Disappearance at Devil's Rock

Author Paul Tremblay

Paul Tremblay was born June 30, 1971, in Aurora, Colorado, but he was raised in Massachusetts. He is an American author and editor of horror, dark fantasy, and science fiction. He has won multiple Bram Stoker Awards and is a juror for the Shirley Jackson Awards. He has a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Vermont.

Disappearance at Devil's Rock is his 5th book and won the 2017 British Fantasy Award for the best horror novel, as well as being nominated for several other awards.

Learn more about Paul Tremblay

Video of podcast where Paul Tremblay talks about *Disappearance at Devil's Rock*.

Tremblay said both the movie and book, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, influenced him in writing of this book. (We have both.)

Other books by Paul Tremblay (* means Burbank Library owns the book)

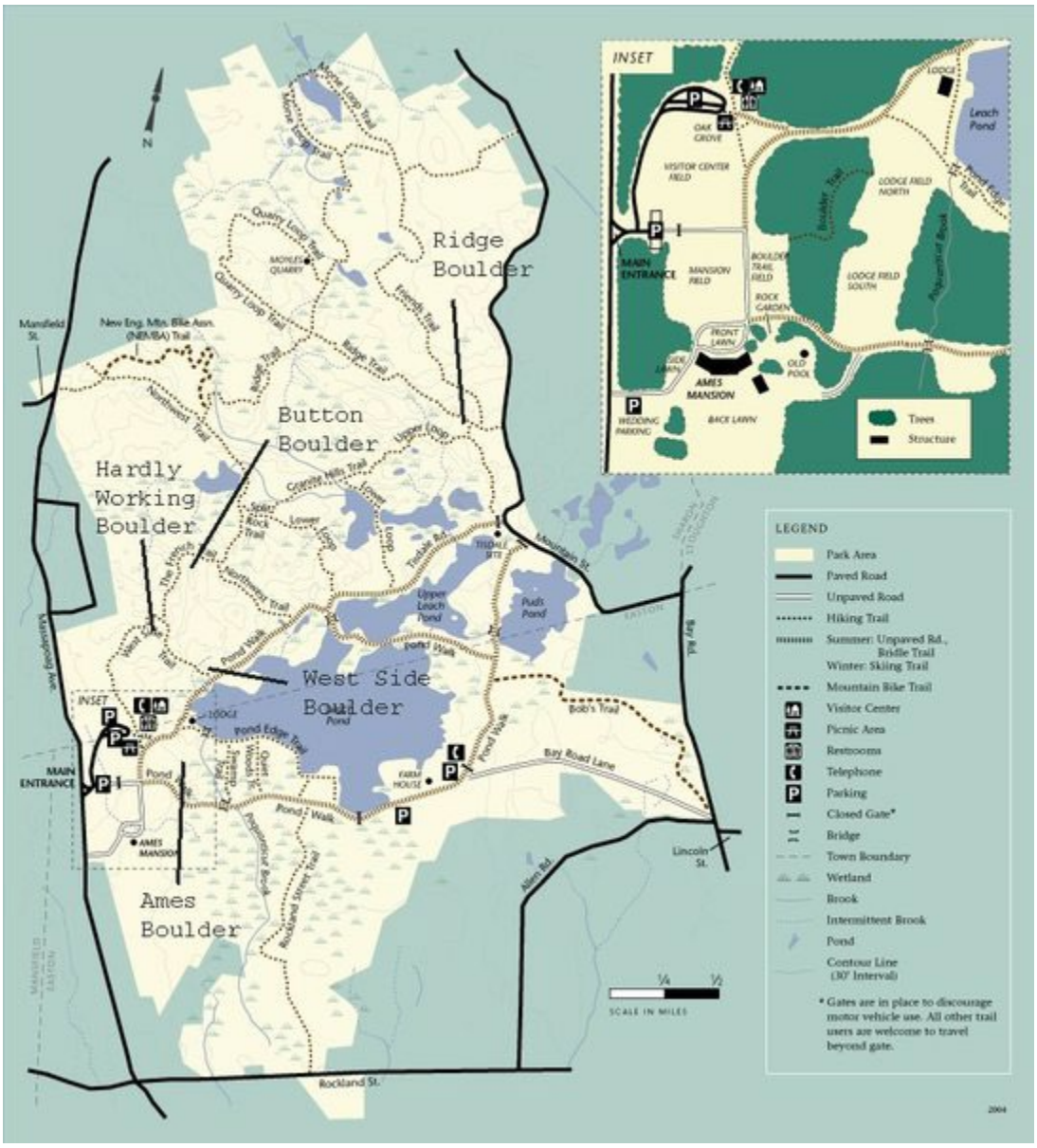
Novels

The Little Sleep (2009)
No Sleep Till Wonderland (2010)
Swallowing a Donkey's Eye (2012)
A Head Full of Ghosts (2015)*
Disappearance at Devil's Rock (2016)*
The Cabin at the End of the World (2018)*
Survivor Song (2020)*
The Pallbearers Club (2022)
Horror Movie (2024) *
Another (2025)* (children's book)

Collections

Compositions for the Young and Old (2004)
City Pier: Above and Below (2007)
In the Mean Time (2010)
Growing Things and Other Stories (2019)*
The Beast You Are: Stories (2023)*

Map of Borderland Park:



Learn more about the location

Video of the author walking in the woods that are featured in the book.

Other books staff recommend:

The Changeling by Victor LaValle. One parent thinks what's in the baby bassinette is a changeling and must be destroyed in order to get the real baby back and the other parent is sure what's there is the real baby. Who is right?

Hex by Thomas Olde Heuvelt, A son doesn't believe what he is warned about a figure whose eyes and mouth are sewn-shut in a small Hudson Valley town.

The Staircase in the Woods by Chuck Wendig. While on a camping trip, a friend climbs up a mysterious staircase alone despite asking friends to join him; he does not come back down. Then the staircase disappears. Twenty years later it reappears, and the friends return to find the lost boy—and what lies beyond the staircase.

Play Nice by Rachel Harrison. A woman must confront the demons of her past when she attempts to fix up her childhood home that her crazy mom claimed was haunted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *Disappearance at Devil's Rock:*

1. How did Tommy's father's death influence the family dynamic and contribute to Tommy's disappearance?
2. Was Tommy simply a victim of a tragic accident, or did he disappear intentionally? Was he taken?
3. Do you believe the mysterious figures and ghostly occurrences were supernatural, or the result of a psychological breakdown?
4. What role did Tommy's obsession with zombies and a local folktale play in the events?
5. Do you think the ending left you with satisfying answers, or did it leave you with more questions than it answered?
6. How does the setting of Borderland and its caves, quarries, and ponds contribute to the atmosphere of the story?
7. Did you find the book to be a more compelling mystery or a horror story? Why?
8. How did the book make you feel? Was it a page-turner, or did it have a slower, more atmospheric build?
9. Did you find the book thought-provoking? What ideas did it leave you thinking about after you finished reading?
10. Do you think you would find a type of closer from understanding why Arnold is the way he is and would you say he criminally knew what he was doing?