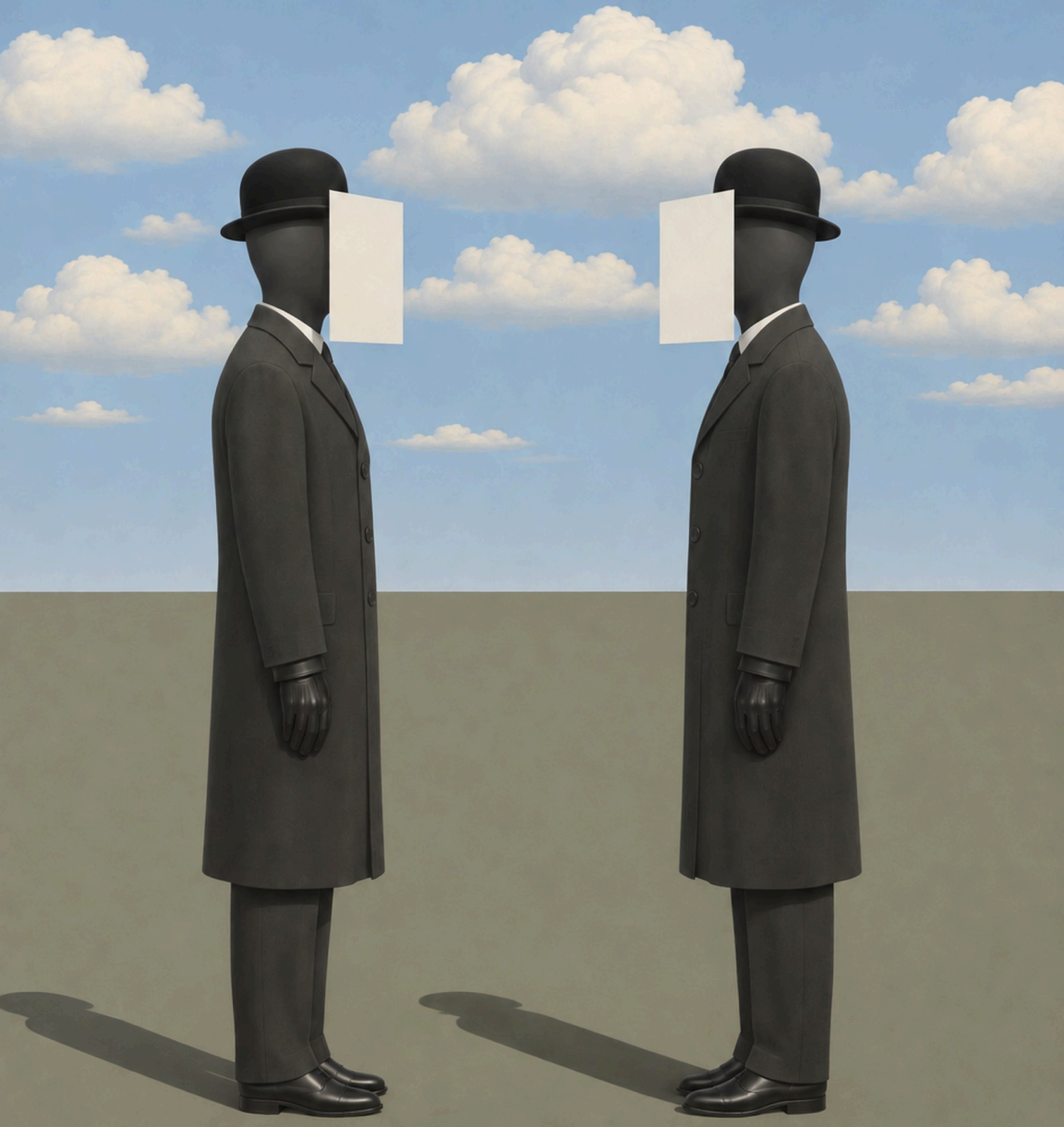
We Could be Anyone



Kristopher Mallory

We Could be Anyone

by

Kristopher Mallory

We Could be Anyone

A Metafictional Short

Copyright



www.StealthFiction.com

We Could be Anyone

eBook Edition
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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

We Could be Anyone:

"It would be very interesting and telling on a psychological level to have people describe the characters and the environment they were imagining while reading this." – *DarkSideofBrightness*

Master Stargazer:

"It made me think and that is a good story" – *Paul C.*

The Special Christmas Ornaments of Mr. Everett:

"Well done!! Very creative, I loved it." – *skeptikay*

I Know What They Are:

"I experienced deja-vu while reading this and now I'm scared out of my mind." – *The Book Anaconda*

Special Thanks

For anyone. You know who you are.

