deserves the bestseller status of King and Koontz. • The Denver Post • One can only wonder what Simmons will do next, now that he's shown us he can do everything the best writers in horror and science fiction can do. • The Philadelphia Inquirer

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hugo Award-winning novelist Simmons pens an outstandingly eerie horror story about a group of Midwestern boys stalked by an ancient evil. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A monstrous, timeless entity is devouring children. Adults either refuse to understand what is happening, or are themselves agents for the monster. A group of young boys, in uneasy partnership with an outcast girl, realize they must kill the creature before it devours them all. Simmons ( *The Fall of Hyperion*, LJ 3/15/90), winner of several prestigious awards for science fiction and horror (most recently a Hugo Award for *Hyperion* , Doubleday, 1989) ranks with the best the genre has to offer. In outline, this novel resembles Stephen King's *It* ( LJ 8/86). The children are well drawn and affecting in their bravery. This book should be in most horror fiction collections. BOMC alternate.- Marylaine Block, St. Ambrose Univ. Lib., Davenport, Ia. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oh man, where do I begin with this book? Simmons does an AMAZING job bringing you back to a time of carefree summers with your best buds, just running around going on adventures. Simmons wrote the children of this book extremely well and managed to give each of them a unique background that allows us, the reader, to understand many of their actions. And, we understand almost immediately why these kids were chosen to protect their town from an ancient evil that is trying to take over. There are so many things that I love about this book, but I don't want to give out spoilers so I will do the best I can... School has just let out and a kid goes missing in the school. The family of the kid believe he is trapped inside, but the faculty insist that he is not. Our protagonists, calling themselves the Bike Patrol, take it upon themselves to investigate, and in doing so put them in the sights of the evil taking over the town. This novel is a beautiful blend of the magic of youth and friendship and chilling horror. The scary parts are really intense and it seems like any of our protagonists are fair game. How isolated the children feel because they just KNOW they cannot bring it up to their parents because they wouldn't understand or believe them is handled really well. It's a theme I'm familiar with, having read R.L. Stein's *Goosebumps* books as a kid, but here Simmons handles it in a far more realistic way. I recommend this book to anyone who wants a truly unique horror book.

What a treat this book was. There was nothing I didn't like, from the evocative cover photo, to the well-developed characters and plot. Simmons has created a horror masterpiece, one that I will happily reread in the future. In a sleepy little Midwestern town, five 12-year-old boys are growing into devoted friendships. Their easygoing days and nights are about to come to an end when an ancient evil makes its return to old stomping grounds. Determined to fight against it, the boys, along with a

lonely girl and a tag-along younger brother will find themselves tested beyond their endurance. At times sweet, nostalgic and humorous, the book truly delivers on its promise of a worthwhile horror tale. Simmons has done us a great favor with his delivery of *Summer Of Night*. I always know when I've read a wonderfully memorable tale: as I reach the end, my stomach sinks a bit and I experience a touch of loss, knowing I'm about to leave behind characters I've come to care about. This one had me feeling that way for hours after closing my Kindle after the last page. Do not miss this one. Five-plus stars.

This may be one of the great childhood tales, up there with Bradbury's "Something Wicked This Way Comes" and "The October Country." Simmons fully immerses you into his time and place, and what being a pretty well-adjusted kid in that era was like. At first the cast of characters is a bit of a handful, overflowing your ability to keep everyone straight; however, after awhile it's clear who is who, And the reason for this is that Simmons doesn't 'do' stereotypes. These children are as real as it gets in story form. They're individuals. And their motivations make sense. The author gets into the occult without overdoing it (unlike, in my opinion, he does with the sequel, "A Winter Haunting".) And his researching is meticulous--prefacing the tale is an investigative essay on the behavior of children and parenting--the shrinking distance over the decades a child may travel unescorted from home, for instance--which sells the reader entirely on suspension of disbelief. Definitely top 5 in my list.

I actually put off reading this book because of a couple of reviews. Wish I hadn't hesitated. This is some of the best in modern literature. When Stephen King calls you a Master, you'd better take notice! I had actually read the sequel first and LOVED it so much I didn't think this could be as good. Guess what? It is! This novel is part coming of age, part mysteries of childhood meets night of the walking dead. Just absolutely flawless in character development. This is the novel all wannabe' s want to write! Pry as close to perfection as I've read. Going to reread the sequel now. Don't hesitate any longer, rude , don't walk to read this book!

This is an atmospheric tale and I cared about the main characters, a group of boys in early 1960s. I've read several of Simmons' books now, and can see the progression of his style from *Carrion Comfort* (which was his 1st book, I believe - and not so goox), through to *Drood* -- which I really liked). This falls in between those two, stylistically. Simmons' writing has become much more sophisticated since he started. If you liked Stephen King's story "It", try this. I think I like it better.

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