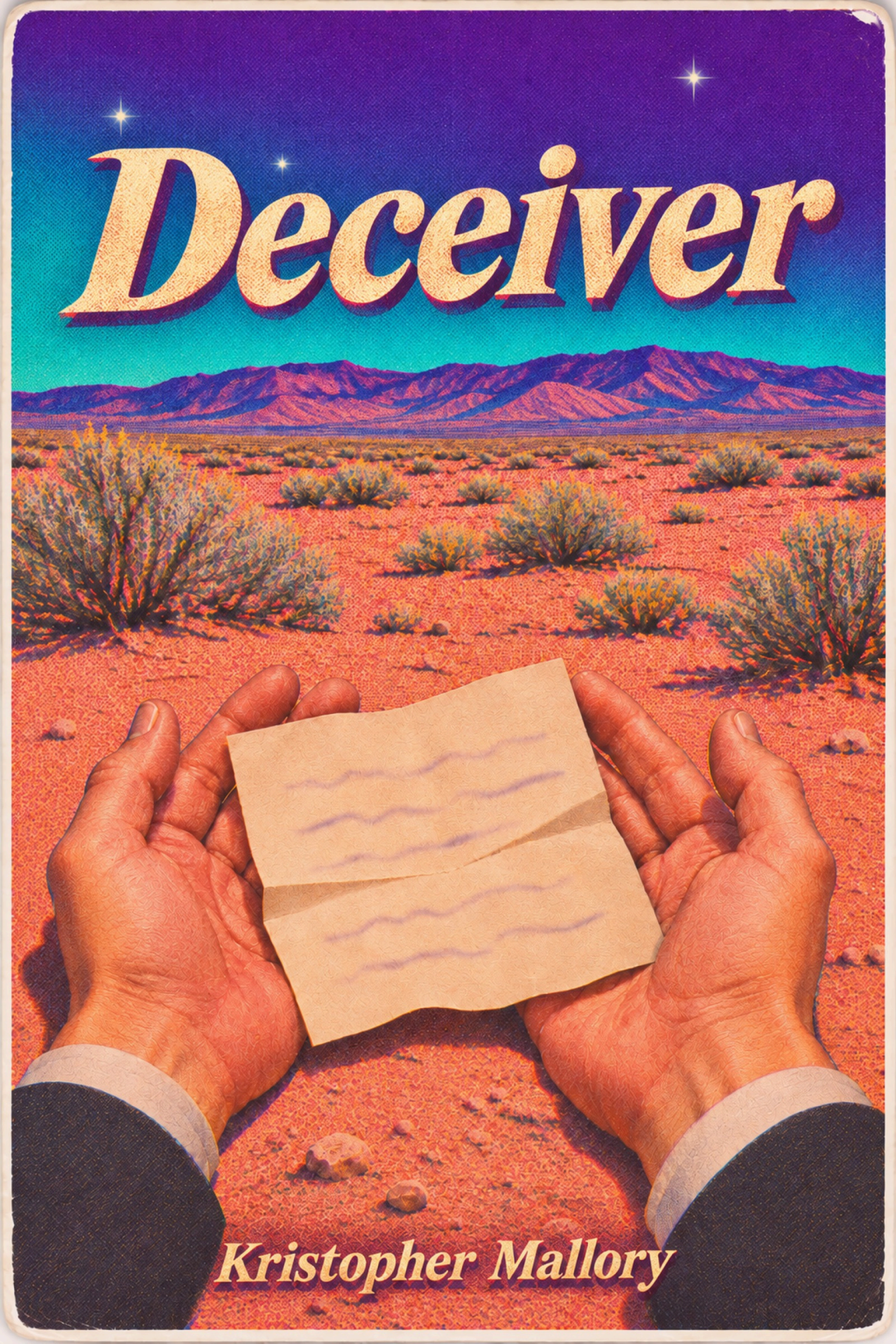

Deceiver
Kristopher Mallory

Deceiver

by

Kristopher Mallory

Deceiver

A Cult Horror Story

Copyright



www.StealthFiction.com

Deceiver

eBook Edition
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Cover art by Kristopher Mallory, made with AI image tools
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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

Blizzard Angel

The Resistance

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

What People Are Saying about Kris's Stories

The Death Agreement:

"This is all so confusing and mind blowingly awesome." – *jesslikewoah*

I Know What They Are:

"This is absolutely amazing. Has me a bit paranoid as I get deja vu quite a bit, hopefully not too many good futures have passed me by..." – *Niamhel*

Master Stargazer:

"Hands down one of the best short sci fi books I have read, and I have read a lot." – *rickamente*

These Bad Dreams Combined:

"I have no idea WTF is going on here, but I'm fascinated!" – *ali*

Special Thanks

For Destiny.