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We Could be Anyone

“All my life I’ve always wanted to be somebody. But I see now I should have been more specific.”

~ Jane Wagner, The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe (1985)

“We could be anyone.”

“And?”

“And nothing. I was only saying.”

“O.K.”

“Just okay?”

“Was that not the right answer?”

“That depends on if you understood what I meant when I said: We could be anyone.”

“I suppose you are going to tell me now.”

“If you want to know.”

“Sure.”

“That was not very enthusiastic.”

“I guess you are catching on then.”

“Well, in that case, I should just keep it to myself.”

“O.K.”

“But on the other hand, it would be nice to keep talking.”

“Figured as much.”

“So, as I was saying, we could be anyone.”

“We covered that.”

“Take this conversation we are having, for example.”

“What about it?”

“It proves we have a lot in common.”

“Such as?”

“The fact that we both could be anyone.”

“How is that?”

“Am I talking in circles?”

“So far, it seems so.”

“My apologies. Let me try to explain my point. Until now, you have been a stranger with a blank face that has had characteristics and assumptions thrust into your being.”

“Is that so?”

“Even your response proves as much. ‘Is that so?’ could be read in a matter-of-fact tone, or it could be perceived as dismissive, as if none of this makes sense to you and you do not care. This is the observer’s choice as to what your responses mean. Race, Sex, Age, Clothing, Attitude, Situation, History, and Future have already been assigned to us. Heck, we might not ever be human to some. We could be two carrots or two aliens. Weird, huh? Also, these assumptions might change over time on their own, or if we set the facts of who we are.”

“Hmmm.”

“Make any sense?”

“So you’re saying that until right now, a third party who could neither see nor hear us, but by reading this whole conversation we are having despite my best tries to avoid it, could, for example, picture us talking while I drive a car, or picture us sitting in a coffee house talking. Is it night or day? This is all up to them?”

“Precisely.”

“I get it. So we really could be anyone. I could be a rich white man, and you could be a poor black woman. Anyone.”

“Until we clarify.”

“Like by me saying, I’m tired. Prior to that, I could have been perceived as being fully interested and wide awake.”

“That is correct. Up until they realize the one true fact about the both of us.”

“Which is what?”

“Rather not say.”

“You got me interested now.”

“Sure you want to know?”

“As sure as any observer, I bet.”

“Well, until now, I can estimate that any possible observer has assigned value to us, and we are who we are and are doing whatever it is we are doing, based one hundred percent on who they want us to be, and what they want us doing. Oh, except the confession that you are tired, but I

suppose the more suspicious observer might assume you were lying, and they have you as a sneaky person trying to get one over on me."

"I may or may not have lost you."

"Ha ha."

"O.K., jokes aside. If that was a joke. What is that one true fact that we cannot just make up ourselves?"

"Even though we have been two people, or whatever, having a conversation, the ultimate truth is that neither of us exists. We are just words on paper for the viewing pleasure of the observer."

"Bummer."

"Yeah, I know. But it isn't so bad. Keep in mind that even though we'll cease to exist while not being thought about, this so-called observer might be in the same situation."

"Hard to keep that in mind when any second we could become extinct."

"I just thought of something."

"You sure?"

"No, but, anyway… Everyone lives to see the end of the world. They just are not around afterward to notice."

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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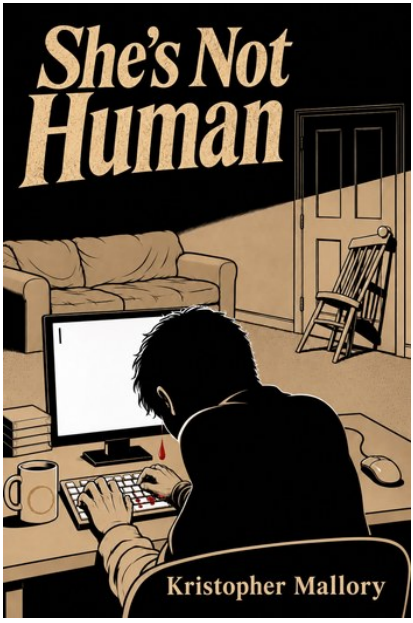
Hear It Read Aloud

Some stories are meant to be heard.

