

A NOSTALGIC AND MAGICAL JOURNEY

I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Adair takes the reader on a fun trip that will tap into wonderful memories of kinship and adventure for anyone coming of age in the 70s and 80s, without the modern distractions of technology. From there, the unfolding story is fun and exciting, with twists and turns that come to life through the colorful storytelling of the author.

-Dan R.

REFRESHING PERSPECTIVE FOR THE ANSWERS WE SEEK

I was not expecting for it to veer in that direction at all.

I love that it did and presented a perspective that was enlightening and brave. I look forward to reading more of this comforting tale!

-Dia C.

AMAZING STORY

What a beautiful approach to friendship and fantasy. An absolute must read. A friend sent me this book and simply put, we are not alone in this universe. I love the story and the spiritual essence it left me with.

-Anna S.

A LONG STORY IN A SHORT BOOK

After being jolted back to life, I'd say this just might be an accurate perception of the secret of life and beyond. I also love the wild dreams and the common sense approach to financial security. I wish someone would have taught me that earlier in life.

-Tony A.

WANTED MORE

Once you are in the forest, the book hooks you in. I didn't want it to end. I'd say more, but don't want to give the story away.

-Sylvia K.

Preface:

It is the late 1970s in Prince George's County, Maryland. Goatman sightings in the forests have been rumored throughout town. Some say it's a hoax, others a myth.

It turns out that the Goatman is very real and comes to share thousands of years' worth of intergalactic wisdom, offering new insights about our planet, our spirits, and the heavens above.

On a personal level, Skylar forms a deep bond with the Goatman and the story transforms into a journey of emotional awakening and restoration.

The story blossoms into dreams of a heartwarming love story and visions of financial security for generations to come.

DARRYL
ADAIR

SHETTLEUM
THE SECRET OF LIFE

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...as the story begins to unfold...



The back doors swung open and the three were on their way. Once they were off the main walking trail and kicking through some leaves, Skylar looked over toward Connor.

Seemingly out of the blue she says, “So Robert tells me you brought some pot.”

Connor’s face glazed over as he turned to Robert with a blank stare.

“She’s not a nark dude, she wants to get high,” exclaimed Robert.

‘Wow, learn something new every day,’ Connor thought to himself.

A few minutes later, kicking through the leaves became a very entertaining pastime.

As they walked deeper into the forest, daylight faded and moonlight began to emerge. The moon grew clear and bright,

but the transition was slow enough that the kids had hardly noticed daylight had faded.

“Well, it’s getting late, we had better stop here for the night,” Connor pointed out, “it’s at least a few more hours to the falls.”

No sooner were the tents pitched, that a campfire was in the making.



The next morning everyone was up early, as Connor made it a point to break some sticks right by their tents for stoking the morning fire. After a hearty breakfast, they set off again. As the navigator, Robert led the way, and they went wherever his compass led them.

Nearing the falls, they set up camp on a small plateau that offered a sweeping view of the waterfalls below. The view was amazing and the sound of water in the distance made it the perfect spot.

The next few days just flew by in a blur.

The most anyone could really remember was either hiking around the falls, trying to get behind it, sitting around the campfire, or laughing about something or the other.

Like when Connor and Robert tried to cross a small strait between two natural breakwaters, jumping from rock to rock, but failed and fell in. There was always a lot of laughing, pretty much about anything and everything.



In comparison, things were pretty slow on the return trip. Camp was set up just before dusk, and after an early dinner they all just decided to turn in for the night.

The next morning turned out to be pretty easy going. Somewhere around 9:30 - 10:00 the kids started rustling about one by one. They skipped breakfast, and at high noon they stopped for some lunch. Skylar asked if anyone had anything left to smoke.

They shook their heads from side to side and Robert said, "I was out yesterday." But just then Connor remembered something.

"Oh, wait a minute," he said, as he began rifling through his backpack. He pulled out a 35mm film container and looked inside.

"I just remembered throwing this in there at the last minute," he said as he turned toward Skylar with an oversized grin.

"BREAK TIME!" Robert bellowed.

"Whoa, Connor," Skylar said, "This isn't the same stuff we've been smoking."