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Deceiver

“People believe, thought Shadow. It’s what people do.”

~ Neil Gaiman, American Gods (2001)

The following note was found in the hands of Father Christopher Lee, whose body was recovered in the desert outside of Destiny, Nevada. Although it does not explain what had transpired in the small town, it does provide some insight into the mind of Jack Smith, who is believed to be the brother of serial killer Randell Smith. The reason why Father Lee had this note on his person is still a mystery. Although the case is years old, Jack Smith is still considered a person of interest. He is wanted for questioning by the Nevada state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If you or anyone you know has had contact with Mr. Smith, you are strongly advised to contact the authorities.

Is this what you wanted to know?

I will promise the universe and deliver a phantom. In the dark, you will have no choice but to blindly trust that I care. Welcome to a place where you can wish upon a star and at the same time waste your life away, in what, to you, seems to be a perfect little world. Your sense of being is broken by a distorted view that, for my pleasure, I present to you.

A seller of lies, and you will have your fill; I will provide as much as you can afford, take all that you have, and leave you with nothing in return. Father, mother, sister, brother, friends, enemies, bastard children, strangers and whore lovers, because of my skill, you all will one day have faith in me; I will tell you I care, a lie, counted as one, and when I know you are ready, will offer up yet another.

Like all of those before today, you will be caught in a ghost-like reality of deceit, like a fly trapped in the web of a deadly spider, but unlike the doomed fly, you will happily wait to be consumed. I am the great deceiver. Spread the gospel of the ways in which I can make you feel. A dark, heartless Casanova, bear witness to all that you, and you alone, are truly loved by me.

After you have willingly given me all I have wanted, I will smile and be pleased, not with you, but with myself, for yet another victory. I am the great deceiver. When your purpose has been served, I am indifferent to your continued existence, and I am amused at your insistence. Contrary to

what I have taught you to believe, you are merely a nuisance to be tolerated.

Even after I have told you my true nature, you will persist in saying that I am lying, when it is the only truth I have told. I am the great deceiver. Aside from these truths, you mean absolutely nothing to me.

I am the great deceiver, and I am not alone. We have built this foundation, and it shall become our legacy.

Jackin Smith

-Axis-

THE END.



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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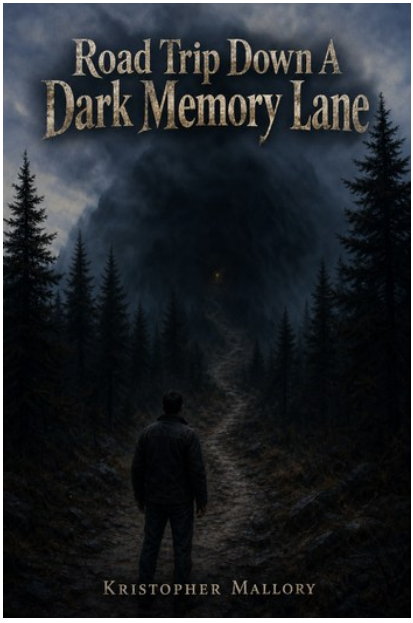
Hear It Read Aloud

Some stories are better heard in the dark.

Deceiver has a complete audio narration, read by Gunnar Qualen, a digital voice. It runs 3 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



ROAD TRIP DOWN A DARK MEMORY LANE

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

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Twenty-five years after he was taken as a boy, a husband and father writes it all down, loads the car, and drives his family back to Black Fog Mountain.

~~~~~

Praise for Road Trip Down A Dark Memory Lane:

"Every mile pulls the knot tighter, and the ending is the kind you sit with in silence." – *Stealth Fiction*



PAYPHONE

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

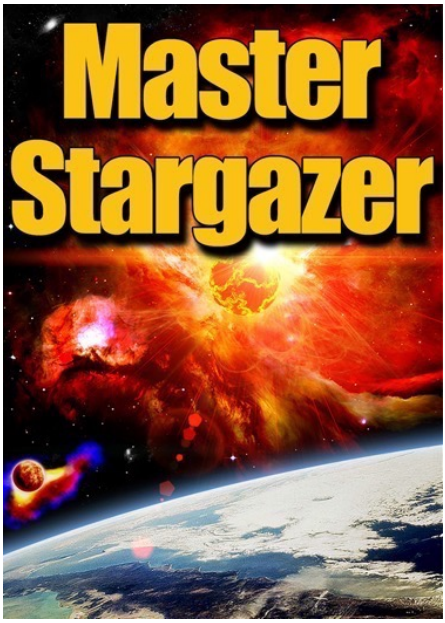
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Patrick Levine's family wrecks their new Durango on an icy back road beside a dead town, and the only payphone for miles has a dial tone.

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Praise for Payphone:

"Winter dread at its best. You'll never trust a dial tone again." – *Stealth Fiction*



MASTER STARGAZER

This sci-fi story is now available. For more information on this book, please visit Stealth Fiction.

