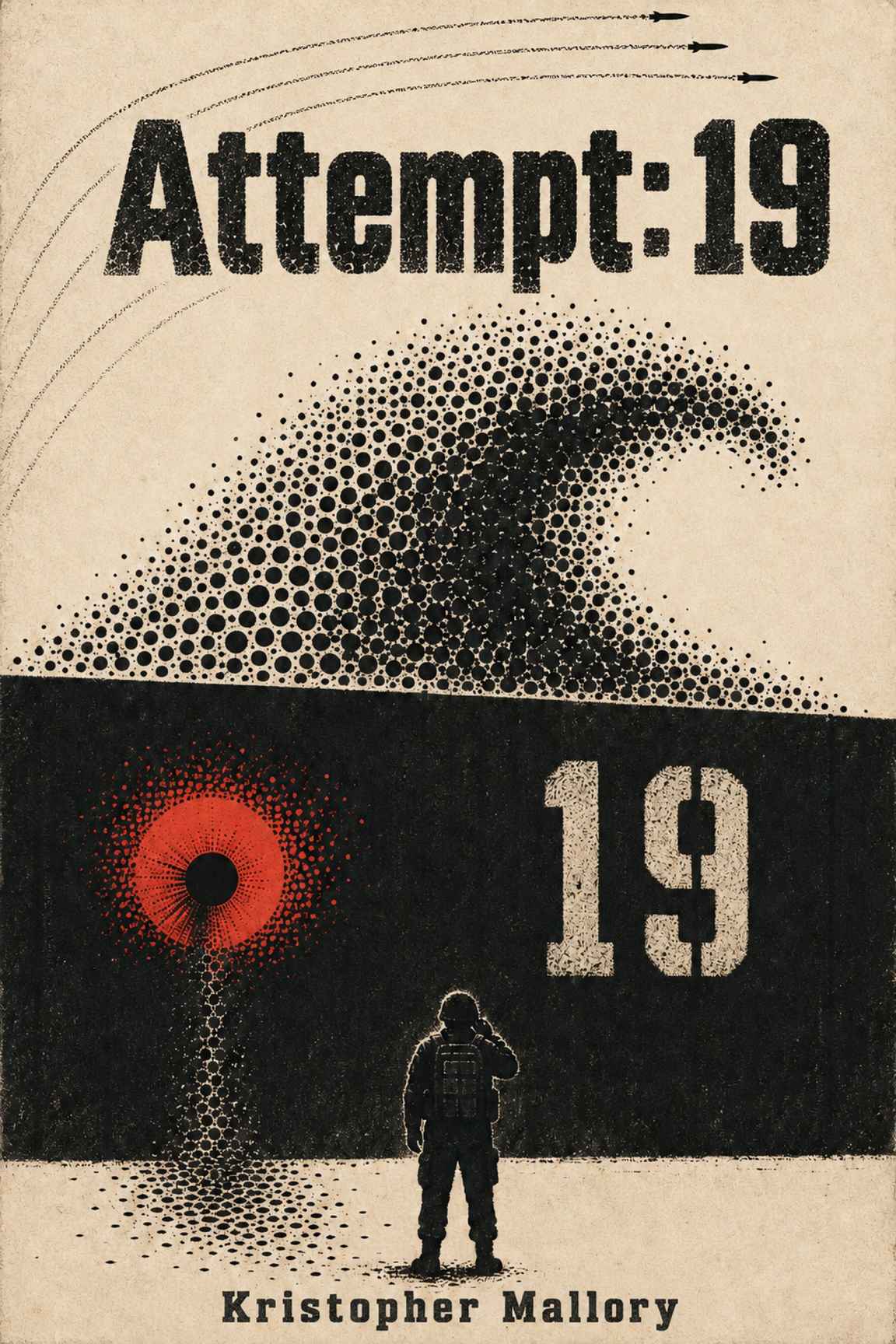
Attempt: 19



Kristopher Mallory

Attempt: 19

by

Kristopher Mallory

Attempt: 19

A Science Fiction Story

Copyright



www.StealthFiction.com

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Edited with Grammarly and Claude

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Disclaimer:

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are products of the author's imagination, or the author has used them fictitiously.

