

THE MOUSE

A novel of unrelenting terror



From the Author of **FIRE IN THE MIND**
ARJAY LEWIS

THE MUSE

OVERVIEW

Sheriff Neil Trajan of South Paris, Maine, is haunted by the vision of his dead wife as she hung from his basement rafters, tortured and mutilated. He knows who did it— his horror-writing author neighbor, Jack Court. He just needs to prove it without getting fired for harassment first.

When Jack is hit by a pickup truck and rushed to the hospital barely alive, it's Sheriff Trajan's chance to get a search warrant for Jack's house and find the evidence he needs for a conviction, to keep Jack Court from killing again.

A secret sub-basement reveals all that's needed to bring in the FBI to help track down Jack Court, serial killer . . . including a gold bracelet Neil had once given his wife.

A manhunt throughout the Northeast brings the authorities closer and closer to their man as he continues killing, pointing toward a new prolific author of horror, Harry Godwine . . . but is Jack Court even a man anymore?

NUMBER ONE ON AMAZON IN HORROR/OCCULT DURING FREE EBOOK PROMOTION

The screenshot shows the Amazon website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon logo, a search bar, and various links like 'Departments', 'Browsing History', and 'Hello, R.J. Account &'. Below this, there's a section for 'Amazon Best Sellers' with a sub-section for 'Best Sellers in Occult Horror'. The page displays a list of top-selling ebooks, all of which are priced at \$0.00. The first item is 'The Muse' by Arjay Lewis, which is marked as 'kindleunlimited'. The second item is 'The Haunting of Rachel Harroway' by J.S. Donovan. The third item is 'H. P. Lovecraft: The Complete Collection' by H. P. Lovecraft. The fourth item is 'History' by a partially visible author. The fifth item is a book with a blue cover and a white figure. The sixth item is another 'kindleunlimited' book. On the left side, there's a sidebar with navigation options like 'Any Department', 'Kindle Store', 'Kindle eBooks', and 'Literature & Fiction'. A promotional banner at the bottom left says 'Save early. Save more.'

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United States
Westerns

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Top 100 Paid Top 100 Free

- 1.** **kindleunlimited**

The Muse: A novel of...
> Arjay Lewis
★★★★★ 1
Kindle Edition
\$0.00
- 2.**

The Haunting of Rachel...
> J.S. Donovan
★★★★★ 239
Kindle Edition
\$0.00
- 3.**

H. P. Lovecraft...
> H. P. Lovecraft
★★★★★ 260
Kindle Edition
\$0.00
- 4.**

HISTORY
- 5.**
- 6.** **kindleunlimited**

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The Muse, by Arjay Lewis, is a demented thriller about following your passions to the depths of depravity, as innocence and corruptness slowly waltz beyond the cracks within reality.

Sheriff Neil Trajan had recently lost his wife, Sandy, to a monstrous serial killer, whom he believes to be the famous horror author, Jack Court. Driven by vengeance, he will stop at nothing until he finally puts Court down. Harry Godwine is a professor of English and History and failing writer, whose son is incredibly ill. One day, Harry suddenly finds the inspiration to write a terrifying horror novel, one that mirrors Court's writing style with an almost eerie perfection. And finally, there is the author himself, who possesses a dark creature that allows him to write and indulge in his violent passions. All three men are in a race against time as they continue to track a dark creature, one that could drag out demons from a person's mind, and turn any artist into a deranged monster enslaved to their own, malevolent muse.

I loved these characters. I could feel Neil's intensity when he tried to find his wife's killer, how obsessive he felt when he realized that he was right. He was driven, and although he gets reckless at times, he knows full well that he has to rely on others. His devotion to his wife is similar to that of Harry's to his family. Harry wanted to be a writer for a long time, but even so, he'd rather give up the dream than allow them to suffer. It was so refreshing to see people who have such a strong sense of morality. Throughout the many books I've read, many protagonists simply fall victim to their demise, simply because they refuse to give up their pride, or greed, or any other anchor that happily drags them to their death. My admiration for them contrasted sharply to Jack Court, who fell in love with the dark, macabre world of crimson. Jack lusted for it, to the point where he would kill others to feed his obsession. It was like I was watching a parasite feed off the living, like a demonic entity who enjoyed tormenting its victims.

This leads me to the muse itself. More so than Jack, the creature truly was a thing of the dark, drawing from the blackest depths of humanity. It was a monster that was truly beyond our understanding, a twisted nightmare that can fashion a demented fairytale from even the most innocence of stories. It's only through Tim that the muse is restrained. It's ironic in that sense, that one child could take control of such a horrific darkness, one not even adults could conquer. It was an aspect of the book that was extremely well done.

One of the overarching concepts in the story was being haunted by the past. Neil was haunted by his wife's death, and would do anything to bring the killer to justice. Whenever the sheriff went into Jack's basement, it was as if I could feel his victims watching him, watching me. I was honestly scared to turn the page, simply because I didn't know if they would surprise me with their damnable fate. I can't help but think about the victims' photos as well, how their ghosts felt when they realized they might as well have been forgotten, another name in a list of missing people. The fact that Lewis keeps these victims close by, all the while showing me just what Harry could become, was stunning.

