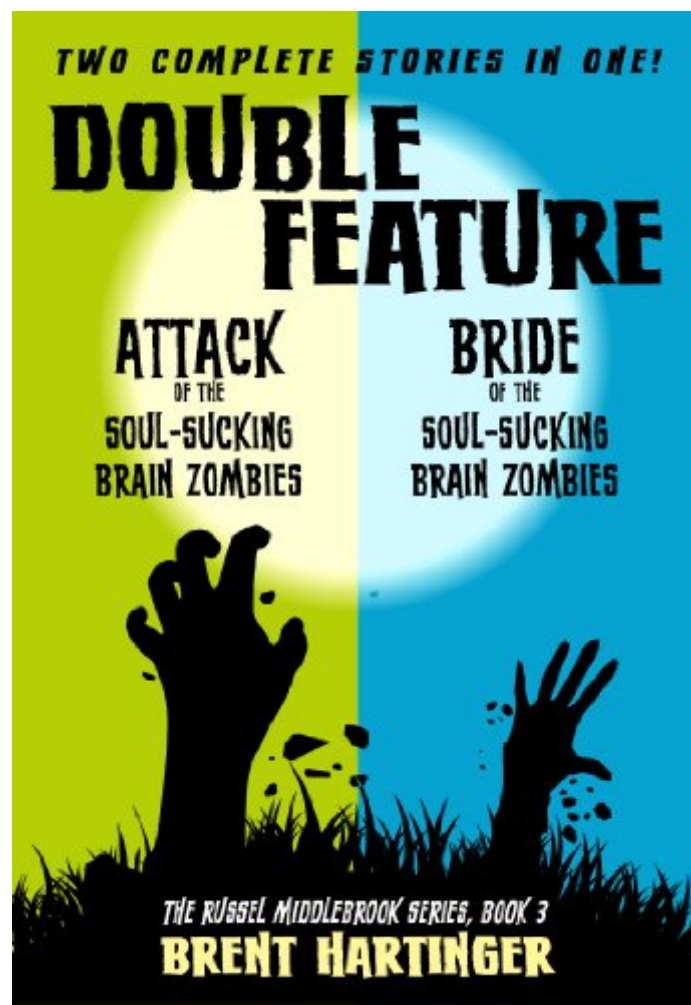




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Double Feature: Attack Of The Soul-Sucking Brain Zombies/Bride Of The Soul-Sucking Brain Zombies (The Russel Middlebrook Series Book 3)





Synopsis

Winner of the Lambda Book AwardIt's a horror movie extravaganza in the second sequel to Brent Hartinger's Geography Club. Two complete books in one recount the stories of best friends Min and Russel who sign up to be extras on the set of a zombie film and learn that there's nothing scarier than high school romance!In the first book, Attack of the Soul-Sucking Brain Zombies, Russel must choose between his long-distance boyfriend and a close-to-home ex named Kevin who wants to get back together. In the second book, Bride of the Soul-Sucking Brain Zombies, Min struggles to accept her cheerleader girlfriend's decision to stay in the closet. But beware! Russel and Min's separate stories affect each other in surprising ways and you'll have to read both books together to find out the whole story. (This book was previously published under the title "Split Screen.")

Book Information

File Size: 1682 KB

Print Length: 280 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1505374073

Publication Date: November 24, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006E90218

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #487,664 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #67

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > LGBT Issues #643 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions #1070 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Customer Reviews

Although I enjoyed the same story as told separately from the perspective of Russel and Min it was Min's account that I truly loved. I was left wondering with the second volume of the series why

Russel had walked away so unscathed by his first romance depicted in volume one Geography Club. Through Min's account the reader finally grasped it had left him devastated and not the strong young man he depicted himself as being through his account as written by the author. I reread the first two volumes after finishing this book and had a better grasp of Russel's narrative. Sometimes he was bluntly honest in his feelings regarding Kevin while other times they were downplayed or hidden. I liked this technique employed by the author as I felt it was true to life in how we all are not completely honest in recounting stories that deal with strong emotions particularly when they involve love and heartbreak.

