



Furnace

By Muriel Gray

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Furnace By Muriel Gray

From the author of *The Trickster*, an unnerving tale of latterday alchemy and the horrors brooding beneath the placid surface of life in one small town in America.

Something is being born.
The darkness is its delight, deep and black and hot.
Its growth is unstoppable.
It knows who has summoned it.
It knows that its carrier is aware and afraid.
Its time is drawing near...

When long-distance truck driver Josh Spiller pulls into the small backwater town of Furnace, Virginia, he has a lot on his mind. He's been driving for thirty-six hours straight after busting up with his pregnant girlfriend; he's tired and hungry, and all he wants is to get some breakfast and rest up.

But Furnace has something special in store for Josh. Amongst the surprisingly affluent houses, the neat streets and smartly-dressed townsfolk lurks the stuff of living nightmare. A sequence of events is about to be unleashed that will test Josh to the edge of his endurance. A world of sorcery and malice is waiting to gather him in. For behind the prosperity of Furnace lie terrible secrets; and a terrifying fate in store for those who take an unwarranted interest.

Even now, as Josh searches for a place to stop, his electric-blue Peterbilt roaring through the gears, the eyes of the town are upon him.

The nightmare is beginning...

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Furnace By Muriel Gray Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #765405 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-06-05
- Released on: 2014-06-05
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Josh Spiller is a long-distance truck driver. Although his girlfriend is pregnant, he's got no major personal problems--until the day he rolls into a small town called Furnace, where a middle-aged woman pushes a baby carriage straight into his wheels and then vanishes. The dead baby's teenage mother and other passers-by swear the wind caused the carriage to roll, and the police take Josh for a troublemaker when he insists on writing a statement to the contrary. Shaken, Josh hits the road again, only to find that it's not so easy to get away from Furnace; something inhuman is hot on his heels. A pretty hitchhiker recognizes a mysterious scrap of writing in his truck as ancient runes spelling out--on human skin--a horrific curse. From then on, all roads lead back to Furnace as Josh races to unscramble a weird puzzle involving a wealthy town councilor, the Philosopher's Stone, and a demon who will destroy Josh in three days unless he returns the runes to their rightful place.

The rotating point of view can be confusing, and the language (Gray is Scottish) occasionally doesn't ring true to an American ear. Nevertheless, this is a grand, terrifying tale.

Review

'Pacy, energetic, violent entertainment whose flashes of intuition and glittery neurosis give it an idiosyncratic edge'

- Elizabeth Buchan, The Times

'Takes the horror genre by the balls'

- Deirdre Molloy, The List

'A deliciously creepy horror to rival premium Stephen King. Guaranteed to give you a terrifying dose of the heebee-jebees'

- Company

From the Publisher

Alchemy: the summoning and control of demons. Those who cross the alchemist are in danger of being disposed of. The easiest way to do this? Cast the runes: strips of flesh made from the dried skin of a child sacrifice and inscribed with the time the victim has yet to live...

When trucker Josh Spiller pulls his rig into the small town of Furnace, Virginia, all he wants is a decent meal before getting back on the road and away from his memories of a bitter quarrel with his girlfriend. Instead, he witnesses a baby's violent death and can't convince the sheriff that the upstanding, well-dressed woman he saw leaving the scene was responsible. Shaken by his experience, he rolls out of Furnace, stopping to pick up a desperately attractive, female hitchhiker who seems to have the answers to some of his questions about the inhabitants of Furnace--and who is just as anxious to get out of town as he is.

Soon after, Josh begins to feel eyes watching him--the burning eyes of misshapen creatures. Is it possible to have nightmares while you're awake? And just as his grip on what's real and what's imagined begins to slip, he makes a bizarre discovery: someone has slipped him what looks like parchment, inscribed with the words,

"five days alive permitted." Something unnatural is happening in Furnace, but will Josh be around long enough to unravel its secrets?

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Julia Hayes:

What do you about book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what yours problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They need to answer that question because just their can do which. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this kind of Furnace to read.

Erna Taylor:

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