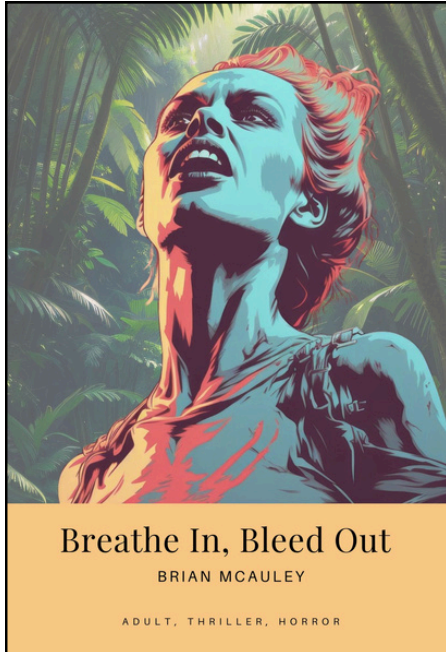


The Bookish* Newsletter!

Issue No. 7 | August 2025

Check out updates on my good reads progress, upcoming titles, lists, and reviews.



✦ 3.75 STARS ✦

[Latest ARC Review] Breathe In, Bleed Out

Brian McAuley [HORROR, FICTION, THRILLER]

Thank you, NetGalley and Poisoned Penn Press, for the advanced copy of this title.

An interesting read that's short and starts, strangely enough, with the death, but not the slasher kind. Hannah's fiancée (Ben) has died in an accident while they were on a planned hike, and she's been haunted by this ever since.

Couple this with a careless mistake at work, and Hannah needs some peace, so she decided to join her friends at a wellness retreat in Joshua Tree.

Hannah's college friends have diverse personalities, ranging from one extreme to the other, which is typical in most slasher stories. You get a glimpse at all the players, and you can instantly determine who's biting it first.

The revealed killer has no placement within the realm of the story, and I wonder if this was rushed. However, our protagonist would gain closure on what happened to her, and Ben and he would haunt her no more.

This story didn't fall into the trope of having the final girl, which I can enjoy. Since these are all adults, all those dots can be checked off the list of the slasher's typical "final-girl" character. (Yes, they've lived a little) There are also some holes in the story because we don't really learn what happens to Hannah's career, and it's left hanging, unresolved.

It's not that I found this story confusing, but the killer is not believable. We know in slasher stories that killings are random and make no sense, but in a novel, you need some context.

The pacing of the story is good, and I read this a little faster than usual because it was interesting and I wanted to learn more. I was hoping for more meat on the bone because even meaningless kills need to make sense.

This title wasn't terrible, but it wasn't exactly my fav as slashers go. It IS graphic, violent, and just the right amount of gore, so you know exactly how each character met their fate. This was an OK read, 3.75 ✦

"Hannah: You're alive! Tess: I really love that to stop being a surprise."

More Updates & Progress!

Upcoming GOODREAD

EXILES

Mason Coile

(September 16, 2025)

HORROR, SCI FI, MYSTERY



A hidden
darkness stirs in
this locked-
room mystery
from the author
of William.

The human crew sent to prepare the first-ever colony on Mars arrives to find their brand new base half-destroyed and the three robots sent to set it up in disarray—the machines have formed alliances, chosen their own names, and picked up some truly disturbing beliefs. Each must be interrogated. Their stories analyzed. But one of them is missing.

✧ *Currently Reading* ✧

📖 Don't Fear The Reaper, Stephen Graham Jones

🎧 My Name Isn't Paul, Drew Huff

COMPLETED TILES FOR AUGUST!

Coffin Moon, Keith Rosson

Witchcraft for Wayward Girls, Grady Hendrix

The Familiar, Leigh Bardugo

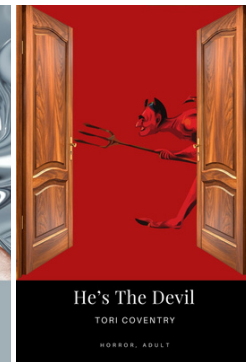
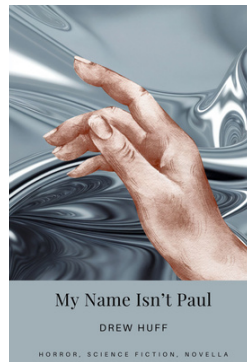
Show Stopper, Lily Anderson

Good Reads Challenge Progress

I am one book shy of completing my reading goal for 2025. ✨ Whoo-hoo!! But it doesn't stop there, I still have a few other title I want to finish before 2026.

97% {27/28}

ARC TITLES IN THE QUEUE



BOOK SOURCES



BookTrib [<https://booktrib.com/>]

Good Reads [<https://www.goodreads.com/>]

Book Riot [<https://bookriot.com/>]

NPR [<https://www.npr.org/books/>]

Literary Hub [<https://lithub.com/>]

Booktrovert [<https://booktrovert.com/>]

Fable [<https://fable.co/>]

September Reading Challenge!

"Read a book that takes place in Fall".

Stay tuned for more
reading updates.