~~~~~

Deep below the polar ice cap, the last great research station stands on high alert. Hundreds of the station's personnel fiercely do their part to manage the impending disaster. They had practiced countless times, every worker drilled repeatedly until they were able to perform their duties with a cold robotic grace.

Now the time for drills is over; the culmination of the Stargazer's Thousand Cycle Plan is finally upon them. To the relief of all, the training held. There's no hesitation. Not a single worker deviates. Each member knows the consequence of failure is total destruction.

While the station's personnel fight to save the planet's population, the forty-second Master Stargazer stands over his garden, watching drops of water bead across leaves. He gently touches the seed pouch of his favorite flower, and the realization that the time has come hits him with
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unimaginable force. Fully aware that his heart is beating dangerously fast for a man of his age, he repeats the familiar mantra:

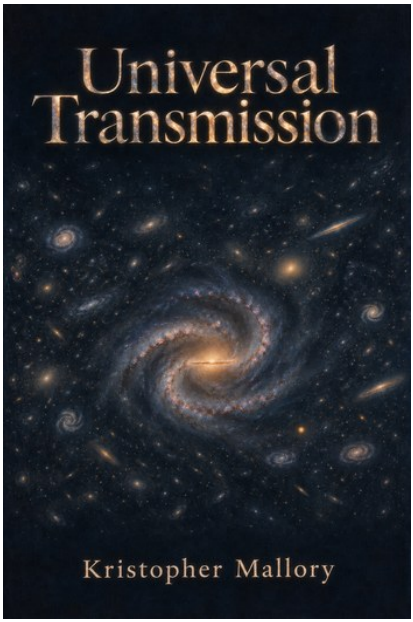
I must calm down if I'm to see this through.

As the research station commander, Master Stargazer's job is to ensure all aspects of the Thousand Cycle Plan remain on schedule, and yet, he's the only staff member not where he's supposed to be. His place is on the command deck, but grief had overtaken him, so he had slipped into his office to give a final farewell to his beloved flora. For years, those plants had reminded him life exists somewhere high above the ice cap. Even now, they remind him it needs to be preserved.

~~~~~

Praise for Master Stargazer:

"Hands down one of the best short sci fi books I have read, and I have read a lot." – *rickamente*
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UNIVERSAL TRANSMISSION

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

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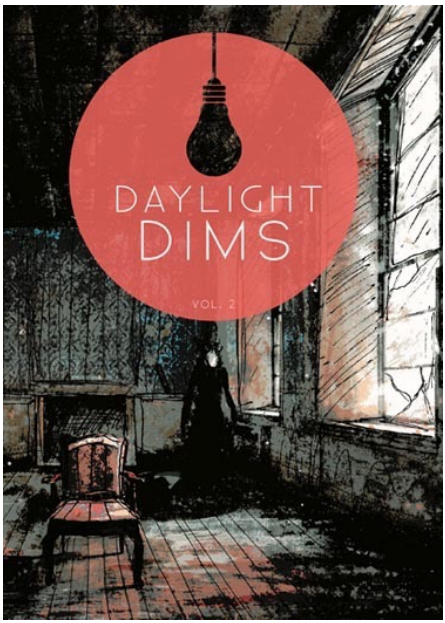
A scan of Planet 3 gives its species a 95.5 percent chance of self-annihilation, then the transmission opens to every living thing at once.

~~~~~

Praise for Universal Transmission:

"Big, strange and unsettling, a story that makes the whole planet feel very small." – *Stealth Fiction*

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.

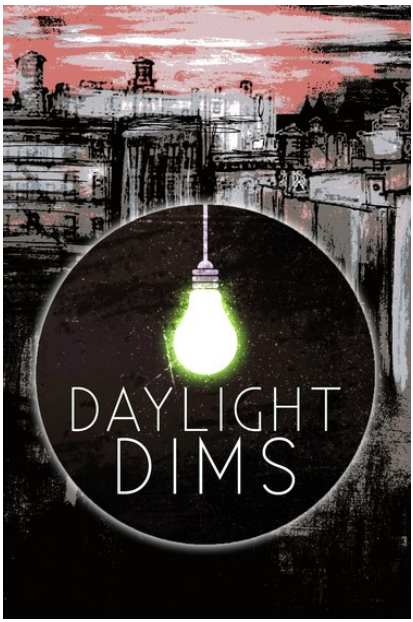
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Darkness descends again. Daylight Dims Volume Two features thirteen stories that cross the genres of surreal, dark fantasy, and heart-pounding dread. This annual horror anthology is guaranteed to twist your perception of horror. From the common, comfortable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

~~~~~

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.

~~~~~

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"*