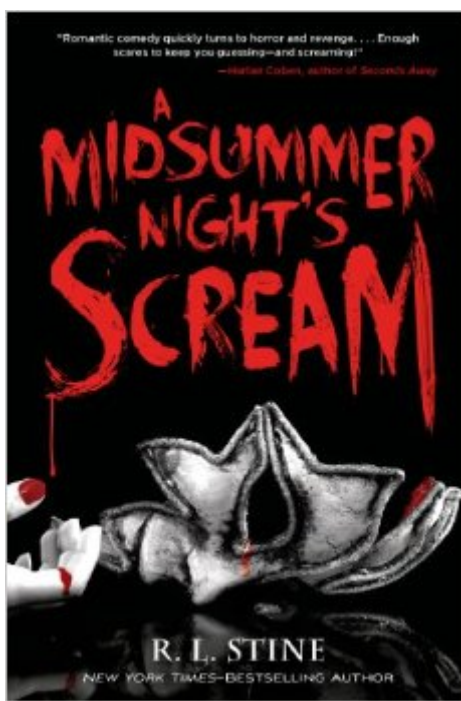


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A Midsummer Night's Scream



Synopsis

In R.L. Stine's *A Midsummer Night's Scream*, the Master of Horror takes on the Master of Theatre! Oh, what fools these actors be! It was a horror movie that turned into real horror--three young actors lost their lives while the camera rolled. Production stopped, and people claimed that the movie was cursed. Sixty years later, new actors are venturing onto the haunted set. In a desperate attempt to revive their failing studio, Claire's dad has green-lit a remake of *Mayhem Manor*—and Claire and her friends are dying to be involved. At first, Claire laughs at Jake's talk of ghosts and curses. He's been too busy crushing on her best friend Delia to notice that she's practically been throwing herself at him. What does he know? And anyway, this is her big chance to be a star! When shooting starts, though, the set is plagued by a series of horrible accidents—could history be repeating itself?

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

I've loved Stine all my life and continue to read a Goosebumps here or a Fear Street there because they are easy reads and fun. When I saw this title with the Shakespeare reference I couldn't resist. This story features a typical Stine formula that works all the way until the end when it gets too weird and not in a good way. Not something I would recommend unless you've read most of Stine's works anyway and are just looking for something new. I listened on audio and thought the reader did great. It is a little more violent than most of his stuff so depending on how you feel that could be a good

thing or a bad thing.

I outgrew R.L. Stine's books pretty quick. I still kept reading them regularly, at least through seventh grade, because they were fun. Formulaic, yes, but the Fear Street books especially were chock-full of inventive deaths. For a morbid little kid an inventive death goes a long way. Nowadays, I have a fond nostalgia for Stine. It helps that I met him once in person and he was incredibly nice. (I was super awkward because my friend dropped out on me and I was the only person over eighteen there alone.) Without that nostalgia, I might not have finished *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S SCREAM*. But I'm sure the intended audience for the novel will enjoy it. There's one death that's probably going to make my dreams a little freaky for a night or two. The plot is simple: Claire and her best friend Delia have small roles in *Mayhem Manor*, the remake of a never-finished horror film. Three members of the original cast died on tape. Pretty soon, bad things start happening to the new cast too. It's made clear that the studio will shut down if the production fails, but it's still hard to believe they don't close down the film for everyone's safety. As for the connection to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, it's fairly faint. Each girl has a crush on a guy who has a crush on the other girl. There's also a hairy man, Mr. Puckerman, with potions. There was one aspect I found disappointing. I remember Stine being delightfully gross, but I don't remember him being gross about gender. There's a third girl, Annalee, who goes after Jake when Claire keeps failing to make a move. She's catty about it, but it still grated on me when Claire and Delia constantly derided her for being a slut. No wonder she didn't care to observe their unspoken hands off. Don't go into *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* expecting complex characterization and an involved plot. The characters are types, and sometimes hard to keep track of since there's a bunch of them. The plot is only complicated in that it often requires people to act quite stupid. Claire, for instance, keeps using potions she steals from Mr. Puckerman despite always grabbing the wrong one. But I can't help but find something comforting about Stine's formula. He's keeping cheesy teen (and child friendly) horror alive.

I loved Fear Street growing up, and know that many of RL Stine's books don't have happy endings, but since the main character, Claire is such an awful person, I was somewhat looking forward to seeing Claire come to an awful end. Instead, she's a star. Ugh. Claire's parents run a movie studio, along with her neighbor/crush Jake. They're trying to remake a movie that was originally filmed in the 60's. In the original movie, 3 of the actors were actually killed, so production was shut down. The movie deals with Claire and her friend Delia who are in the new movie, and with their hopes of getting the guys that they like. In a (very slight) nod to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Claire comes

across a mysterious trailer on the movie lot with a strange man named Puckerman inside. He has a collection of potions, including a love potion, which shallow Claire grabs believing that it will make Jake want her. Of course, each attempt at using the potions ends in disaster, but she keeps grabbing more. The story leads to Claire's 17th birthday, held on the movie lot, and a very ridiculous attempt by Puckerman to finish the movie, which again has been shut down by deaths. Not a bad read if you want something light and ridiculous, but not too scary.

Are you a Shakespeare Fan ? Love reading Renditions of famous tales ? For me, I've never really been over the top with the original tales of classics and plays. However, since I was little I have been fascinated with the renditions of them all from 10 Things I Hate about You to She's the Man and Elizabeth, The First Wife. Now famous Horror writer R.L Stine has released a horror twist on Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer's Night Dream" The story starts off sixty years ago when a group of actors were filming a movie in a Haunted house. They had to cut the movie though as three of the main stars died in the supposedly haunted house. Now Claire's dad's production company is re-filming the movie and Claire and her friends have parts in the film. However, it seems that what happened sixty years ago was left incomplete and a little strange man named Puck wants the movie he has been waiting for all these years to finally be completed - the way he wants with "real" horror scenes. Can Claire help put an end to this before more people die or will this screening be an extended version of the original with more deaths ? Find out in this awesome read in which you won't want to put it down as I read it in one sitting.

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