

October 6, 2006

Yes Master!

“Who is this irresistible creature who has an insatiable love for the dead?.....” Oh that would be me! (For some of my readers you are now humming a tune, for the rest you’re saying to yourselves “I don’t get it.”) Unbeknownst to my dear editor, I have an infatuation with the macabre and classic horror characters. Vampires are at the top of my list. How many folks do you know own his or her own custom-made fang caps created by a sought out “Vampire” dentist??? Not many, I assure you. Ok, maybe too much information there. Anyway, you can imagine then that I got chills when I was asked to read *Vampire 1989* by homeboy Brett Contreras. Hey! You just put vampires in my Massapequa! Nothing that cool has taken place since the creation of the peanut butter cup! (Occasionally, I will hold your hand through my jokes.)

M.H.S. alumni, Brett Contreras has written us a delightful tale of horror, gore and mass murder. Hooray! And it all takes place right here in our backyards. How sweet! If you graduated M.H.S. in or around 1989 you just might know some of these characters too. Grab your yearbooks kids. He even snuck in a parochial school boy -- who oddly happens to appear in said '89 yearbook. (Ahh, the confusion sets in.) So, the book jumps right into our lovely Massapequa with Mike Aufiero. Blessed with the good fortune of leaving his family vacation early, he returns home with his sister to enjoy the rest of their summer, free of parental units! Those situations are always too good to be true. And so begins the twisted tale of brutal killings, bloodletting, coven-plotting and monster mayhem. Liking what you hear so far?

It’s an all out war between a group of Massapequa kids and some scary cultists that lurk in the preserve. Sounds like typical late 80’s Massapequa hijinks right? The preppy/jocks against the dirt bag/punks. LMAO! Well, not really my friends. Our Vampire has a mission to build a local coven. You know, fulfilling the whole domination theory every good villain strives for. So now these Massapequa college-bound, and high school brats accidentally get in his way. So it’s kill or be killed. The kids are not too quick on the draw to figure out their posse is diminishing due to slayings, and monstrous transitions. Remember mom always telling you that she hated you hanging out in the woods? Well, in this book, she was right. It

brought this bunch of pals nothing but a heap o' trouble. But I loved every tortuous minute. Dummies!

Contreras knows his vampire slaying etiquette. Dabbling in the mystique of the werewolf, allows our imagination to play with stupid cult wannabes, zombies, flying skulls and dead mindless pock faced spider boys? All this, without letting you forget where you are: Long Island, baby (the home of great bagels and pizza)! He throws out landmarks, and geography that only a Massapequan (and maybe a savvy Islander) would really be familiar with.

All the while, defining the era in music as it carefully crept it's way into appropriate scenes.

This story will take you on a nightmare merry-go-round. Ooooooh, and it's fun! This book, although released last year, finds us now just in time for a good Halloween read to get you in the mood. Enjoy it kids!