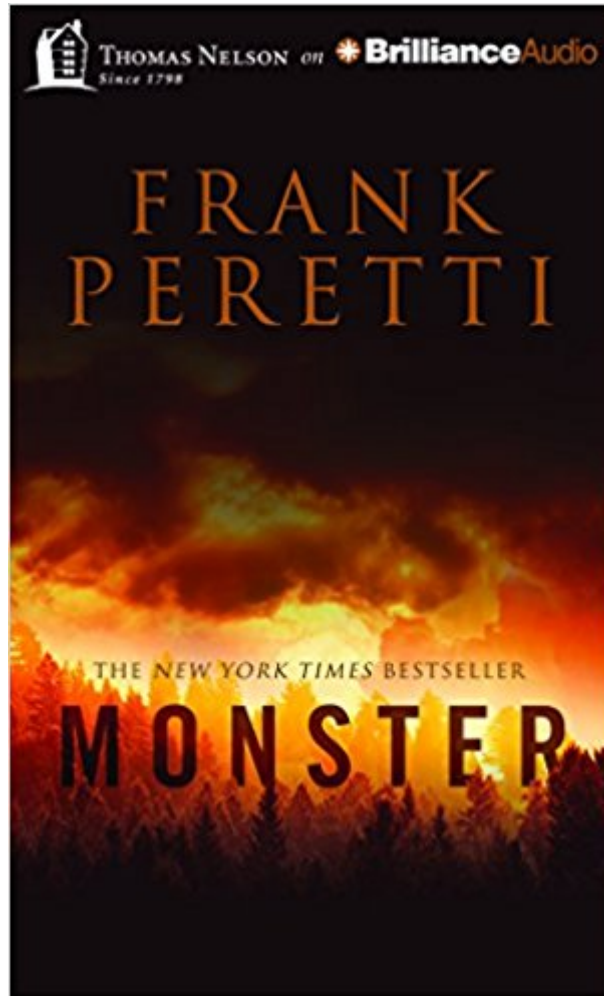




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# Monster



## Synopsis

Miles away from the hectic city, Reed and Rebecca hike into the beautiful Northwestern woods. They are surrounded by gorgeous mountains, waterfalls, and hundreds of acres of unspoiled wilderness. During their first night camping, an unearthly wail pierces the calm of the forest. Then something emerges from the dense woods. Everything that follows is a blur to Reed – except the unforgettable image of a huge creature carrying his wife into the darkness. Enter into deep wilderness where the rules of civilization no longer apply. A world where strange shadows lurk. Where creatures long attributed to overactive imaginations and nightmares are the hunters...and people are the hunted.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this long-awaited novel, Peretti (*This Present Darkness*; *The Visitation*) tells the story of a young woman who disappears in the Idaho wilderness and the ensuing search for her. The author's prose is clear and crisp, with only a few lapses into Lovecraftian hyperbole: his description of the novel's almost mythical setting is rich and detailed without being overwritten and his characterization of the woman, Beck, and the very unusual creatures she encounters is compelling. Peretti successfully incorporates several contemporary detective drama/suspense thriller tropes; one of his main characters, for example, is a crime scene investigator, and welcome doses of forensic evidence and DNA analysis are thrown into the mix. But the novel suffers from too many supporting characters, and Peretti's failure to develop them greatly compromises the conclusion. More problematic, though, is the novel's agenda with regard to the theory of evolution. Not raised overtly until the middle of the

book, Peretti's critique of certain aspects of Darwinism eclipses the story and leads it to an unsatisfying and somewhat confusing end. As in Peretti's previous novels, those who hold conservative views are portrayed as heroic and those who disagree as evil. The novel's devolution into this simplistic moralism, however, will not keep Peretti fans away, and its many merits may attract other readers as well. 400,000 first printing. (Apr. 12) --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Policeman Reed Shelton is guiding his wife, Rebecca ("Beck"), on a no-frills wilderness hike when a strange being attacks them, and they are separated. Bloodied and shaken, Reed crawls back for help, thinking Beck is probably dead. But she's been kidnapped by a band of apelike creatures that may embody what the people of backcountry Idaho tell their tall tales about: Bigfoot, aka Sasquatch. Or there may be another explanation: renegade researchers have been fiddling with DNA and have altered the offspring of chimpanzees into "monster" form. The monsters have escaped. This kind of thing--trying to improve upon God's creation--is red meat to Peretti's evangelical readers, but he doesn't develop the issue. Instead, he pumps up the suspense as a hunt is mounted to find Beck, but since the reader pretty much knows her fate, the suspense seems mechanical. When the true "monster" is revealed, he (or she) has little time on stage, and Peretti's argument about DNA more or less falls away. Peretti has so many readers that his new novel belongs in every library, but he was better off writing about the weight of sin, as he did in *The Oath* (1995). As for the evangelical take on DNA research, try Sigmund Brouwer's *The Double Helix* (1995). It's better informed and more suspenseful. John MortCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

A great book featuring bigfoot, monsters, a missing camper, a missing survival instructor, academic intrigue and more. I don't like spoilers so no plot details from me but there is more than one kind of monster. Some of them are real and live among us hiding their true, evil natures.

