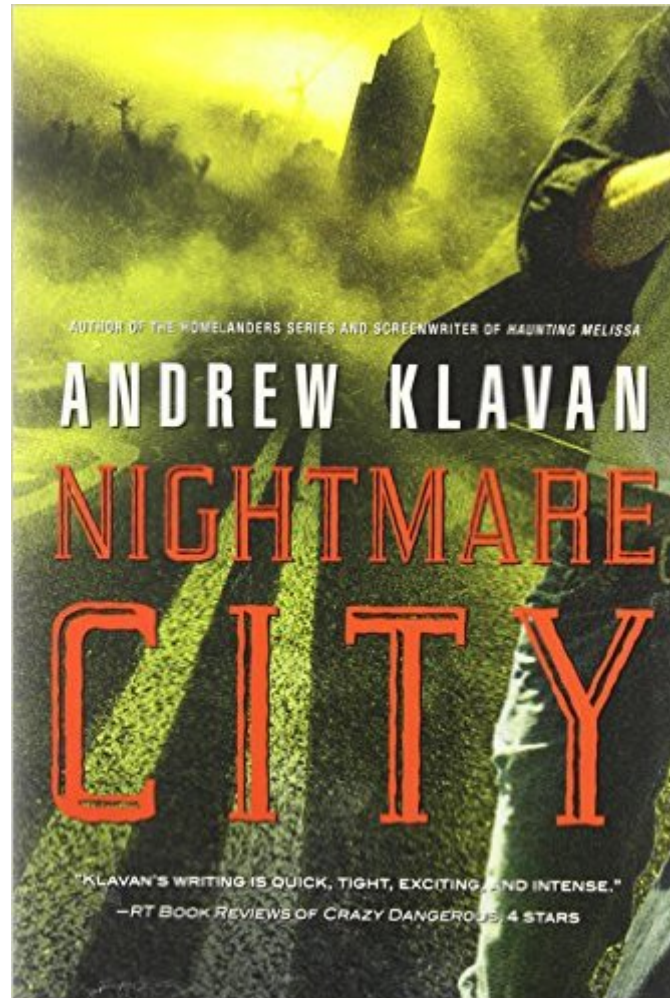


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# Nightmare City



## Synopsis

What should have been an ordinary morning is about to spiral into a day of unrelenting terror. As a reporter for his high school newspaper, Tom is always on the lookout for an offbeat story. But from the moment he woke up this morning, his own life has been more bizarre than any headline could ever tell. The streets of his town are suddenly empty and silent. A strange fog has drifted in from the sea and hangs over everything. And something is moving in that fog. Something evil. Something hungry. Closing in on Tom. Tom's terrified girlfriend Marie says the answers lie at the Santa Maria Monastery, a haunted ruin standing amidst a forest blackened by wildfire. But can he trust her? A voice that seems to be coming from beyond the grave is warning him that nothing is what it seems. Only one thing is certain: with his world collapsing around him, Tom has only a few hours to recover the life he knew before he, too, is lost forever in this nightmare city.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (59 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Meet Tom Harding: High school senior. Reporter for the school paper. School pariah. After writing a story to out the school's beloved football team and their use of performance-enhancing drugs, Tom hasn't a friend in sight. But Tom is a reporter. Tom has never met a mystery he didn't want to solve. He is a seeker of truth. Truth above all else, even at personal cost. The biggest mystery of Tom's life comes early on a Saturday morning. Upon waking up, Tom immediately begins to experience the bizarre. For one thing, his mother should be home bustling about the kitchen making breakfast... but she isn't. She isn't anywhere to be found. Then Tom sees the mist outside his home. A white, rolling

fog accompanied by an eerie silence. And there is an absence of people. No one aroundâ”not his mother, his neighbors, no one... Tom is alone. Except, he isn't. Deep inside the white mist, Tom sees figures. Not-quite-human figures hulking and shuffling... coming for him. And the craziest part of it all? Upon going back into his home, Tom hears a voice; a voice he should not hear. It's Burt, his brother. Down in the basement, Burt is rambling on and on about a "mission" and a "game" ... "play the bigger game, remember the mission..." The problem is that Tom's brother has been dead for six months. - - Okay, listen up people: This book is freaking awesome!! I went into this read not knowing it was Christian Fiction. This is something that tends to hinder me from reading a book. My husband and I are constantly talking about this subject. Christian Fiction vs. what I read... which isn't Christian Fiction. But, he is a lover of all things Ted Dekker, Frank Peretti, Robert Liparulo, etc.

I've been following Klavan closely since I met him at a writer's conference just after he had signed his contract with Thomas Nelson to do a bunch of YA novels. He's a great, encouraging fellow and a brilliant writer. I thought the first ones, the Homelanders tetralogy, were the best. I like the plotting in Nightmare City, and it's definitely worth the read. He does a really imaginative job of plausibly explaining why a young man might wake up in a deserted house and town, with nasty zombie-monster things coming in out of a thick fog to get him. It's all remarkably clever, and probably proves that he's at least a low-level genius of some kind. But here is a growing problem I'm having with his work. Except for the tech stuff and the conservative worldview stuff, there is a sense that Klavan doesn't really know the world that he inhabits. That's easy to understand, since he's 60 years old. His teenage males in all of these novels, about 7 of them now, are all the same: brave, honorable, honest, selfless, all with to die for girlfriends who have catapulted their boyfriends into a sort of permanent state of bliss as the boyfriends contemplate their amazing luck. My teenage years were the worst of my life, perhaps partly because I never met anyone the least bit like Klavan's heroes. Plus, there's a mechanical feel creeping into his YA work. Maybe he's writing too fast. Or maybe his heart isn't fully engaged in YA fiction but he sees the commercial potential in the genre. I admire his goals, to teach our very confused teens some eternal values, and God knows these lessons are desperately needed, but I keep wishing he'd be a bit more subtle about it. I have to confess that I find his earlier, pre-obvious Christian and pre-budding conservative icon novels much better.

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