Because of this, I would give this book a rating of a **5 out of 5 stars**. I loved the characters, and how they added to the gothic feel of this story. *The Muse* was extraordinarily well done, alongside the victims. As such, I would recommend this to fans of *Frozen Statues*, *Perdition Games* by L.E. Fraser, and *The Skin Room* by Morgan Fleetwood.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Arjay Lewis (also known by his performing name R.J. Lewis) is an award-winning author, entertainer and magician. He has experienced every level of show business from street-performing to Broadway.

Arjay's published stories have appeared in *H.P. LOVECRAFT MAGAZINE OF HORROR, WEIRD TALES* and *SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY MAGAZINE*. His writing has also appeared in the Anthology *THE ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN*. His Novel *HOMES & WATKINS*, was a finalist in the 2016 Murder & Mayhem Novel Competition for Chanticleer Book Reviews.

He has collaborated on several films including: *DOWN IN FLAMES, THE TRUE STORY OF TONY 'VOLCANO' VALENCI* which has won seven Film Festival awards. His screenplay for *DUMMY* (co-written with Pamela Wess) is the winning screenplay for the 2017 Garden State Film Festival. It also won 4th place in the 2016 Writer's Digest Screenplay Competition and was a Finalist in the 2016 Filmfest Screenplay Competition.

Arjay is married to his wife, Debra, and has one daughter Rayna. He is currently performing on the Ruby Princess for Princess Cruises as the 'Magic Maker' in the hit show, *MAGIC TO DO*.

THE MUSE

SEGMENT IDEAS

Where do stories come from?

No less than Stephen King has put forth the concept that stories are “found things” that exist all ready and the writer uncovers it one piece at a time. Is there an actual muse? Arjay Lewis, author of the horror novel, *THE MUSE* discusses the inspirations behind his own tales and how different techniques work for different writers.

From the streets to the seas

Entertainer and author, Arjay Lewis speaks of his career as a street-performer in Manhattan in the 1970's that lead to him being on Broadway in the 1980's and to his performing today on the Ruby Princess as the Magic Maker in Stephen Schwartz's new musical *MAGIC TO DO*. He also explains how his life on the high seas has given him extra time to devote to his writing.

The call of the odd

From *THE DARK TOWER* by Stephen King to the *ODD THOMAS* books by Dean Koontz, novels featuring the paranormal are very popular. Author Arjay Lewis has written over 10 novels featuring the paranormal and discusses why the strange is still so popular among the reading public.

AEA

ARJAY LEWIS

SAG /AFTRA

Contact: 908-387-0114
Cellular: 201-532-4785
E-mail: rj@arjaylewis.com
www.arjaylewis.com

Height: 6'4"	Weight: 220
Hair: Gray	Eyes: Blue
Voice: Low E to High A	

www.imdb.com/name/nm5118227

THEATER

BROADWAY

BARNUM Barker/H. Morrissey St James Theater

PRODUCTION

BUSKER ALLEY Fire-Eater Tour

OFF-BROADWAY

MONDAY NIGHT MAGIC Rotating Performer Bleecker Thtre

PRINCESS CRUISES

MAGIC TO DO Magic Maker Ruby Princess

OFF-OFF BROADWAY

HOBOKEN CHICKEN EMERGENCY Professor Jan Hus Playhouse
DARLING NICKY...DEAREST ALEX Rasputin Amsterdam Thtre

REGIONAL & STOCK

STAGE STRUCK Simon Society Hill; Phila
MURDER UNDER THE BIG TOP Marco Claridge Casino
SOAP SUDS OF DEATH Stud Silver Trump's Castle
THE FANTASTICKS El Gallo Masque/Mime

DINNER THEATER

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Charles Dickens Braddock's Tavern
DEATH BY ENCHANTMENT Onnis McDuff Cousins
GREEN BEER OF DEATH Sheldon Pending Cousins
EVENING WITH THE STEINS Frank N. Stein Sweetwater Casino

FILM

BEAR WITH US Arthur Bear With Us Film LLC
DOWN IN FLAMES Tony Independent
AFFLICTION David Independent
BEYOND BELIEF Todd Independent

TELEVISION

THE APPRENTICE- Season 3 Featured Spot NBC-TV
LAW & ORDER Juggler NBC-TV
MERLIN "Promotion" Wizard Hallmark
LATE NIGHT W/ DAVID LETTERMAN Guest NBC-TV
KENNEDY CENTER HONOR AWARDS Singer CBS-TV
NOVA (Spaces Episode) Featured Spot PBS

COMMERCIALS

On Camera Principal for National Network Spots (On Request)

INDUSTRIALS

Live & On-Camera for Various Companies including:
Mobil Oil, Acme Markets, Guardian Insurance, Roche Pharmaceuticals

AWARDS

BEST ACTOR in a SHORT FILM 2013 BEYOND BELIEF LA Comedy Film Fest
BEST ACTOR in a SHORT COMEDY BEYOND BELIEF Cinefest Film Festival

SKILLS

MAGICIAN- Award Winning Sleight-of-Hand **JUGGLER**- Balls, Rings, Clubs, Knives
FIRE EATER- Torches and Blow-Outs **ACCENTS:** Many, Including Authentic British

