The Traffic Stop



Kristopher Mallory

The Traffic Stop

by

Kristopher Mallory

The Traffic Stop

A Comedy

Copyright



www.StealthFiction.com

The Traffic Stop

eBook Edition
Copyright © 2009, 2026 Kristopher Mallory
Cover art by Kristopher Mallory, made with AI image tools
~~~~
*Edited with Grammarly and Claude*
~~~~

eBook License Notes:

You may not use, reproduce or transmit in any manner, any part of this book without written permission, except in the case of brief quotations used in critical articles and reviews, or in accordance with federal Fair Use laws. All rights are reserved.

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 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 anyone who has ever played it cool with a flashlight in their face.

Table of Contents

Copyright
Other Releases
What People Are Saying
Special Thanks

The Traffic Stop

About the Author
What's Next?
Hear It Read Aloud
More from Kristopher Mallory
More from Stealth Fiction

The Traffic Stop

“Cops love donuts. Which is an interesting stereotype, because you know who else loves donuts? Absolutely everyone.”

~ Jim Gaffigan, Obsessed

It was about 1:30 AM. I was driving down a side road, coming up to a stop sign. I flicked on my left blinker and made the turn onto the highway. It seemed like I was the only car on the road.

Then I see headlights behind me, and the car is fast approaching. I weave into the far-right lane to let this guy go by, but instead of speeding past, he mimicked me and got back behind me.

I was about to brake-check the asshole to get him to back off. I'm glad I didn't because a second later I'm blinded by a spotlight and I see the dreaded blue and red flashes of a police cruiser.

This was my thought process: Fuck. Fuck. Fucccccckkk!

I pull over.

I had about 10 seconds to think before the cop walked up to the window. I could have wound it down, but I was playing it cool. I waited until he tapped on the glass.

The window's down, and I'm looking at him, and he's blinding me with his flashlight.

I raise my eyebrows and nod. It's the universal sign for *wazzup*.

My heart is pounding. I still wasn't sure how to handle this… situation. A second passes. For some reason, I think of the movie *Clerks*.

"Where you coming from tonight?" he asked.

Hmmm, I think.

I look over my shoulder and give a quick head nudge in the direction I was driving from. This could be called the universal sign for 'Back that way, dumbass.'

"Sir?"

You just can't trust the police these days. Anyone can end up tasered, maced, or dead. So I take note of his posture. Even though I can't see with the light in my eyes, I am well aware that his other hand is on the butt of his gun.

I gotta say, it was a nice night out, but not so nice that getting shot wouldn't ruin it, so I didn't want to make any sudden movements.

I exaggerate a frown.

“Sir, did you hear what I asked you?”

I nod ‘yes’. I then gave him my impatient look, followed up with me nodding to the empty seat next to me a few times.

I’m sure he was confused, but finally the light moved from my face to the passenger seat. I risked moving my hand off the wheel, but slowly, very slowly, I made a writing-in-the-air motion with my hand, and then I cautiously reached across the center console towards that seat.

I just knew he must be getting tense, but I kept reaching.

Hearing no gunshot, which was a good sign, I lifted up my jacket that I had on the seat, again, very slowly. Underneath was a notepad I kept there so when I get a good idea, I can record it.

Once he noticed I wasn’t going for a weapon, I think he relaxed.

“Sir?”

I quickly jotted a note and showed him. ‘Sorry about that.’

“Are you… deaf?”

I shook my head no.

‘Mute. I hear you fine.’

“I see… O.K. then. We’ll take this slow. Where ya headed?”

‘Home,’ I wrote.

“Do you know why I stopped you?”

‘Not a clue, Officer.’

“You didn’t come to a complete stop at the sign before you pulled out onto the highway. I know it’s late, but if anyone out here has been drinking, they could easily cause an accident.”

‘I didn’t realize. My apologies.’

“I’ll let you go with a warning, but be more careful.”

‘Thank you, Sir.’

“Alright, well, you have a good night.”

He walked back to his car. I hear his door slam as he got in.

‘Holy shit,’ I think.

I fumble around with stuff in the car, buying time. I don’t know why. I should have just driven off.

The flashing red and blue lights cut off.

I'm pretending to write something on my pad just to buy a few more seconds; I put my coat on.

Finally, the cop decides I'm not ready to pull off yet, so he does what I wanted him to do and pulls past me.

I smile, and I wave as he drives by and starts to accelerate away.

That's what I was waiting for. I am such an asshole sometimes, but I can't help myself…

I stuck my head out the window and shouted, "You have a great night too, Officer!"

His brake lights came on for a split second, then went back off. I imagine he thought he was hearing things because he didn't slam on his brakes and come back to kick my ass. I am laughing hysterically as I put my car into drive and pull away…

If I am willing to pretend to be a hot twenty-something girl looking for sex online, or a recruiter looking to hire someone for a dream job, or a dozen other shady things to make money, you better believe that if I've had a night full of drinking, got pulled over by a cop, and I knew that he would have smelled the wonderfully great Jack Daniel's on my breath and would have, without a doubt, locked my drunk ass up… well then, my friends, I can certainly pretend to be a mute.

Yeah, like I said, I'm an asshole, but I'm a black-hat marketing asshole, and that's what counts most.

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.

~~~~~
~~~~~

Hear It Read Aloud

Some stories are meant to be heard.

