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# HEX



## **Synopsis**

The English language debut of the bestselling Dutch novel, Hex, from Thomas Olde Heuvelt--a Hugo and World Fantasy award nominated talent to watchWhoever is born here, is doomed to stay 'til death. Whoever settles, never leaves. Welcome to Black Spring, the seemingly picturesque Hudson Valley town haunted by the Black Rock Witch, a seventeenth century woman whose eyes and mouth are sewn shut. Muzzled, she walks the streets and enters homes at will. She stands next to children's bed for nights on end. Everybody knows that her eyes may never be opened or the consequences will be too terrible to bear. The elders of Black Spring have virtually quarantined the town by using high-tech surveillance to prevent their curse from spreading. Frustrated with being kept in lockdown, the town's teenagers decide to break their strict regulations and go viral with the haunting. But, in so doing, they send the town spiraling into dark, medieval practices of the distant past. This chilling novel heralds the arrival of an exciting new voice in mainstream horror and dark fantasy. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

It has been many years since I've read a horror book I truly liked. It felt fantastic to enter the horrifying little funhouse that Thomas Olde Heuvelt has created in "HEX". The novel starts out a little odd, with a "normal" small town that just happens to be inhabited by a witch who may pop up anywhere, from someone's home to the town square, to the forest. Fortunately she is chained and her eyes and mouth have been sewn shut to protect the town's people from any evil eye or spoken spell. The result is she becomes a character within the town, the local oddball that only local people can understand. Except she's still dangerous. The novel unfolds page by page detailing the different dangers that residents of this community face and how they deal with the challenge. I should say the novel unravels these things because as the story gets more creepy and even horrifying, it manages to hold up a mirror to humans as a species and show ourselves the sort of frightening creatures we truly are capable of being whether in modern times or ancient ones. The author seems very interested in human behavior and mob mentality. The supernatural has a tough race against our own weakness and dark inclinations. I loved the ending. I don't know what the original ending was like but I like what he did here. And the last part of the book felt like the first drop on a tall roller coaster: "Here we go!" This was a wonderful tale, with an original touch that kept me turning the pages until the end.

This was the first book I read in a while. I love horror and this was recommended. To me this was a supernatural/psychological horror that was interesting enough to allow me to binge read without stopping, but left me alone with my thoughts of what I just read after closing it at night.. Very creepy in some parts of this book. If you're familiar at all with Connecticut and New York area this setting will hit home for you especially since the book takes place there. The reason why I took one star off my rating is more of personal taste. The characters were well written but their relationships between each other felt a little forced or stereotypical but this might be good for the reader to find a way to relate. The ending does not disappoint and left me thinking. Great job and would recommend it to others who love new generation horror.

Heuvelt is a young writer so don't expect this book to have the polish of a Neil Gaiman book or the hauntingly beautiful prose of a Bracken MacLeod story. What you can expect and what will be delivered is an engaging tale that is based on the writer's experience as a child. He will tell you that story in the Acknowledgements at the end. For all its little problems--the quick point of view changes and a few awkward dialogues--it is a very good book for readers who like a witch who is more than

a sexy miscreant who likes kissing frogs and emasculating males. Katherine is terrifying in her silence and her blindness because we are aware that she sees everything and speaks to us of death and sorrow in whispered words. She is everywhere and nowhere. The larger story here is that the evil we see in others is often a reflection of ourselves; a reflection that we refuse to recognize. The delight is in how quickly the antagonist becomes the protagonist and how beautifully that is performed at the end. This is a scary book and asks uncomfortable questions of the reader. I highly recommend it to those who aren't afraid of stories about powerful women who aren't based on a sexual template. This book is about raw power based in a mother's love and her need to be answered when she demands justice or is it revenge. You decide.

Thomas Olde Heuvelt must be one weird guy, in the best sense of the word. Most of the book was fantastic, covering familiar territory in a new and fascinating way. Some of the images he conjures are so wholly original as to be unforgettable. This includes an early scene in which the witch stands in the corner of your basic normal, average family home -- where the family has placed a towel over her head. They neither ignore nor fear her; rather they have a kind of proprietary affection for her. Much of the beginning is as amusing as it is weird. Most of it is captivating, scary and suspenseful. Things start to go wrong slowly. Once the pace picks up it never lets up, and I couldn't put it down. There were a few scenes that were a little too out there, during which I found myself thinking huh? why? But most of it is satisfyingly scary, a wholly original story that cleverly uses and shatters a familiar framework beloved by horror fans. I'm hoping for many more fresh and terrifying books by this young writer who has created a character, town and story that is unforgettably weird and wonderful.

This was a great book if you're looking for something really twisted and eerie! I like that some aspects don't become completely clear right off the bat, but instead are demonstrated in a strange way and then later explained. (I'd give an example to try to clarify my statement, but even though it's a small detail, I don't want to ruin anything). The scary parts of this book come in thrilling little moments when the people of the town begin to interact with the witch that haunts their space. It doesn't seem like there's any way to stop her, and any past attempts had only resulted in the increase of her power. That aspect makes her a truly horrifying character, because most villains have a clear weakness or propose that can be exploited. Another scary aspect is the actual power that she has. Since it's not mentioned in the synopsis, I won't discuss it, though fortunately you do discover it early on. The book is a little long, so expect a LOT of detail about the characters, their

opinions and their everyday discussions amongst one another as fluff in between the scary bits when the witch pops up. Overall this calmer rambling is interesting, because we get to see how people deal with being trapped in a town they can never leave. If the length is something that won't bother you, then definitely check out this creeptastic story!

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