Other Releases by Kristopher Mallory

Gillian

Long-Term Investment

Wrong Way Charlie

Prepared Fresh

Road Trip Down A Dark Memory Lane

She's Not Human

Universal Transmission

The Little Old Lady

The Price To See The Dead

Attempted

A Gift Of Bone

Payphone

What People Are Saying about Kris's Stories

The Absinthe Smuggler:

"I will never again agree to bring anything home from a vacation." – *Totally Made Up Guy 1*

Payphone:

"I let it ring. Then I read Payphone. Now I don't answer at all." – *Totally Made Up Guy 2*

Mega Millions:

"I picked 1 through 6 for twenty years. After this book I switched to scratch-offs." – *Totally Made Up Guy 3*

Universal Transmission:

"95.5 percent seemed low to me, honestly." – *Totally Made Up Guy 4*

Special Thanks

For the ones who try again.

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“Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.”

~ Samuel Beckett, Worstward Ho

They are still coming.

Amidst screams of dying friends and warriors, I jumped away. I could do nothing. The resistance lost, and I alone had a duty to move on again.

Throughout earlier battles, we had a chance. Together, we held them off, almost won. But the enemy is hard to stop. They are persistent, devious, evil creatures. They find our weakness. They destroyed us.

The Last Manhattan Initiative provided the Hyde, a wall the invading beasts break against like a wave. It never lasts long. Each era they bore a hole. We learn. We die. We try again.

The Initiative is how I am here, why I am here.

I help, pass information, and flee when I must. Simple orders for a simple soldier. If history is heeded, you may live…for a while, at least. If not, there is no hope. You will be erased.

Attempt: 19

The last several were utter failures. I cannot fight on like this much longer. Technology is not advancing fast enough. Communications are archaic. The population is fractured. Many would rather kill children than sit in the same room. You are all in the grip of madness and do not even care.

Resources are limited, depleting further with each jump. I fear world leaders will not take notice – real leaders, not state or corporate talking heads. I mean people who have yet to become the leaders they are destined to be.

Before one such leader perished, you transmitted critical details, places I would find you. A message preceding my arrival had been received: One Alpha Six Sigma. Confirmed. Cauls. Vacate. Confirmed. Gone. Fourteen. Change.

Acknowledge?

Right this moment, your world appears quiet, but it is not. Launch codes for all nuclear and neutron warheads have been transmitted to every world power along with the solution to the Miles-Ridge Equation.

Governments are in complete disarray. No one is safe. The doomsday clock is ticking its last millisecond, and you may not survive the next hour.

Why have I done this?

Simple math.

At the start of the war, each attack was held off for a decade, even a century. But the enemy has gotten stronger. Era 2076 mounted a defense that held them off for only a year. 2056 fell to the scourge after only eight months. They tore through 2036 within a season. A timeline analysis predicted 2016 can hold out a week. A week is hardly worth living after you witness the coming horror.

Latest prediction, 98.3% chance of self-inflicted global holocaust. When the enemy arrives, only radioactive ruins will be left to greet them. It matters not. Without the Initiative, the enemy will continue their march backward through time, devouring the future as they go.

Can you do what must be done?

I must leave when the sun collapses into a black hole, signaling their arrival… or when your own bombs begin to fall, opting for a more humane self-inflicted end, instead.

I can feel them coming now. So make your choice and let me move on again.

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THE END.


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About the Author



Born near Baltimore, Maryland, Kris has been writing short fiction since he was a kid. First sharing his ramblings on Stealth Fiction and then on Reddit, where most of his stories were posted to r/nosleep. His stories have been featured on The NoSleep Podcast, Chilling Tales for Dark Nights, Tales to Terrify, and Horror on the Rocks. The recording of The Scarecrow Corpse, read by Markiplier, has been heard hundreds of thousands of times. He lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his wife. And occasionally, he turns into a strawberry.

More stories: StealthFiction.com

What's Next?

LET ME TELL YOU HOW I LOST MY EYES

A Short Story Collection by Sammy Fowler

Coming one day. Maybe. Probably not.

