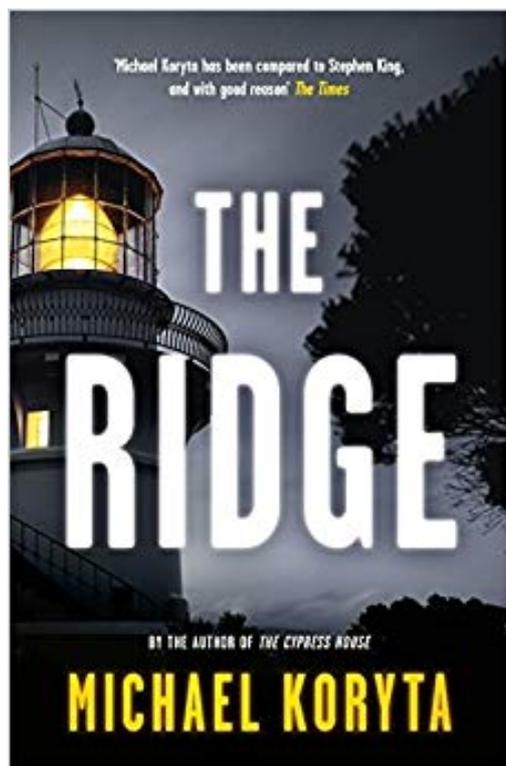


Ridge by Michael Koryta



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On an isolated ridge in the Kentucky woods stands a homemade lighthouse, hundreds of miles from any substantial body of water. Local reporter Roy Darmus has always found it an amusing oddity - until he is selected as the recipient of a suicide note from its builder. Roy enters the bizarre structure to find the walls covered in maps bearing the names of the dead - including his own parents, who were killed in a car accident when he was a boy. Roy soon has a storytelling assignment more daunting than anything he's seen before: convincing people that an age-old legend has in fact come to life. With haunting atmosphere and tension-coiled plot, THE RIDGE is a terrifying journey into the heart of darkness.



Reviews of the Ridge by Michael Koryta

Samugor

This is actually the first book by Michael Koryta that I have read, and it certainly will not be the last. I have already invested in a few of his other books, and can't wait to read them.

The Ridge is a good solid supernatural mystery, but I would have liked a bit more of the supernatural. Since Koryta's earlier work fell more into the mystery/investigation drama, I'm assuming that's definitely where he gets his strong points from.

We begin with a small town in Kentucky where a large cat refuge has just set up camp on Blade Ridge, next door to the town drunk who built a bizarre lighthouse on his property and has been investigating odd deaths/murders that have taken place on the ridge. A series of accidents and events, including one escaped rare black cougar, quickly set up the plot for the characters and the reader.

We are led by Kimble, chief deputy, in love with a female inmate who shot him and who also suffered from an accident at the ridge. When some of the cat refuge workers also fall victim to strange events, and the lighthouse owner takes his life, the investigation turns to a strange blue ghost light and the dark history surrounding a trestle that overlooks the ridge. Throw in an aging reporter whose newspaper has just shut down and you've got quite a cast of interesting characters.

Like I said, the whole supernatural element is neat, but I just wanted a bit more of that after having read authors like King and Koontz. I didn't shiver like I wanted to! It was more of the mystery elements and the "who-dun-it" plotlines that really solidified Koryta as being an author I will definitely read again.

anonymous

The Ridge, written by Michael Koryta, has blown me away. I am an avid reader, and almost balked at the idea of picking up this book that Amazon had recommended to me, after all, I had no idea who the author was. Well, let me tell you, I am glad I chose to spend my \$14 wisely, and I emphasize the word WISELY. Not only is the book extremely well written, with an intricate plot, well developed characters, and an interesting setting, the author has chosen to blend two genres (and my two favorite) detective fiction and horror.

The horror here rivals some of Stephen King's or perhaps Richard Matheson's work. It is tightly constructed, revealing elements as if peeling the layers off of an onion. Slowly, you start to dread, and start to understand the insanity that has infected so many of the novel's characters. In the detective genre, Koryta, who is more familiar with this genre based on his prior outings, constructs an interesting story, providing plenty of twists and turns. The novel reads like the best detective fiction out there today with a twist of something different.

At about 350 pages, the novel is not over-bearing in the least, and in fact had me wanting more. I loved absolutely every word. If you enjoy novels by King, Matheson, Dennis Lehane, or the like, I urge you to check this book out. This author has gotten me on his band wagon, and I hope he has you too. And if not, then perhaps the Ridge will get to you...

WUNDERKIND

The Ridge by Michael Koryta is a very creative and enjoyable novel. It takes place in a rural area of the forested hills of Eastern Kentucky near a small town. Wyatt French, a long-time eccentric resident of the area, built a lighthouse on the ridge that runs through his property. The powerful light shines its beacon over the forested valley and the small river that flows through it. It also illuminates a big cat sanctuary that is adjacent to French's property and provides a home to numerous lions, tigers, mountain lions and other wild cats that have been rescued from unsuitable situations. Seemingly, the lighthouse beam upsets the cats in the sanctuary at night. However in reality, it is something far more sinister than the lighthouse that disturbs the cats at night. Deputy Sheriff Kevin Kimble and his staff become involved when Wyatt French, the lighthouse owner, commits suicide. However, their investigation expands when one of the mountain lions escapes from the sanctuary and a sanctuary staff member is apparently killed by one of the cats. The investigation gets more complicated when it is determined that the death was not caused by the cat. The man was shot. The situation continues to escalate when one of the sheriff's deputies is murdered at the sanctuary. Eventually, the investigation reveals that many deaths and murders have taken place in the area near the sanctuary and lighthouse over many years. This book is an amazingly good thriller. The plot is complex, the characters are interesting, and the action is gory and suspenseful. In addition, the book is an amazingly good, and eerie, ghost story, which includes a creepy setting and a unique and compelling story that keeps the reader speeding through the pages. These ghosts are malevolent and (of course) Chief Deputy Kimble and his companions risk their lives and their immortal souls while pursuing their investigation. Koryta does a nice job of linking the lighthouse, the cat sanctuary, and the ghosts together in this supernatural mystery. I enjoyed The Ridge very much and I look forward to reading more of Koryta's work.

invincible

Koryta is a master story teller. As I read his books, I continue to be surprised with his ability to weave suspense, darkness and a strand of the supernatural. Don't let this latter quality throw you. I've never read an author who assumes the supernatural without overwhelming the reader with it.

Make time to read Koryta; you won't be disappointed. My wife is a voracious reader and I turned her on to Koryta and after reading "The Ridge," she hasn't looked back.

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