This author is just OK. He writes well, but the stories don't really have much pazzaz. This was the worst book of this series. I bought a bunch of his books as they all got really high ratings for him as an author. Well, he's no Mark Roeder or any number of great authors I could name. This book tells the same story twice once from the main characters perspective and once from his female friend. I was really not interested in her view, however you get to find out things left unsaid in the first story. All in all, it was ok I guess.

Harbinger seemed to still be in the bliss of having one of his books made into a movie. Paragraph after paragraph describes the process of making a low budget movie. I would guess his audience already knows most of what he wrote and isn't wowed by the excessive detail. "Lessons" learned by the main characters could have made for a nice short story, but Hartinger decided to tell the same story from another character's vantage point. I found myself speed reading through page after page just to get through annoying repetition. An entire level of possible plot and character development could have been unearthed, but Harbinger chose to just mow the lawn and clip the surface.

Maybe it was the cheesy cover and campy title, or maybe it was the two-for-one gimmick. But as much as I enjoyed "Geography Club" and "The Order of Poison Oak," I approached this latest Brent Hartinger opus with reduced expectations. I should have known better. It didn't take long to realize my error as revealed in this fresh, beautifully written, funny, and yet emotionally moving story that once and for all turned Russel Middlebrook into one of my two all-time favorite juvenile lit main characters. (My other is Beverly Cleary's Leigh Botts. Okay, I'm a pushover for main characters who are wholesome, thoughtful, nice kids.) The decision to tell the story twice from two points of view proved not a mere gimmick, but a clever way to tell the story most effectively. Hartinger braids three stories together - Min's and Russel's separately, as well as the third story thread of the movie

filming, which is common to both of the other two. The redundancies are never annoying and sometimes used for comic effect, such as when Gunnar, who tells the same rather long story in each version, comments "it's the second time in two days that I've told it." I debated whether to read "Attack" first or "Bride." I was glad I decided to start with "Attack." The motivation of one main character is masked at the end of "Attack," but revealed in "Bride," so to me there is more impact in reading "Bride" last. Min has never interested me as much as Russel, so "Bride" got off to a slower start for me, but Min won me over. Hartinger has created a cast of totally believable characters, whom I can deeply care about as a reader. The conflicts he has left dangling at the end leave me eagerly await the promised installment written from Kevin's POV. I originally purchased "Geography Club" because, as a teacher with a strong interest in the YA genre, I had not yet read a gay-themed teen novel. I was quickly hooked on the characters and wanted more. However, there came a point this time around when I decided I was NOT reading a gay-themed novel at all. I was simply reading a great story in which some of the characters were gay. Perhaps that is the highest compliment I can pay this author.

Brent Hartinger has done it again. This is another great book in the Geography Club story line. The book stands alone, but you can get more out of it if you read the first two books in the series, Geography Club, and The Order of the Poinson Oak. This book is a very interesting book. It is not just one book, but two books in one. The books tells a story of the same time in space, from the viewpoints of two characters. The first one is from Russel, and the second, his best friend Min. You read the first book, and then flip it over to get the second book. You get to see some of the same events, but from the viewpoint of the other character. There is also some things that are revealed when you read the second book. I found the story to be engrossing, and I couldn't stop reading. The characters are well done, and the wisdom in the book is something to think about. I think that any teen will love this book. There are some twists and turns in the plot that are great, and a few mysteries that are revealed as more that they appear. There is one loose end that doesn't get tied up by the end of the book, and I truly hope that Hartinger writes another book to tie up this loose end. If his is, I eagerly await it. This book is a definite read for anyone.

Let me start with this: I don't know what a "brain zombie" is. I read this book, and I still don't. This is more about Russell and his friends than about the zombie movie they're participating in. Russell's parents find out he's gay and they Freak. Out. And he doesn't know what to do with that. And Min's parents are very accepting of her bisexuality, but she's having trouble with a person she met on the

set of the zombie movie. Don't read this book if you're looking for a zombie book. But if you want a book about high school or coming out or relationships, then this is the book for you. [Spoiler alert: The zombies are all actors.]

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