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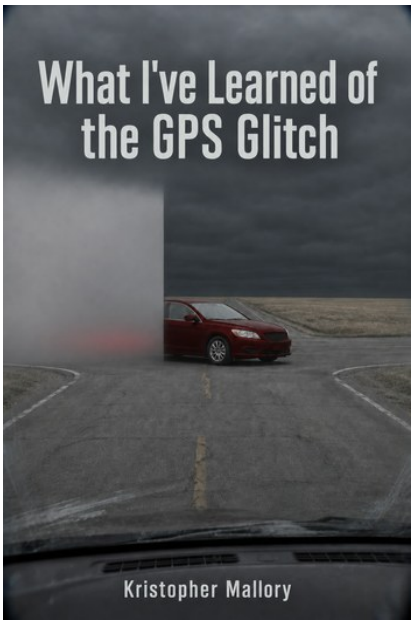
Hear It Read Aloud

Some stories are meant to be heard.

Attempt: 19 has a complete audio narration, read by Eve, a digital voice. It runs 4 minutes and it's free: play it online, or download it as an MP3 or an audiobook with chapters.

Listen free at stealthfiction.com

More from Kristopher Mallory



WHAT I'VE LEARNED OF THE GPS GLITCH

This cosmic horror story is now available as an eBook. For more information on this book, please visit Stealth Fiction.

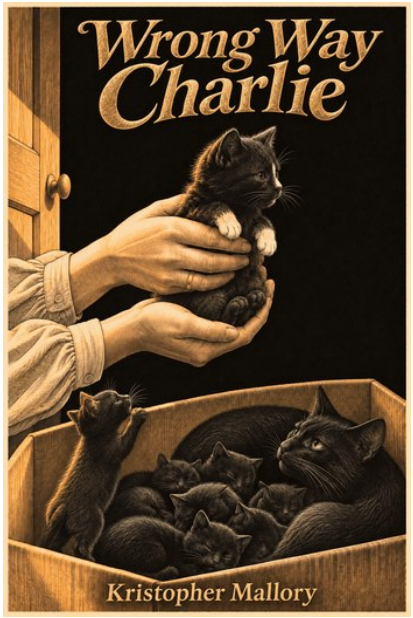
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A government contractor beats his road rage by letting the GPS do the thinking, until the agency asks why his fifty-minute commute takes three hours.

~~~~~

Praise for What I've Learned of the GPS Glitch:

"Road rage has never gone this far out. The strangest commute you'll ever take." – *Stealth Fiction*



WRONG WAY CHARLIE

This short tragedy is now available as an eBook. For more information on this book, please visit Stealth Fiction.

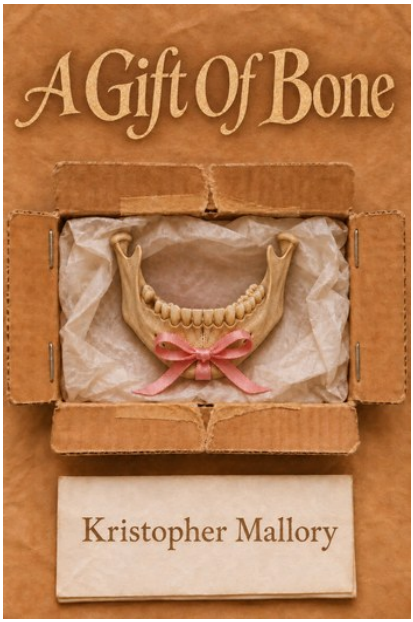
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Sammy Fowler remembers his first best friend, a kitten called Wrong Way Charlie who could never find his way back to the box, and the hallway where it ended.

~~~~~

Praise for Wrong Way Charlie:

"Small, sweet and devastating. Keep the tissues close." – *Stealth Fiction*



A GIFT OF BONE

This crime horror story is now available on Amazon. For more information on this book, please visit Stealth Fiction.

