



## **Book Review:**

# ***Shudders in the Dark***

**By Ruskin Bond**

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# INTRODUCTION

I chose this book because the cover image was very attractive—it showed a ghost, which immediately caught my attention. I have always been interested in ghost stories and enjoy the adventure that comes with reading them. This book is written by Ruskin Bond, a famous author, which also motivated me to read it and write a review. My initial expectation was that it would be an interesting read, and I found that it completely lived up to that.

# SUMMARY

## The Perfect Murder

In this tale, two brothers plan a murder so well that it is impossible to trace. But there is an unexpected turn of events that destroys their plan, and no crime turns out to be perfect.

## The Last Match

This tale is about a crucial game that ends in an unplanned manner and greatly alters the future of the protagonist.

## The Story of Yand Manor House

This story is about mysterious occurrences and sinister secrets buried within an old mansion, uncovering a perilous and haunting history.

## The White Wolf of Hartz Mountain

A frightening story that starts with two men, Philip and Krantz. Krantz explains to Philip the myth of Hartz Mountain, a strange location feared by many. Some believe it is true, others believe it is a myth—but nobody knows for sure.

### Gone Fishing

This tale is of the trust bond between a devoted servant and a homeowner by the name of Robert Astley, a thirty-something bachelor who prefers a vagabond life, unencumbered by worldly things. The tale, in a lovely yet sinister residence called Undercliff, implies that beneath the façade lies something unnatural.

### Frontier Guard

This story follows two men exploring a haunted house. It is certain that a ghost is present—one that has killed innocent people. The atmosphere is full of real danger for the characters.

# ANALYSIS AND OPINION

The Perfect Murder illustrates that a man driven by greed could lose his connection to reality. The brothers felt they were being clever, yet their scheme turned out wrong.

The message here is simple: however clever we feel we might be, things can turn out differently in our lives.

Yand Manor House is the concept that old locations can be burdened with previous sins. The house itself is alive with intrigue, so it is more than a standard ghost story. It left me wondering what is real and what is not.

The White Wolf of Hartz Mountain takes place in a mountainous area, which brings danger and tension to the narrative. The setting makes the supernatural aspects more believable. It's an excellent combination of fear and mystery.

Gone Fishing begins peacefully but slowly introduces tension. Even if the environment is normal, something unnatural exists below the surface. The tale constructs psychological horror and makes readers curious about numerous things. It's ideal for readers who like mystery and atmospheric fiction.

Frontier Guard is full of suspense. The atmosphere—a haunted, remote house—contributes to the suspense. Horror stories are more effective in my opinion when they take place in forests, old buildings, or areas with creepy sounds. These help build the right atmosphere for fear.

The author at one point said, "I don't want to go to a ghost place," indicating even he is cautious about the supernatural, making the stories sound more real.

## PERSONAL CONNECTION

This book left a deep impression on me. I was once so curious about ghosts—whether or not they really exist. I would go to places and watch TV shows featuring haunted sites. But after this book, I understood that it's usually the surroundings that cause us to feel the presence of a ghost. It's a matter of perception rather than fact.

I also discovered that wasting too much time on such matters isn't always a good idea. We must concentrate on our studies and future, rather than getting diverted

by the unknown. Fear is usually something we invent for ourselves.

## CONCLUSION

Yes, I would certainly suggest *Shudders in the Dark* to others. It is packed with horror stories, fiction, and suspense, so it is a thrilling read. The book resolved many of my questions and broke my expectations. Ruskin Bond's narration, the spooky settings, and the surprising endings made each story interesting. Just when I thought I knew what would occur, something entirely different happened—and that was the best part for me.

## THE END\*\*\*\*\*

