A Book Review of *The Devouring* by Simon Holt
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When dark creeps in and eats the light,
Bury your fears on Sorry Night,
For in the winter's blackest hours,
Comes the feasting of the Vours,
No one can see it, the life they stole,
Your body's here but not your soul... (Holt, 2008).

Simon Holt's *The Devouring* isn't like any other teen horror series. Sure, there are evil demonic creatures called the Vours, and yes, there is a rag-tag group of teenagers- Reggie (Regina) and her best-friend, horror movie, serial killer buff Aaron who must work tirelessly in order to save Reggie's kid brother Henry's soul from the Vours, BUT there is so much more.

Reggie and Henry have a special bond since their mother left them a year ago. With an eight-year age difference 15-year-old Reggie is more than just a sister to Henry, she is his caretaker, friend, sister, and storyteller. In order to help her absent father, Reggie has taken on adult responsibilities such as taking on a part time job at a local bookstore. This is where their troubles began. It is at work where Reggie finds a mysterious journal that tells the story of the Vours which are demonic creatures that steal people's souls on Sorry night or better known as the winter solstice.

The Devouring is about so much more than demonic creatures terrorizing Reggie and the gang, it is about facing one's fears, friendship, comradery, and what it means to be on the brink of losing the most important things in life. Although Holt depicts fears such as spiders and being under water, he also explores deeper themes such as grief, loss, identity, friendship, sacrifice, bravery, and what it means to face one's fears. Not only does Reggie learn to face her fears in order to save Henry's soul, but she discovers who she is along the way and what it means to be a big sister and friend, but also what it means to be Reggie. *The Devouring* is fast paced, creepy, and terrifying for all the right reasons. I read it curled up during a snowstorm before Sorry night, and it had me afraid that the Vours could be real creatures that are actually lurking in the night ready to steal my soul. It kept me on edge, desperate to find out more but it also made me introspective. How far would you go to save the ones that you love?

Reference

Holt, S. (2008). *The devouring*. Little, Brown and Company.