The Traffic Stop has a complete audio narration, read by Julius, a digital voice. It runs 5 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



THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS OF MR. EVERETT

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

~~~~~

Christmas Eve, a blizzard, and Hank agrees to sit with old Mr. Everett, twenty-two-time winner of the town's decoration contest, who insists he is not going crazy.

~~~~~

Praise for The Special Christmas Ornaments of Mr. Everett:

"Quite a story, mixing snowy Christmas magic with delightfully dark humored chills." – *leavnsoon*



I Know What They Are

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

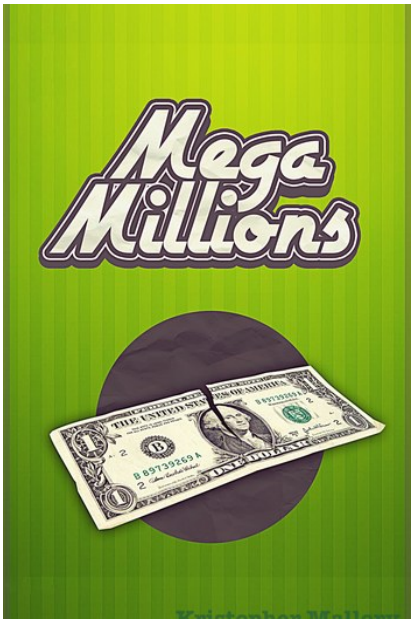
~~~~~

A young woman interacts with the city's homeless population as she walks to work each morning. Her life takes a turn into strange territory when she meets a homeless lady wearing a lab coat and holding a sign that reads: I know what they are.

~~~~~

Praise for I Know What They Are:

"Brilliant. Everything came together at the end and I got chills as I finished it. Well done." – *Asaroki*



MEGA MILLIONS

This comedy short is now available on Amazon. For more information on this book, please visit Stealth Fiction.

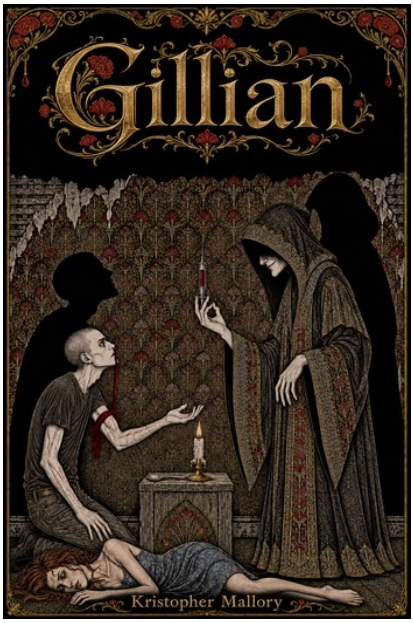
~~~~~

Joshua Harris is just the average blue collar guy, until one night he decides to buy a lotto ticket with his usual pack of beer. Josh thinks he may have won but life spirals into hilarity when he realizes that he can't find the ticket.

~~~~~

Praise for Mega Millions:

"NO WAY!!!! I totally hate you. You CAN'T leave it at that again and make me wait a few months for the next part!!!" – *Hannah*



GILLIAN

This dark fairy tale is now available as an eBook. For more information on this book, please visit Stealth Fiction.

~~~~~

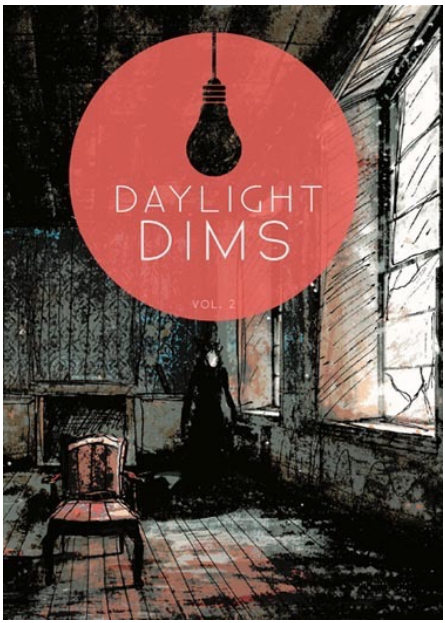
Some addictions run deep and others summon demons too strong to overcome.

~~~~~

Praise for Gillian:

"A fairy tale with the sugar scraped off, and a love story that refuses to stay buried." – *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.

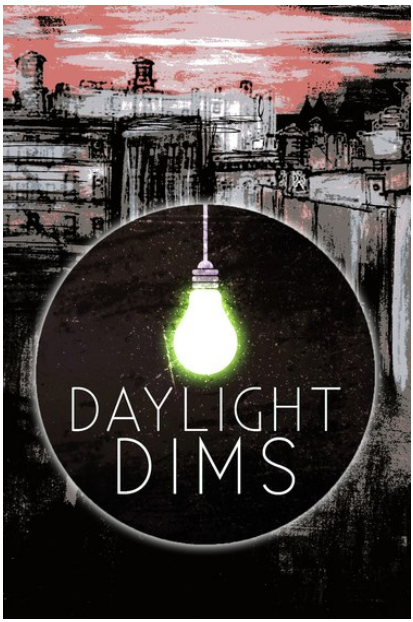
~~~~~

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"*