

THE BLOOD TEXTS



# UNCLE ZEDDIE



COLM  
FIELD

HE'S JUST A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY . . . ISN'T HE?

## Reading Group Notes



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- 1) Which of the characters did you most identify with and why?
- 2) If you were George, would you have run away if Lacey said to?
- 3) What did you find most unsettling about the house? Would you have found it scarier if the building was old?
- 4) What could have been done differently to convince George of Uncle Zeedie's guilt?
- 5) If the Kuzlak act purely on instinct, does that make them less responsible for their terrible deeds?
- 6) Do you think George and Lacey's parents come off as inherently unsympathetic characters, or just people in a bad situation?
- 7) Did any of the characters fundamentally change in this story? If so, how?
- 8) The Blood Texts 'How To Spot A Serial Killer' article strongly influences Lacey's suspicions. Why do you think it is particularly effective?
- 9) If the Kazluk are the last of their kind, is it wrong for Rose and George to fight them?
- 10) Do you think that Rose was running to end her own existence, or out of pure animal rage?

# Writing Tips

If you've ever considered writing stories of your own, I should tell you to DEFINITELY do it. It's been the best habit I ever picked up. Here's some tips to help you get started.

- 1) Write something every day, for just you to see. Doesn't matter how little, doesn't matter what the subject, doesn't matter what it is.
- 2) Use Chat GPT... then edit it until your own voice is clear. (TBH it ends up being easier just to write the flipping thing on your own to begin with, but it's a start if you're struggling).
- 3) Write on your screen, in whatever place and at whatever time is convenient to you. **YOU DO NOT NEED A WRITING DESK.**
- 4) If you're writing horror, you need just three things:
  - a) A monster - human or otherwise.
  - b) Scary bits
  - c) Characters you care about

5) Your first draft isn't as good as you think it is. Put it aside for a week, then look again. Then redraft. Then redraft again. Then redraft again. Then...

6) When you write a scene, enter it late and leave it early. If your character is about to get shot, nobody needs to know if they brushed their teeth - just tell us why it's happening and NOTHING MORE. (Alright, maybe you can add a tiny bit more, later)

7) Whatever you're writing, you can write how you want... but there are some guidelines that are helpful to follow. If your chapters are wildly different in lengths, there might be something off about your structure (unless the change is intentional). If you're writing a script or screenplay, you generally don't want to write more than four lines. Find out what the rules are, even if you're going to break them.

## Recommended Reading

The list of books I would recommend changes every time I read something else that throws an arm around my neck and drags me kicking and screaming into an alley. Here's the grim stories keeping me off creepypasta lately...

(Just as a warning, the books I've noted as being for adults GENUINELY ARE FOR ADULTS). If you're knocking it out the park with YA fiction and are unsure if you should read these, get a parent or guardian to check them first and see if they're okay.

- *Deadstream* by Mar Romasco-Moore (YA)
- *Bite Risk* by S.J. Wills (9+)
- *Whisper of Death* by Christopher Pike (Teen / YA)
- *Lockwood & Co* by Jonathan Stroud (9+ Series)
- *The Boys In the Valley* by Philip Fracassi (Adult)
- *Keep Your Friends Close* by Cynthia Murphy (YA)
- *What Moves The Dead* by T. Kingfisher (Adult)
- *Doctor Sleep* (sequel to *The Shining*) by Stephen King (Adult)