

The Hawkline Monster by Richard Brautigan

2 stars

A fantasy about killers, chemicals and monsters.

Greer and Cameron are professional killers. We meet them in 1902. They have gone to Hawaii to kill a man, but can't because he is with his son and "I'm not made that way". Cameron also has a fascination with numbers and is forever counting - just about everything.

Back to mainland USA, Portland, Oregon, to be exact. They're in a warehouse and Magic Child, a fifteen-year-old Indian girl, stumbles upon them. She persuades them to go with her to kill a monster lurking beneath a house in ice caves.

This was my second Brautigan book, the first being "So The Wind Won't Blow It All Away", which I enjoyed immensely. Not so sure about this one. It is another, relatively, short book at under 200 pages, and there are almost as many chapters.

His sentences veer from the staccato few word statements to the rambling, almost paragraph-long type. He appears to have a childlike way of telling a story. This worked on "So The Wind..." as that was autobiographical. It doesn't work for me on this one. We are led to believe that a 15-year-old Indian girl from Oregon has been to Harvard, the Sorbonne (in Paris!) and the John Hopkins University. Oh, she's also a whore.

Maybe I'm missing the point and looking for reality when I should be wallowing in fantasy. I've read other reviews of this book and they are, indeed, glowing, so I guess it's me. OK, I can live with that.

One last thing. There is a liberal serving of profanities throughout the book. Those of a delicate disposition should look away now.

I'm desperately trying to give this book 3 stars but I can't. It just doesn't make any sense.

Mr Bumblebee

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.