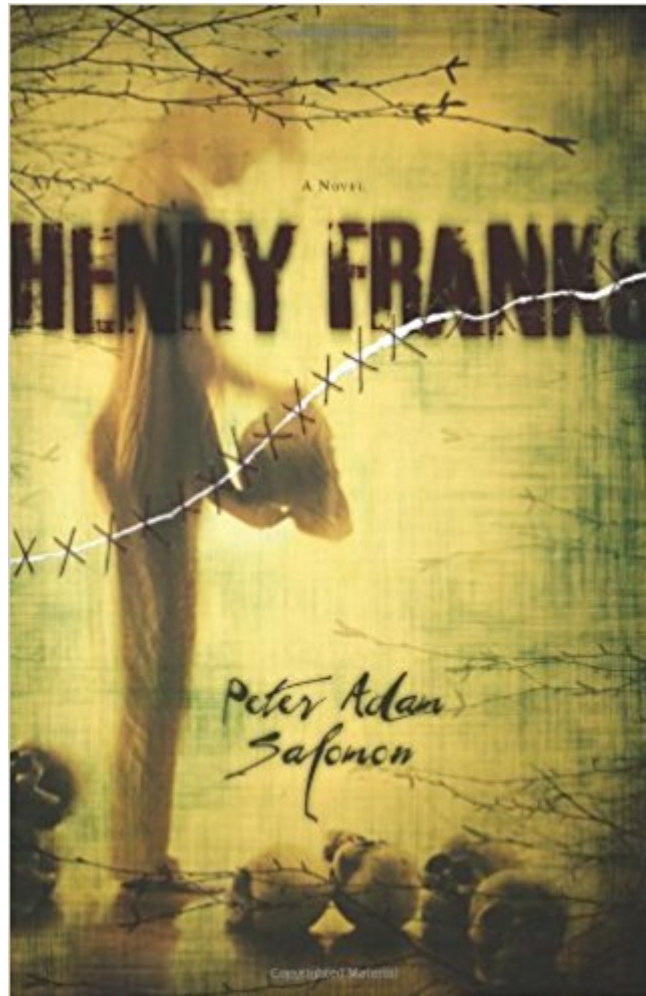




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Henry Franks



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Synopsis

A dark, psychological thriller about a boy's search for himself. Four thousand, three hundred and seventeen stitches, his father had told him once. All the King's horses and all the King's men had put Henry Franks back together again. One year ago, a terrible accident robbed Henry Franks of his mother and his memories. The past sixteen years have vanished. All Henry has now are scars and a distant father--the only one who can tell Henry who he is. If only he could trust his father. Do his nightmares--a sweet little girl calling him Daddy, murderous urges, dead bodies--hold clues? While a serial killer stalks their small Georgia town, Henry unearths the bitter truth behind his mother's death--and the terrifying secrets of his own dark past. Sometimes, the only thing worse than forgetting is remembering.

Book Information

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> Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-It's been nine months, but Henry still can't remember the accident that killed his mother and left him covered in scars-or anything before that. With a sweltering summer starting, the teen has a lot of time on his hands, but he just can't piece together who he is or, more mysteriously, why he has no feeling in an increasing portion of his body or why his father spends so much time at his job at the morgue. As a hurricane approaches and a serial killer roams the island off the Georgia mainland, Henry and his neighbor Justine begin to unravel a tangle of lies and connected horrors.

