REVIEW

Author: **GRAHAM MASTERTON**

Title: **BLIND PANIC**

Publication: **BOOKLIST**

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Blind Panic, Masterton, Graham (Author), Dec 2009. 288 p. Severn, hardcover, $28.95. (9780727868206).

Blindness, the 1998 novel by Portugal's Jose Saramago, tells the story of a city whose people inexplicably suffer an epidemic of blindness. Masterton's latest horror novel tells somewhat the same story but on a grander scale: here, it is the entire U.S. that is struck down by widespread and instantaneous blindness. Planes fall from the sky; cars collide; and in the space of less than a day, the country is plunged into panic. Saramago used blindness as a way to explore spiritual and philosophical themes, but Masterton uses it to unleash, once again, the ancient Algonquin medicine man, Misquamacus, on the world. Harry Erskine, the self-styled (and admittedly fake) psychic who appeared in the author's very first horror novel, The Manitou (1975), and several follow-ups, takes center stage here, once again going toe-to-toe with this mystical, hate-filled villain, who possesses awesome supernatural powers. A cleverly constructed, completely effective horror thriller from a talented genre veteran.