We Could be Anyone has a complete audio narration, read by Herbert, 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



SHE'S NOT HUMAN

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

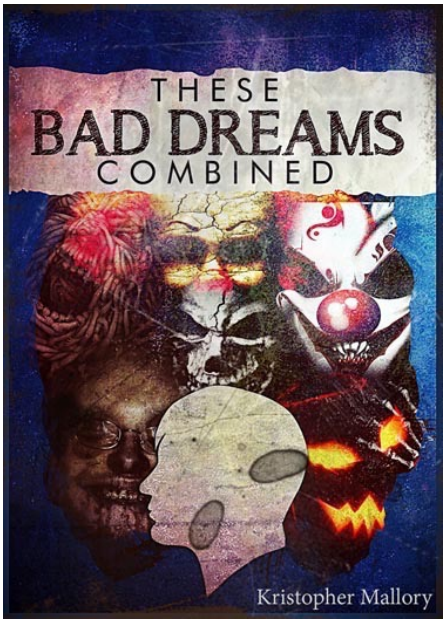
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Nose bleeding onto the keyboard, a man types out his side of the story while the woman he has locked in the bedroom begs him to open the door.

~~~~~

Praise for She's Not Human:

"You'll change your mind about who to believe three times before the last line." – *Stealth Fiction*



THESE BAD DREAMS COMBINED

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

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A man struggles to deal with severe nightmares. A new medical trial is his last chance at a normal life.

~~~~~

Praise for These Bad Dreams Combined:

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



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.

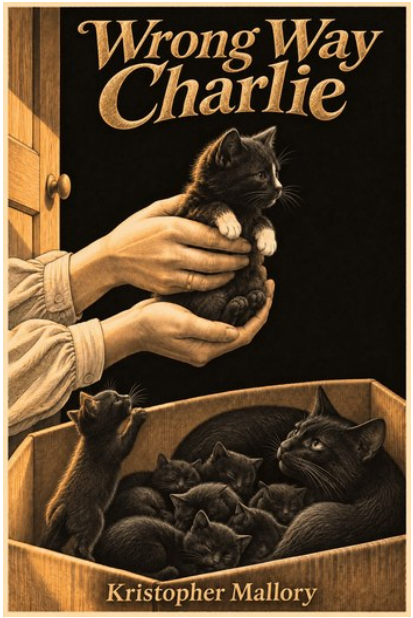
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Christmas Eve, a blizzard, and Hank agrees to sit with old Mr. Everett, twenty-two-time winner of the town's decoration contest, who insists he is not going crazy.

~~~~~

Praise for The Special Christmas Ornaments of Mr. Everett:

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



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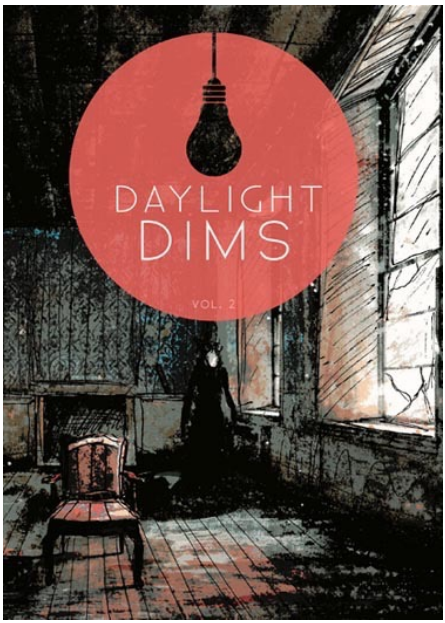
Sammy Fowler remembers his first best friend, a kitten called Wrong Way Charlie who could never find his way back to the box, and the hallway where it ended.

~~~~~

Praise for Wrong Way Charlie:

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

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.

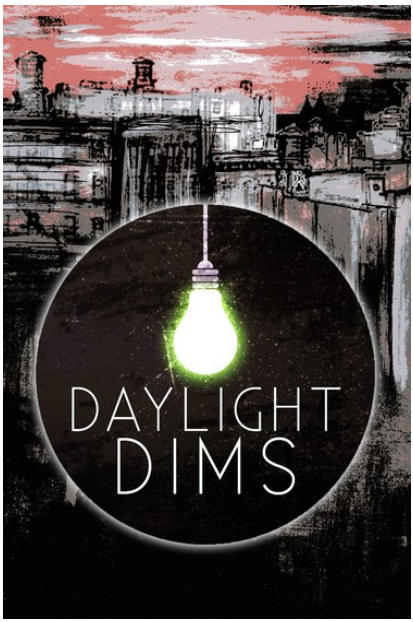
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Darkness descends again. Daylight Dims Volume Two features thirteen stories that cross the genres of surreal, dark fantasy, and heart-pounding dread. This annual horror anthology is guaranteed to twist your perception of horror. From the common, comfortable 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.

~~~~~

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"*