

Cain

By Anna Rose Woodliff

Logline

The rift between two families deepens as they compete to hunt down a monster lurking in the river they call home.

Synopsis

Two families living on the Cumberland River in Tennessee become sworn enemies when Madeline Fischel accuses Dakrin Wright of sexually assaulting her at a high school party. The Wrights believe this is a calculated attack against their good name, and suspect the Fischels are after their money. The Fischels believe the Wrights have gained their wealth through taking advantage of people and resources, and now their own daughter is a victim of the Wright's violence. Hatred brews.

Meanwhile, in the murky waters of the Cumberland River, a predatory alligator named Cain has the community in a state of panic. Local law enforcement confirms the gator is responsible for 5 deaths on the river. Governor Lee puts a bounty of \$300,000 on the monster. This is the kind of money that could pull the Fischel family out of poverty. But the Wright family secretly needs it just as much, after the patriarch finds himself indebted to dangerous business associates.

So the two enemy families compete with each other to hunt and kill Cain. As they face each other on the river, each family sinks deeper into their respective echo chambers, attracting people and stories that confirm their biases against one another. Their distrust grows, and so does Cain's appetite.

While the two families hunt the monster, Dakrin's best friend and cousin, Jacob, sparks a romance with Madeline. He's charming and exciting. Despite their family's tensions, she begins to fall for him. They keep their romance hidden. Madeline is traumatized by her attack and letting someone in isn't easy, but it feels good to have fun again. However in a shocking twist, we find out that Jacob was the one that raped Madeline on that tragic night, framing Dakrin after he drugged her.

The stories that they have built their hatred on shatter, and the Wrights find themselves on shaky ground. The figurative becomes literal as their boat capsizes when Cain attacks. Now, stranded on a tiny island in the river with no weapons, they are truly at the mercy of the beast. The Fischels arrive at the last moment and face their final test. Will they risk their own lives to save the family they have hated for so long?

Characters

WRIGHT FAMILY vs. FISCHEL FAMILY

Kiarra Wright, mom. Korean American, early 40's. Kiarra is smart, kind, and reserved. She keeps to herself, but is an upstanding and highly educated citizen, respected by everyone. She understands her husband in a way no one else does. Kiarra was born into money, but knows the value of hard work. She works as head of finance and accounting at her husband's company.

Matthew Wright, dad. Caucasian, late 40's. Matthew grew up poor in a rough neighborhood in the suburbs of Boston. He joined the military and started investing in real estate in his twenties. He left the military at 30 and started his own business, which is now worth millions.

Dakrin Wright, only child. Half Korean, 16 years old. His good looks and athletic prowess bring automatic popularity, but Dakrin isn't entirely comfortable with his status. He's an introvert, not open with his feelings.

Jacob Wright. Caucasian, 17 years old. He is the son of Matthew's brother. Charismatic, extroverted, fun, playful, and sociopathic.

Jen Fischel is country born and country raised. Momma of three, the eldest of which is Madeline. She is proud and fiery, someone who you want on your side. She takes good care of her people, especially her family.

Tommy Fischel is a family man and a big teddy bear. He is normally not comfortable with conflict, but when it comes to his family, he will stand up and fight. He works at his dad's business selling parts. It pays enough to provide for his family, and that's what matters to him. Madeline is his pride and joy.

Comparisons:

Fear (1996)- the Madeline and Jacob dynamic, Anaconda, Lake Placid, Ozark

Tone: Exciting. The story has dark subject matter, but super fun elements. The result is a thrill ride.

"Night fishing is a dangerous sport..."