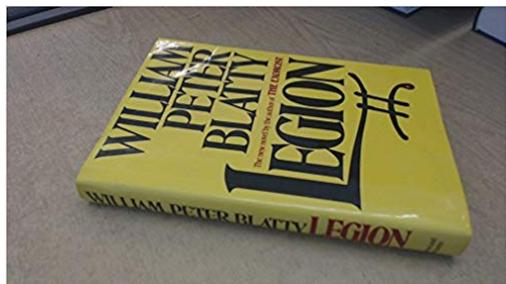


## Legion by William Peter Blatty



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**ISBN:** 0671470450

**ISBN13:** 978-0671470456

**Author:** William Peter Blatty

**Book title:** Legion

**Pages:** 269

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster; First Edition edition  
(August 1, 1983)

**Language:** English

**Category:** Mystery

**Size PDF version:** 1175 kb

**Size ePUB version:** 1940 kb

**Size FB2 version:** 1368 kb

**Other formats:** lrf mobi doc mbr

First printing.



## Reviews of the Legion by William Peter Blatty

Avarm

If you have a short attention span or a lack of patience, the ramblings and endless pontificating by Lt. William Kinderman in the first parts will probably get on your nerves fast, but if you're a fan of William Peter Blatty and *The Exorcist*, you'll stick with it because you know it's going somewhere. I had the paperback once upon a time and never read it. I found a "gently-used" hardcover at a discount price on Amazon (my new hobby) and consumed it in only a few days. Oddly enough, William Peter Blatty passed away while I was in the middle of reading it.

Kinderman was a character who fascinated me in *The Exorcist*, so I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. He's on the trail of a killer who's supposed to be dead. Or is he? I won't rehash the plot, since it's difficult to do without giving spoilers. Let's just say there may be a connection to the Reagan McNeil possession of the first novel and leave it at that.

This was also the basis of *Exorcist III*, a film I had never seen. I watched it immediately after finishing the book. As with *The Exorcist*, the novel is much better, without the interference of Hollywood, as you get with the movie. The character of Dr. Vincent Amfortas is integral to the story but never seen in the movie; Dr. Temple is more watered-down and less of a chauvinistic pig in the film, etc.

Unlike *Exorcist III*, *Legion* is less horror and more philosophical. It made me think about and question things, and I can only attribute that to a fine job by this author. May he rest in peace.

Ffyan

This book, the sequel to "The Exorcist ", is not your typical horror story with blood and guts. It is more of a thinking person's horror story, or psychological horror at its best. Blatty is an excellent story teller and brings back a few characters from "The Exorcist " in this story of a series of gruesome murders that we soon learn is directly related to events surrounding the exorcism of a young girl that took place in the area several years prior. Just like the film version of this story, "The Exorcist III", this book has you questioning the mysteries of life, death, and the spiritual world. Blatty is in rare form here and truly keeps the writer captivated with his incredible ability to enrapture, entertain, and, yes, creep out.

Dead Samurai

The Exorcist Legion is not. That's probably the best way to start. While The Exorcist is linear and focused, Legion is trying to do more than it is capable of and it results in a fairly unfocused, mildly rambling read. Now, don't get me wrong, William Peter Blatty is a phenomenal writer but this falls slightly short for me. Let's take the antagonist for example. In the Exorcist, it's very clear who is stirring up trouble. While its form and exact nature are not explicitly discussed right from the start, it's pretty clear what the McNeils are dealing with. In Legion, its more convoluted which could have made for a very frightening scenario but unfortunately the author chooses to only briefly illuminate its origins, its motivations, its methods about 75% of the way through and when he does - its compelling sure - but its too little too late. Instead Blatty chooses to devote more time than is necessary to the protagonist, and not the protagonist's journey in the story, but just the protagonist pontificating on all manner of unnecessary thoughts. While I understand its a device to demonstrate the thoughtfulness of the story's main character, it comes off as rambling and does nothing to really advance the story. In the end, this was just too much of a slog through the main character's ruminations on life and the metaphysical and the supernatural and not enough horror. And for that, I can say it's ok but that I would not recommend this book. After the Exorcist, this book will do nothing but let you down.

Dondallon

Legion is a sequel of sorts to William Peter Blatty's most famous novel, the Exorcist. It takes place ten years after the events that occur in the Exorcist and begins with a series of gruesome murders apparently perpetrated by a serial killer thought to have been killed ten years earlier. The protagonist is Bill Kinderman, an eccentric, brilliant police detective trying to reconcile the facts of this case while contemplating the paradox of human cruelty, suffering and evil in a world created by a loving God. At times exasperating in his constant, sometimes-inner, often spoken-out-loud monologue, Kinderman discovers that evil and good are opposite sides of the same coin and human suffering is the necessary result of the creator's decision to give birth to an imperfect world. While I had expected a riveting horror/thriller, Legion gave me something entirely different, as the murders became essentially the backdrop to a discussion about the nature of man, God and his angels and demons.

Biaemi

I re-read The Exorcist just before reading it's "sequel" Legion. It really is not a sequel by any means, but rather a book that shares characters with the former mentioned novel. This is a fantastic read with an eloquent writing style and deep philosophical discussions. The story is engrossing and captivating as is the main character. I disagree with what one reviewer intimated here; the philosophical digressions are in no way distractions and are in fact what makes this novel great. Mr. Blatty is a fantastic and unique writer whose wisdom and experience bleed through every page. This novel made me question long standing beliefs, things for which I thought I stood on firm ground. I truly and thoroughly enjoyed this read.

Nicearad

It was good to go back and visit original characters from the Exorcist novel. But this book is long drawn out and not very dramatic. A few surprises await the reader. But it's nothing like the Exorcist at all

I read this because of the author and my liking of the Exorcist. But was left bored and filled by this book. Good luck

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