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*Fade to Black*

A Novel by Josh Pryor  
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Josh Pryor

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# *Fade to Black*

A NOVEL BY

JOSH PRYOR

At the nexus of a top-secret government conspiracy to develop a doomsday-style bio-weapon, cutting edge science and ancient primal bloodlust collide when a team of ill-fated explorers unlocks the eons-old secrets of humankind's savage evolutionary past lurking miles beneath the killing cold of Antarctica.

The beautiful and troubled Dr. Claire Matthews, a disgraced evolutionary biologist, attempts to resurrect her career in the deadly wastes of earth's most inhospitable climate. To earn her keep, Claire must determine the role played by *S. iroquoisii*, an ancient microscopic organism critical in the evolution of primitive man, in the catastrophic accident that decimated the previous expedition, before her crew falls prey to a similar fate.

Employing the latest in forensic investigation, Claire and a joint team of military and civilian personnel undertake the gruesome task of piecing together the events that led to the massive explosion that destroyed the previous research station. As a nightmare of unimaginable proportions begins to coalesce, Claire is drawn ever deeper into a maze of deception and savage violence. Pitted against a primordial foe they can scarcely fathom, Claire and her colleagues must battle the cold, each other, and the growing madness within themselves to survive the infinite polar night.

## Praise for *Fade to Black*

"[*Fade to Black*] has got plenty of action, gore in all the right places without seeming too overblown, and it's so different from any of the other so-called 'zombie books' out there."

—Jason Aydelotte, *The Modern-Day Hitchhiker*

"If you like science, CSI, stories that take place in Antarctica, or lots-of-people-crammed-into-a-small-space-slowly-going-mad, then you'll enjoy *Fade to Black*."

—*Escape Pod*

"Smartly written and meticulously planned, Pryor's book is one I simply couldn't put down... Josh Pryor has masterfully weaved an amazing story with just the right amounts of science fiction, mystery and action."

—*The Deepening*

## Biographical Note

**Josh Pryor** earned his PhD in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Southern California. His deep fascination with the natural world and cutting edge science is evident in much of his work, including the nationally recognized novel *Monkey in the Middle*. In his spare time, Josh extensively researches alternative theories in cryptozoology, history, evolution and technology.