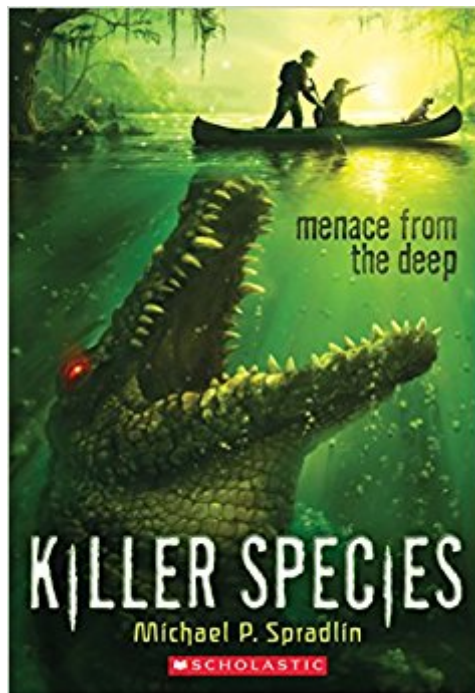


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# Killer Species #1: Menace From The Deep



## Synopsis

A brand-new action-packed series from Michael P. Spradlin. Each book covers a genetically engineered super predator wreaking havoc on the environment. Emmet Doyle is not in the best mood when he arrives in Florida City. His father is a wildlife biologist, and has been summoned to the Everglades, dragging Emmet along with him. Though still in mourning from losing his mom a year ago, Emmet's trying hard to keep a good attitude. Upon their arrival, however, things quickly get weird. Dr. Rosalita Geaux, the Park Superintendent, wastes no time in revealing the reason she called Emmet's father to Florida. A strange creature was recently found dead in the park, and upon seeing it, it becomes clear to everyone that this is not a native species. This is man-made. Deep in the swamp, someone has been experimenting to create a new breed of apex predator. And they're about to set them loose.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Series: Killer Species (Book 1)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; 6.1.2013 edition (June 25, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545506719

ISBN-13: 978-0545506717

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 68 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #273,450 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Alligators & Crocodiles #968 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror #1525 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7-After an atmospheric and ominous prologue in which a pair of genetically engineered "Pterogators" devour a python in the Florida Everglades, readers are introduced to disgruntled Emmet Doyle, a boy forced to move from Montana to the Sunshine State in the middle of seventh

grade. His dad is an expert on raptors and his skills are needed by the National Parks Service to help them identify a possible new species of predator. The park ranger in charge of the investigation has a son, Calvin, who is Emmet's age and the two hit it off. Calvin's knowledge of the swampy environment and boats is impressive, and he helps Emmet transition into the new school. The only damper on the main character's adjustment to his new home is the instant dislike his science teacher seems to have for him. None of that is important once Emmet learns that his father has been kidnapped. The ransom? Only the closure of the entire Everglades to the public. There's something here for every reader-ecology, science, and gadgets galore, a realistic portrayal of boy friendship, and unrelenting suspense. This title is bound to please and fans will be hankering for the sequel.-Brenda Kahn, Tenakill Middle School, Closter, NJ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journal. LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

The Killer Species series starts off promisingly with a story of ecoterrorism in the Everglades. Sixth-grader Emmet Doyle is bitterly unhappy when his father, a National Park Service scientist, is reposted from Montana to Florida, right on the heels of Emmet's mother's death. When they first meet the Everglades Park superintendent and her son, Calvin, Emmet finds a lot more to fuel his anger: Calvin's widowed mother and his dad quickly grow fond of each other; Calvin, exceedingly bright and accomplished but prone to shrugging off any other boy's concerns, makes for a frustrating friend; Emmet's new science teacher is a bully; and mutant owl-alligator hybrids preying on pythons threaten to put the park in danger. Most of the narrative follows Emmet's viewpoint, with injections of the mutant breeder's diabolical world and glimpses into Dr. Doyle's pursuit of the villain. Both Emmet and Calvin talk and act with realistic preteen cleverness and humor. Well plotted to keep the suspense at full throttle, Spradlin's latest also has enough science to engage young sci-fi fans. Grades 4-7. --Francisca Goldsmith

Purchased this book for my daughter to read and I ended up reading the book. I would have liked some black and white pictures to visual some of the story line. So areas were a bit confusing and I had to read over and over the words to understand. The story is about Emmet and his dad Dr. Doyle and dog Apollo coming to Florida from Montana. They meet with Dr. Geaux and her son Calvin. They hear about some thing happening in the Everglades, where the animals and gators are leaving. You meet various characters in the book. The book goes slow in parts and towards the end the book flows faster. The characters of the 2 boys, were enjoyable. I was a bit disappointed with the lack of killings by the Pterogators. But the book was enjoyable. Something about the story lacks.

but the book leaves open for the characters to continue in other books. I also feel it's Dr. Newton. But, it can also be Calvin's dad since they never found his body.

As soon as I saw the cover, I knew this book was for me. A young adult adventure about giant animal hybrids, mad scientists, and a pair of intrepid YA heroes who have to keep the monsters in check. What more can you ask for?

This book was scary. It kept my attention. I couldn't put it down. It is scary that anyone would make something like that. It is terrifying that anyone could make something like that.

I picked this book being on a monster kick recently and the cover reminded me some of Paul Zindel's books, of which got me into the horror genre many years ago. So to reminisce a bit and read a new book picked this one up. It's not as dark as some others I have read but the characters are quickly likeable and the authors descriptions of everything are very quick and vivid. The creatures are some of my favourites I have seen in awhile, and the main antagonist is intriguing and mysterious. Will defiantly be keeping my eye on this series and rising the writer my money for it.

Read it to my son who found it quite entertaining. There were some parts that begged credulity but generally was an interesting idea for a young person.

If I was a 13 year old boy, I'd give this book 100 stars, but since I'm a 50 year old woman, it only gets four. Cool plot premise about genetically altered alligators going on a rampage inside Everglades National Park. The main characters are two teenage boys (see note above about 100 stars) both of whom have conveniently single parents of the opposite sex. And both parents are conveniently most busily involved with figuring out what is causing these attacks. This (conveniently!) leaves the boys with lots of free time to investigate things on their own. This story is a good, light read for adults who like "monster" stories. But if you got a teenage boy around, pass it to him, he'll really love it. I'll definitely read the next book in this series.

I have a 9-year old who refuses to read but he's recently gotten into the "I Survived" books and won't put them down. His teacher suggested the Killer Species series as another series that's a little more challenging but "I Survived" fans tend to enjoy. At this point, the 9-year old is still a little intimidated by the Killer Species books and he got several I Survived books for Christmas so he's

had plenty to keep him busy. His 11- and 13- year old brothers each read this book in 1-2 days and asked if we had the next one in the series. They weren't doing cartwheels or anything, but they both read it straight through and then asked for more so I'll call that a success. I'll update my review when the non-reader in the bunch gets to it because, for me, that's the true test!

I enjoyed this book very much. Could not put it down. The characters were interesting. Waiting for the next one.

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