With another oversized grin Connor replied, "*No it is not.*"

They finished off the special joint and stood there for a few minutes without much thought of moving forward.

One or two hits each would have been plenty, so perhaps finishing the entire thing wasn't the best idea.

Where the Hell is Orbitroallon?

The forest began resembling the forest in ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs’ as the group started making their merry way back home through cartoon land. The vivid colors seemed so bright and bold.

“Hey guys, look at this bush,” Skylar pointed out, “doesn’t it look like a giant gumdrop?”

Robert said, “It is a gumdrop. Wow, this is so good. You should try it,” as he took a bite and turned around with a mouth full of leaves.

Connor and Skylar broke into a hysterical laugh, as though it was the funniest thing they had ever seen.

They could hardly stop laughing long enough to take a breath. Robert joined in laughing and the leaves began dropping from his mouth. Robert had no takers on the bush eating. The group just continued on their way chanting, “Hi ho, Hi ho, it’s back to home we go.” Whistling the tune and walking like swaggering dwarfs.

Suddenly... they all stopped cold and one of them said, “Holy friggin’... [Gulp] do you see what I see?”

They all looked at each other and concluded that the scene was not derived from the pot.

This is real. The kids were standing no more than a hundred feet from the legendary Goatman of Prince George’s County.

It looked like an oversized goat’s head on top of a giant human body, just like in the mythical stories but even bigger.

Well, not really a human body but definitely not a goat.

The beast was standing on two legs, covered in hair and absolutely enormous. The horns stuck almost straight out to the sides and just went on forever.

They all remained perfectly still, completely motionless. The kids were too scared to move a muscle.

They just stood there staring, stone-cold staring—no blinking.

“RUN!!” screamed Robert, and the three bolted from a standstill to nearly taking flight like Santa’s reindeer on Christmas Eve.

Their backpacks dropped off almost simultaneously, and everyone had already taken a step or two before the packs hit the ground.

Without missing a step, Skylar took a quick glance back to see that they were making some real distance from the beast.

Another quick glance a couple of seconds later and she could see that the Goatman was still standing in place.

That did nothing to slow their pace. Their induced high was wearing off quickly, but they were all rather amusing themselves with the speed and accuracy of leaping over rocks and using branches and exposed roots as springs to catapult themselves even faster still. Skylar turned her head to take another quick glance.

The Goatman was real, and coming up fast. The glance became a stare, and a moment later Skylar's foot was hooked under a tree root. She went down fast, face first right into a ditch. A broken ankle, stuck in a ditch, and the Goatman standing over.

Completely scared out of her wits she actually wet herself just a little bit (Skylar asked about leaving that part out, but I wanted to include everything just how it happened).

Robert and Connor looked back to see Skylar was nowhere in sight. What *was* in sight was the massive goat-beast, about sixty or seventy feet away and just standing there.

“That thing ate my sister,” Robert cried. Connor stood there paralyzed and unable to move. He never told Robert, but he had a major crush on Skylar from the moment he first saw her. He always figured their difference in age was a barrier that could never be overcome.

When you’re only six years old, four years difference is almost an entire lifetime.

He began recalling the first time that he saw her as she was leaving the town grocer while he and his mother were entering. He had only known Robert for a short time, and had no idea they were related.

As the door swung open, her strawberry blonde hair blew to the side.

Connor had never seen such an intense color before and was overwhelmed to the point that he actually stopped in awe and literally could not take another step.

She walked by smooth and gracefully, already learning how to move her body like a young lady.

He quickly realized she was a bit taller than him, beautiful, and way out of his league. As she walked by, they made eye contact and... suddenly the Goatman looked up at the boys. Certain they would be the next meal, the boys took off in a flash.

“If we can just make it back to the lodge,” Robert wailed, “if we can just make it back.”

The Goatman looked back down at Skylar laying there in the ditch.

Skylar staring up just lied still with a feeling of helplessness and vulnerability.

Her first thought was to get that knife out of the sheath as fast as possible. She also realized it was no match for the beast, and it would probably do nothing more than just make it mad.

“Are you the devil? Are you going to kill me?” Skylar shuttered, “are you going to eat me? They say you eat dogs and puppies.”