

The Beasties

By William Sleator

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The Beasties By William Sleator

The master of suspense delivers a hard-core horror story to thrill and chill. Fans will get more than goose bumps from this terrifying tour de force by William Sleator. The nightmare begins when Doug's family moves to the desolate northern woods; soon he and his little sister, Colette, become caught up in a war between the area's loggers and a dying race of woodland creatures who depend on human body parts for their survival. Tunnels, tunnels, leading everywhere...even right into Doug and Colette's basement. But who built them? Could the rumors about the mysterious, bloodthirsty kidnappers called the Beasties possibly be true? Skeptical Doug doesn't buy it at first, even if an unusual number of the local inhabitants seem to be missing important pieces of their anatomies. But once he and his sister stumble into a cavernous opening and meet the Beastie scout named Fingers, Doug is forced to become a believer. Colette soon is indoctrinated into the society of the Family, an underground civilization of slimy, pale beings with crudely stitched-together body parts. Doug desperately hopes to remain an outsider, but it seems he has no choice. In fact, the Family needs him to make the biggest sacrifice of all. If he tries to escape, he faces an awful truth (one that readers, too, will learn): Once you have met the Beasties, you will never be safe again. Hailed by R. L. Stine as "one of my favorite young-adult writers,"

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Strange creatures whose existence is threatened by loggers require human donors to survive. PW said that this novel "may well leave readers with some soul-searching questions." Ages 8-12. (Oct.)
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From School Library Journal
Grade 4-5?Doug and his precocious younger sister move to a deep forest when their botanist father has the opportunity to study a rare fungus. Before they leave, Doug's friend warns him to stay away from the shadowy woods or the "beasties" will get him. It's not long before the siblings are lured into an underground passage and meet up with the creatures. At this point, the hairs on readers' arms will start to rise and the plot takes the bizarre twist so familiar in Sleator's titles. Doug, presented with several dilemmas, is forced to make uncomfortable decisions without really understanding his choices. Using his trademark techniques, Sleator sets the scene within everyday situations, introduces unusual plot elements with vivid description, develops the story line by leading readers though a labyrinth, and builds to an explosive ending with a message. The Beasties follows this format and includes sibling rivalry, forest conservation, respect for those who are less valued or understood, choices and decisions, friendship, and a healthy dose of the creepy. This is a quick read, with lots of suspense, but its real effectiveness lies in the way it introduces and explores issues of human choice and compassion, and the lingering questions after the reading is complete. The Beasties invites discussion as it delves into issues for which there are no easy answers. Sure to be popular with the author's many fans and a good choice to introduce his work to others.?Molly S. Kinney, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
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From Kirkus Reviews
Sleator (The Night the Heads Came, 1996, etc.) stretches plenty of catgut in this latest shocker about physical dismemberment. When 15-year-old Doug learns that his botanist father plans to relocate the family to the local forest, he isn't pleased about leaving school or having only his ten-year-old sister, Colette, for a buddy. His unease blossoms into full-blown anxiety when the family reaches their isolated home, a postcard from Twin Peaks, including the housekeeper, Mrs. Sloan, who sports a Halloween mask to cover the nose she can't afford to fix. Colette is unfazed, however, and when the pair discover a trapdoor in their backyard, she jumps down and makes friends with the beasties--or ``the family,'' as they call themselves--subterranean sub-human life forms forced to borrow body parts from humans in order to survive. Fingers, the blind second-in-command, explains that the family's health is linked to the woodlands, which are being deforested by a logging company (Sleator is vague on the details). The plot moves quickly, and soon a war between the beasties and the loggers erupts: All too soon, the remaining beastie tribes are licking their wounds and Doug donates one of his eyes to make Fingers the new queen. The only authentically bizarre moment comes when the children must explain to their parents what happened to Doug's eye. Lots of cheap tricks add up to a rushed and silly sideshow. (Fiction. 11-13) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Adrian Woodson:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled The Beasties. Try to make the book The Beasties as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you experience alone and beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Jeffrey Lockwood:

The event that you get from The Beasties is the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but The Beasties giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by anyone who read this because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that The Beasties instantly.

Ella Jacobs:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the publication untitled The Beasties can be excellent book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Lloyd Schuler:

This The Beasties is great reserve for you because the content that is full of information for you who always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it info accurately using great plan word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having The Beasties in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no reserve that offer you world with ten or fifteen small right but this reserve already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt this?

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