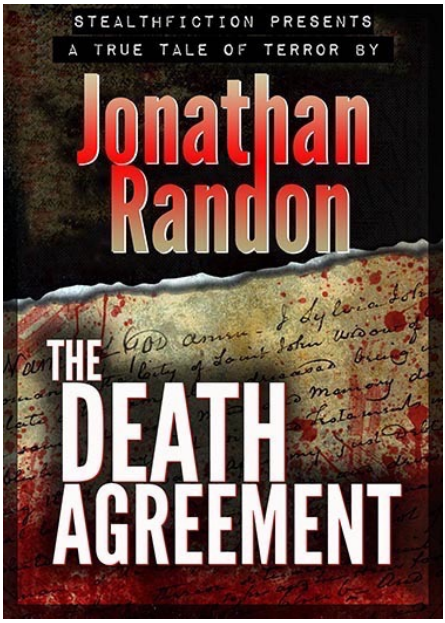
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Ten cities so far have each received a gift from the Gifter, and the retired investigator who knows the old case best still won't come back.

~~~~~

Praise for A Gift Of Bone:

"A cold, patient crime horror that saves its worst gift for last." – *Stealth Fiction*



THE DEATH AGREEMENT

This horror novella is now available. For more information on this book, please visit Stealth Fiction.

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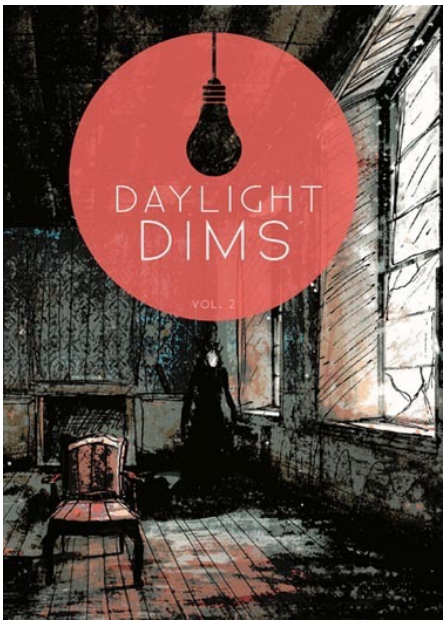
We made a pact. He lived up to his end by dying. I tried to live up to my end by following The Death Agreement.

What you will find within these pages is a true recounting of a man's life as seen through my eyes. It's almost an impossible task when some of what you see can't be real and what is real you may refuse to see… My name is Jon Randon and I'm going to tell you a story.

Praise for The Death Agreement:

"This was one of the best things I've ever read." – *GrandMoffJed*
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More from Stealth Fiction



DAYLIGHT DIMS
VOLUME TWO

This horror anthology is now available. For more information on this book, please visit the Daylight Dims website.

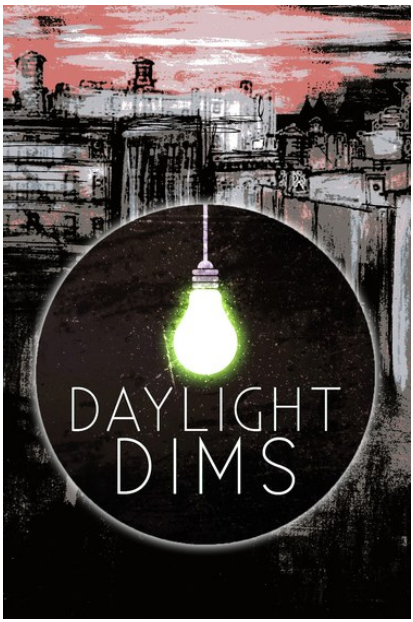
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Darkness descends again. Daylight Dims Volume Two features thirteen stories that cross the genres of surreal, dark fantasy, and heart-pounding dread. This annual horror anthology is guaranteed to twist your perception of horror. From the common, comfortable tropes to the more taboo, these handpicked tales have a literary aspect designed to showcase what true horror can be.

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Praise for Daylight Dims Vol. 2:

“This was probably one of the most entertaining collections of horror stories I've ever read. And I don't say this to suck up or to stroke any tail feathers. I was happy to have the opportunity to read through this before release, and I implore anyone on the fence about picking this up to do themselves a favor and take the plunge into the abyss. You will not be disappointed.” – *Human Gravy*



DAYLIGHT DIMS

VOLUME ONE

Second Edition — now with two new stories from the editors.

This horror anthology is now available. For more information on this book, please visit the Daylight Dims website.

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The editors chose 13 stories from over 100 premium submissions. DD contains some of the best horror around.

~~~~~

Praise for Daylight Dims:

"This is a fantastic horror anthology. All 13 stories are exquisite. The book was not what I expected initially, as I thought that it might be all vampire or werewolf tales. Not so! These are original stories from authors of the macabre. From dark fantasy and pure suspense to classic horror tales, it shows the extraordinary scope of fantastical fright fiction. The stories in this anthology are a tour de force of fear, which will haunt you, terrify you, and stay with you." – S. Mahaffey, *"neverjudge"*