

The Burning Shore by Michael Herrmann

Log Line

When terminally ill artist Cain Jansen returns home to settle his affairs, he discovers his controversial past hasn't been forgotten. Or forgiven. Attacked by locals, trolled online and haunted by personal demons, Cain fights to reclaim his life story and finds final peace and beauty in the least likely of legacies.

Tag Line

What survives us?

Synopsis

Cain Jansen, once the most provocative and successful of Nineties-era Young British Artists, returns to St Eanswythe, a windswept village on the Kent coast, after a twenty-year Spanish exile, accompanied by his loyal housekeeper, **Carmen**. Deeply scarred by a sex scandal and now terminally ill, Cain just wants to reconnect with his elderly father, enter a new rose he's cultivated into competition at the county show and quietly settle his affairs.

But St Eanswythe isn't about to forget. Or forgive.

Locals troll Cain online. His father, **Dan**, barely recognises him. Worse still, Cain discovers that his younger brother **Jake** - a charismatic but desperate art dealer who's drowning in debt - has been secretly selling his work while touting a major career retrospective Cain never authorised.

As the brothers' long-simmering resentments erupt, Cain's homecoming implodes. His house is vandalised. Paintings disappear from his studio. An arson attack destroys almost all of his beloved roses. Carmen uncovers a painful, secret chapter of Cain's past, while recurring visions of **Roger**, the teenager whose suicide stained Cain's reputation, force him to finally face some very uncomfortable home truths.

Once again cast as the village pariah, Cain must make a stark choice: flee or reclaim his own narrative once and for all.

Conflict reaches a climax when Jake hijacks the unveiling of Cain's final work, a monumental triptych, by livestreaming it

to a global audience hungry for scandal. Refusing to see his personal truth commodified, however, Cain sets the triptych and entire archive ablaze - publicly rejecting an art market and wider public that has spent decades defining him.

His defiant final statement delivered, Cain walks alone into the storm-lashed English Channel. With Carmen as sole witness, through a shimmering heat haze, Cain seems to step beyond the ordinary into something altogether more magical and unknowable.

The Burning Shore is a gothic family tragedy set against the stark beauty of the Kent coast. At its heart lies one not-so-simple question: ***What survives us?***

Images. Objects. Memories. Love.

And occasionally, if we are lucky, something beautiful that continues flourishing long after we are gone.