I can give all of Mr. Peretti's books a 5 star rating so far. I've read 6 and am about to purchase another for my Kindle. They bring you into the story and allow you to experience it making it hard to put down. I love the unpredictable plots and the way God always wins.

Great book Fast-paced and easy to read. If you like stories about scary things in the woods then you'll definitely want to read this.

I really like Frank Peretti. Would like to share the books with my husband. Being able to listen to it in the truck is great. Wonderful book

Spoiler Alert----Spoiler Alert----Spoiler AlertAs a long-time fan of all things Bigfoot, I was really intrigued by the premise of Peretti's MONSTER. I was satisfied with all the twists and turns the story took, eventually tying all the loose ends together. Peretti has a real knack of taking multiple story lines and making them converge in a believable, and suspenseful, manner.As I mentioned earlier, being a fan of Bigfoot made me really appreciate all those scenes. It was really interesting to see how the Beck character grew and developed over her time with the creatures. For me it was the most interesting aspect of the story!Mr. Peretti is known for his Christian fiction, but this book barely scratches the surface of the creation/evolution argument. I'm a Christian and I really enjoyed it. Evolutionists won't be offended, although it may make them think about what exactly it is they believe.Give MONSTER a try and see what you think. And don't be put off by the 400+ pages; it's a quick read.

Peretti writes stories, and his stories carry a message. But mostly, he just writes stories. And that's the way Monster is.Monster tells the tale of a couple, Reed and Beck, who decide to go on a camping trip in the mountains of Idaho. But when a strange beast attacks them and takes Beck, everything continues to go down hill. The entire county is on a mission to find Beck, but as the story progresses, we find there's a deeper mystery afoot.From page one, Peretti draws us into the story. He introduces us to two interesting characters, and the action really starts off by chapter two, foreshadowed throughout chapter one. There's no dilly-dallying here, yet enough time to develop the characters. We get enough background to know whom we're dealing with, yet not enough to bog down the narrative. And Peretti's all about a good story, and he certainly delivers.The pacing is constant throughout the entire book. As the layers are pulled away, we are given intense action sequences, and go for a suspenseful ride from the wildernesses to science labs. Every step smoothly transitions to the next, which is ironic because Peretti skips from viewpoint to viewpoint, and location to location.The characters are also interesting enough to carry the story. While not all of them are fully developed, the main characters are suitable to invest your emotions into. We care what happens to Beck and Reed, and hope Cap and Sing succeed.The writing style is nothing profound, but effective and engaging. Peretti relies more on the story, characters, and fast-moving plot to keep the reader interested. And I have no problem with that.Like with many of Peretti's

books, there is a twist ending. I didn't see it coming, and I didn't guess whom the bad guy was, but I can't say I was entirely satisfied with the way everything turned out. I feel as if Peretti kept us in the dark for too long, and didn't give out enough information. It's difficult to walk the fine line between the excited "man I should have seen that coming" and the almost confused "I did not see that coming." I'd say the ending falls right between those two reactions. While it wasn't terrible, it was amazing either. As with all of Peretti's works, there is a message. This time around it's evolution. And the aspect Peretti hammers on is a secret that most evolutionary scientists hold: mutations don't work. We wade through a bit of technical lingo, and are experience a bit of shock when we see what mutation does, but really it's not a big part of the book. Without the theme that mutations don't work, the story wouldn't be possible, but still, I feel that Peretti could have explored the issue in a little more depth. All of that aside, we really read Peretti's stuff for the gripping story, and on that note, *Monster* succeeds. I enjoyed every bit of it, despite a few minor faults, so there's not much I can gripe about.

This is the third Frank Peretti book that I've read and I enjoyed it immensely. It kept me guessing and surprised farther in than most mysteries do and I think that Mr. Peretti has developed a good deal as an author since "This Present Darkness", a book I loved but saw a number of flaws in. I won't include any spoilers but just say that I would recommend "Monster" to anyone who enjoys a fast paced mystery. I've read a book that covers some similar subjects by Michael Crichton and in my opinion this was better written and was a better read.

I wish to preface these remarks with a personal experience. While living in the TX Hill Country, one evening on my daily walk a wild Vixen came out of the undergrowth and placed herself between me and where was I headed. She barked at me and then turned her head and looked in the direction I was going. I proceeded to take a few steps toward her and she looked at me and barked again and then looked where I was going. As I looked past her, I saw a snake crossing the road, I turned and headed back where I came from. Having had that experience made me aware how wildlife can be protective and not just hostile. I enjoyed "Monster" very much. It is slow to start as others have commented and also not as deep as some of the other novels by Mr. Peretti. It does get exciting after the first half of the book so is well worth reading to the end. He does have a point to make as with his first novels.

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