Salomon begins with an interesting premise, modernizing the Frankenstein story, but doesn't deliver. The first two thirds of the novel fail to build any tension despite the twin threats of an oncoming hurricane and an unidentified serial killer, which leaves the ending feeling rushed. The final reveal depends on a completely new character never mentioned before and allows things to be wrapped up too tidily, and the epilogue is completely preposterous, even in a story where the readers' belief has already been suspended. The dialogue never feels natural, and descriptions are often repetitive. This story is full of disparate elements stitched together in a final product that is unbelievable and unsustainable.-Gretchen Kolderup, New Canaan Library, CT Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Starred Review It took 4,317 stitches to put 16-year-old Henry Franks back together again following the car crash that killed his mother. But some pieces are still missing. Suffering total amnesia, panic attacks, and a spreading numbness of his flesh (Ã¢â¬Åparts of me are dyingÃ¢â¬Å), Henry is beset by dreams in which a little girl calls him Ã¢â¬ÅDaddy,Ã¢â¬Å while his days are spent in lonelinessÃ¢â¬Å aside from the neighbor girl, Justine, who is not repelled by his spiderwebs of scars. With JustineÃ¢â¬Ås help, Henry begins to uncover the truth of his identity. His mysterious father, who works at a hospital (or is it a morgue?), offers him little information, but each night leaves huge piles of fast food on the back porch as if feeding something in the woods. And what does that have to do with the local rash of murders via Ã¢â¬Åblunt force traumaÃ¢â¬Å? SalomonÃ¢â¬Ås Frankenstein homage churns through its often confounding but highly unnerving plot like a slow nightmareÃ¢â¬Å readers wonÃ¢â¬Åt be entirely sure they even want to know how it ends. The scenes are clipped, the dialogue spare, and the prose rewards meticulous reading, making this debut the thinking teenÃ¢â¬Ås horror choice of the year. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Due to an accident that killed his mother, Henry Franks has no memory of his life before he woke from a coma a year ago. All he knows is that his body is covered in stitches, he can't feel pain in his appendages, and he doesn't quite fit in anywhere, including his own home, where his father hides behind simple conversations and locked doors, unwilling to provide Henry with details about his life beyond what can be gleaned from a scrapbook of generic photos (unfamiliar birthdays, unfamiliar friends, etc)...Henry tries to come to grips with his continuing amnesia with the help of a therapist and the girl next door, a girl who sees well beyond Henry's disfigurement. As their relationship

progresses, a serial killer pops up in the area, Henry's father starts acting even stranger, and Henry begins to realize all is not as it seems. This book moves at a furious clip. Mr. Salomon builds up intrigue and mystery with an expert touch. Thought I had things figured out halfway through, but I was wrong. The romance element is beautifully intertwined. The horror builds with subtle tension until it comes crashing down with tremendous effect. Highly recommend this. At times sweet, at times dark, always intriguing.

Intriguing from the very beginning. I finished this book in two days. I literally had to force myself to put my phone down so I could go to sleep.

When I ordered this book (used), it arrived as a withdrawn library book. I was excited to see that the book had been cataloged as "horror" for teens. This is one of the genres I myself gravitate toward. Upon reading the book, however, I feel the author has mashed up quite a few genres, specifically science fiction, romantic comedy, and mystery. I really did enjoy the characters and their development, but I felt there was a bit of a lull in parts of the book and felt little was gained during the sessions with the psychiatrist. I thought the ending was clever and did not see it coming (although I really thought I had figured out the "mystery" killer pretty early on). The obvious name symbolism was a bit of a drag, but perhaps many teens reading literature today are not terribly familiar with Frankenstein. Overall, the book was a decent read, it just took a long time for me to finish it. I kept putting the book down to read other books that looked (and were) more appealing to my tastes.

Henry Franks has scars, lots of them. But no accompanying memories. Life with his recluse father who doesn't say very much is bleak, until Henry befriends Justine, the girl next door. Together they try to unravel the dark mystery of his past. I loved the dark atmosphere of this Georgia-based suspense novel, and how every detail added to the eeriness. Trees drip with Spanish moss and branches scrape at windows. Even the nightly dinner ritual is creepy. The dialog between Henry and Justine is so authentic it feels like eavesdropping to read it. And the mystery had me riveted from beginning to end. Although this book is classified as young adult, I foresee it having a ton of crossover appeal to adult readers as well.

Henry Franks has scars but no memories of them. His therapist and friend help him to figure out his past through a dark, thrilling plot. This story is a very quick and exciting read. I met the author at the

World Horror Conference in Atlanta this spring. He's clever and inspiring. I look forward to reading more of his works.

I order this book based on the reviews. When I started reading, I was a little taken back because it was not what I thought. But, little by little I started liking the book. The explanation for all the mystery is a little awkward and it takes time to have the explanation sink into you, but then I took it as "this is the author's fantasy." Also the end really let me want more explanations. But, it is an easy reading.

I enjoyed the storyline but at times felt the characters & certain plot lines could have been flushed out a little more. There were areas where I wanted more depth. The book was a quick paced read and I did enjoy the ending. Overall I would recommend it.

A new take on an old story, I found the book very well written and exciting. A great entry in the YA field that can very easily be enjoyed by adults as well. Here's to hoping for more from a great new voice!

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