



## A Winter Haunting

By Dan Simmons

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### A Winter Haunting By Dan Simmons

A once-respected college professor and novelist, Dale Stewart has sabotaged his career and his marriage -- and now darkness is closing in on him. In the last hours of Halloween he has returned to the dying town of Elm Haven, his boyhood home, where he hopes to find peace in isolation. But moving into a long-deserted farmhouse on the far outskirts of town -- the one-time residence of a strange and brilliant friend who lost his young life in a grisly "accident" back in the terrible summer of 1960 -- is only the latest in his long succession of recent mistakes. Because Dale is not alone here. He has been followed to this house of shadows by private demons who are now twisting his reality into horrifying new forms. And a thick, blanketing early snow is starting to fall ...

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## **A Winter Haunting** By Dan Simmons Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The old saw "You can't go home again" is a chilling understatement for this highly effective supernatural shocker, Simmons's first horror novel since *Fires of Eden* (1994) and a sequel to *Summer of Night* (1991). The latter was an eerie chronicle of a summer of lost innocence for a group of preadolescent chums who confront an entity of irrepressible evil in rural Elm Haven, Ill. Four decades later Dale Stewart, a survivor of that summer, has returned to endure a winter of adult discontent: his wife has left him, his sideline career as a novelist is sputtering and a disastrous love affair has driven him to attempt suicide. Medicated to the gills for depression, Dale seeks inspiration for his next novel in a house that figured in events of the summer of 1960. But remnants of the old malign influence have survived and they manifest as vicious spectral dogs, threatening neo-Nazi punks, cryptic messages that appear magically on his computer screen and delusions that suggest he's losing his mind. Simmons orchestrates his story's weird events craftily, introducing them as unremarkable details that only gradually show their dark side. In a nod to Henry James, whose psychological ghost story "The Jolly Corner" is repeatedly invoked, he blends jaw-dropping revelations of spiritual intrusion with carefully manipulated challenges to the reader's confidence in Dale's faculties and motivations. Though it features its share of palpable things that go bump in the night, this novel is most unsettling in its portrait of personal demons of despair that imperceptibly empower them.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—"Forty-one years after I died, my friend Dale returned to the farm where I was murdered. It was a very bad winter." What follows proves to be just as spooky as this opening suggests. Dale Stewart suffered a traumatic summer in 1960 when he was 11. His friend Duane McBride was mysteriously killed by a runaway piece of farm equipment. That story is told in Simmons's *Summer of Night* (Warner, 1992). Now, Dale, who is a professor and author of mountain-man adventure stories, is not doing well. He left his wife and family during a love affair with a graduate student who has since left him. He survived a suicide attempt and is being counseled for severe depression. Against his doctor's advice, he travels to his boyhood hometown in Illinois to spend his winter sabbatical in the now-empty home of his deceased friend. Even inattentive readers will spot the signs that Dale is in the midst of a horror story: the second floor of the farmhouse is sealed off with layers of plastic, yet a light glows at night as if someone were in there; he is repeatedly threatened by a group of dangerous skinheads; and a dog that appears to increase in size stalks him. And plenty of other spine-tingling events occur. Whether it's just horror fiction or Dale is actually insane hardly matters. It's good spooky fun that teens will love—but may not want to read when alone, at night, during a storm etc.

*Carol DeAngelo, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA*

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From Library Journal

It looks as if Simmons is about to become really big: *Darwin's Blade* made the Los Angeles Times best sellers list, and both *The Crook Factory* and *Children of Night* have been optioned for film. In this novel, which reintroduces characters we met as children in *Summer of Night*, Dale Stewart returns to his childhood home to recoup after a disastrous love affair but gets caught up in a long-unresolved murder.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Gilbert Kimmel:**

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want sense happy read one with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The particular A Winter Haunting is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

#### **Nancy Samuel:**

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#### **Donald Benson:**

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#### **John Johnson:**

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