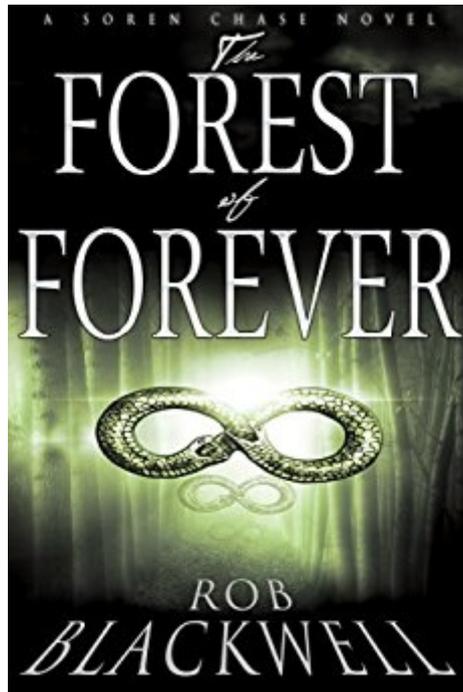


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The Forest Of Forever (The Soren Chase Series, Book One)



Synopsis

Soren Chase's life was shattered eight years ago after an encounter with a supernatural being left three friends dead and him branded as a murderer. Since then, he's become a paranormal investigator, facing off against a host of deadly creatures. But his investigation into the haunted Reapoke woods may be his most dangerous case yet. Something evil is lurking in the forest. Some say it's the ghost of a preacher who vanished two centuries ago; others claim the woods are the site of sinister experiments by a shadowy organization. Hired to find a missing girl, Soren is determined to learn the truth. But what he discovers is far darker than he imagines--and it may force him to confront his own tragic past. From the author of the bestselling *Sanheim Chronicles*, *The Forest of Forever* is the start of a new series that mixes urban fantasy, mystery, and suspense into a novel that you can't put down. Because nothing is what it seems in *The Forest of Forever*, and once you enter, you may never leave . . .

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Customer Reviews

The Forest of Forever is a captivating new story with new characters set in the world the author created in his first trilogy, which started with *A Soul to Steal*. This makes it a great book for readers

new to the author, as well as familiar territory for those who are already fans of his work. The world depicted in *The Forest of Forever* is one where supernatural beings live among us and may even look like us, but they do not think like us. They have their own motives and desires, and many care little for the lives and feelings of human beings. Most people live their lives unaware of the supernatural, but others – including the protagonist Soren Chase – were thrust into it by brutal and tragic events. Blackwell's writing improves with every book he writes, and that pattern continues here with a fresh new mystery. As much as I enjoyed his earlier work, I'd recommend *The Forest of Forever* as a starting point for new readers. It benefits from Blackwell's growing experience as a fiction writer as well as the enthusiasm he brings to a fresh story in this genre.

I happened to see "The Forest of Forever" on sale yesterday. It sounded a little too much "horror" for my usual taste but in honor of Halloween I thought, "What the heck? It's only a couple of bucks." BEST BARGAIN EVER! I am completely surprised by how much I liked this. Yes, it definitely has a horror element that was pretty intense for me but that was actually secondary to all of the things I loved. It's as though the author keyed into all of the things I love in other genres- pulp noir, mysteries, fantasy, thrillers- and put them all together in one complex, entertaining read. The main character, Soren Chase, definitely has the "knight in tarnished armor" feel of Raymond Chandler's Phillip Marlow. And there is a very original take on the usual fantasy monsters and other fantasy tropes. But best of all, the mystery really is a mystery which I couldn't begin to figure out and the twists and turns just kept on coming- right up to the end. I won't say another word about the plot- the constant surprise was part of the enjoyment. I will say that in a lot of ways this reminds me of the feeling I got reading "The Dresden Files" years ago. I have a pretty strict self-imposed rule- I don't give five stars unless I expect to re-read a book. And I've never given five stars to a fantasy book (if I had reviewed "The Rook" that would have been one). But it's my rule so I can break it if I want to :) While I won't read this again (intensity and as I said- surprise is half the fun), I am dying to read the sequel. (Write faster, Rob Blackwell) For now I'll have to content myself with the short story, "The Last Blog" that I also picked up yesterday (free at the time). But I need to wait for my heart to quit racing |

I have set myself in front of my computer a few times now to write a review of Rob Blackwell's newest offering, *THE FOREST of FOREVER*, and I'm at a complete loss for how to describe it. So far I have rejected a quantum chess game, and Harry Potter for adults where we get to see an auror at work, amongst others. I simply don't have the words to do it justice, and I'm left with a

few expletives about my mind being blown. Blackwell has an engaging writing style that winds you into the story just like a trail into the woods. At first, I jauntily walked along with the quick stride of his writing. But as I moved further in “ as the story darkened “ I found myself slowing down my pace, treading with tentative steps forward. It was important that I take in all of the details of Blackwell’s carefully crafted plotting. Just like the dappled, eeriness as one moves farther from the car, cell towers, and help into the natural world, Blackwell’s words made me hover and question before I placed the next foot down and turned the page. By the end of the book, Blackwell had my mind racing full forward along the trail to the edge of the woods where I thought I saw light and safety when Boom! That’s when my mind was blown. As a fan of supernatural stories, history; Virginia (where I’ve set down roots) especially Rt 5, Williamsburg area which is full of legends and mysteries; and the first nations people who live here, I felt personally connected to this story and the importance of the outcome from the first page to the last. An engrossing, intelligent, must-tell-all-my friends-about-this-one novel, I’m looking forward to reading the rest of Blackwell’s works.

Another Rob Blackwell book. If you’re familiar with his work, than that’s really all you need to know. I’ve been eagerly awaiting this one since reading Closed at Dark. I have to say, I was NOT disappointed. I agree with a previous reviewer: The book started out really strong. The writing is really great and it’s action packed. The prologue was beyond creepy and I loved the first couple of chapters BUT it kind of loses momentum halfway through that first part. It lost my interest a little bit. I kept reading because, even though it slows down quite a bit, the writing was fantastic and I am VERY glad that I did because otherwise I would’ve missed out. Once all the pieces are in place, the mystery really takes off. I mean really, who doesn’t love a haunted forest? It was creepy and suspenseful and kept me guessing all the way through. If you liked the Sanheim Chronicles than definitely pick this up. It’s set in the same world and you’ll definitely spot a couple of references to those books BUT they are completely separate stories. So if you haven’t read the first trilogy, you can still pick this up and start here. I loved this book. If you haven’t read Closed at Dark, than you should definitely pick that up first. It’s not necessary in order to understand the story but I do think it adds a lot to the character of Soren Chase. Plus, it’s an awesome read so definitely check that out. I can’t wait for the next one!

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