

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: March 15, 2024

★ **No One Is Safe!**

By Philip Fracassi

Apr. 2024. 264p. Lethe, paper, \$23 (9781590216040)

Fracassi (*Boys in the Valley*, 2023) reminds readers that he is not only a rising star as a horror novelist, but also as a master of the short story with his latest collection of 14 stories that center on fascinating characters and range in tone from unsettling to absolutely terrifying. The first story, “The Wish,” a tale of a birthday wish with horrific consequences, brilliantly sets the uneasy tone for the entire collection. Fracassi goes on to utilize his remarkable imagination and stunning range to invoke fear in speculative, thought-provoking, stories that explore topics such as AI, alien life, Hollywood, a best-selling book, a haunted house as the narrator of its own killing spree, and so much more. However, it is how each story works in tandem with the others—crafting a unique and captivating world, hooking readers immediately, holding their undivided attention, and resolving in a satisfying way that also begs them to turn the page and read just one more—that is most remarkable here. A must-read from cover-to-cover for all horror fans, especially those who enjoy the immersive, original story telling found in collections such as *Breakable Things*, by Cassandra Khaw (2022) or *Spin A Black Yarn*, by Josh Malerman (2023).

— *Becky Spratford*