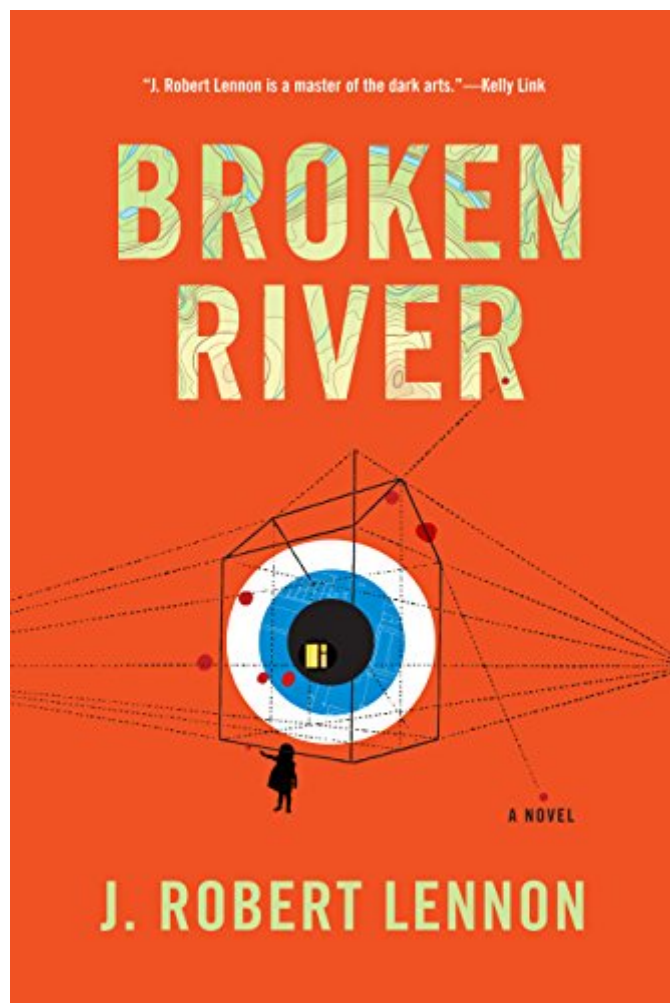


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Broken River: A Novel



Synopsis

The most inventive and entertaining novel to date from “a master of the dark arts” (Kelly Link) A modest house in upstate New York. One in the morning. Three people—a couple and their child—hurry out the door, but it’s too late for them. As the virtuosic and terrifying opening scene of *Broken River* unfolds, a spectral presence seems to be watching with cold and mysterious interest. Soon the house lies abandoned, and years later a new family moves in. Karl, Eleanor, and their daughter, Irina, arrive from New York City in the wake of Karl’s infidelity to start anew. Karl tries to stabilize his flailing art career. Eleanor, a successful commercial novelist, eagerly pivots in a new creative direction. Meanwhile, twelve-year-old Irina becomes obsessed with the brutal murders that occurred in the house years earlier. And, secretly, so does her mother. As the ensemble cast grows to include Louis, a hapless salesman in a carpet warehouse who is haunted by his past, and Sam, a young woman newly reunited with her jailbird brother, the seemingly unrelated crime that opened the story becomes ominously relevant. Hovering over all this activity looms a gradually awakening narrative consciousness that watches these characters lie to themselves and each other, unleashing forces that none of them could have anticipated and that put them in mortal danger. *Broken River* is a cinematic, darkly comic, and sui generis psychological thriller that could only have been written by J. Robert Lennon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A terrific and creepy read, often hilarious and occasionally visceral and violent, like all of Lennon's books. The characters are beautifully and realistically drawn. The Observer is a neat construct - early on, I assumed that this was a stand-in for the reader, but as the novel progressed it seemed as if the Observer acted more like the author, in his ability to direct attention to action, to read the characters' thoughts, and to pursue alternate scenarios.

Broken River takes readers on an extended journey to the underbelly of humanity. It is testimony to Robert Lennon's writing skills that I was able to stick with his story line even as I shuddered at the despicable characters who drive the events of the book. Broken River is not a "who done it

Seldom is one presented with such originality of perspective, characters that emerge gently and completely, and a plot that is woven artfully and smoothly. The writing is fluid and graceful. Very enjoyable read.

The beginning narrative grabs you by the throat. I was immediately part of the plot and desperate for the book's air. The real, non-Observer characters were not as well developed as I would have liked as the book continued, and the plot a tad predictable, but it was definitely entertaining. Good beach reading.

A chilling, tightly written, intricate book with a fascinating, original structure. Great, believable characters -- ALL of them (no spoilers here). A thoroughly rewarding read.

Disappointing. The unknown observer is merely an inconsistently used narrative device; it adds nothing to the story and is never explained as part of the narrative. The story is a basic crime story; nothing intriguing or unusual. The author's attempts at plot twists are uninspired. Overall, not worth your time with so many other better books waiting.

when i started this book, i thought i was really going to like the idea of the way it was written, from the perspective of the Observer, but as got into it, i didn't think it worked. And there was not a single character in the book that you liked, not one.

Such a fun read!

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