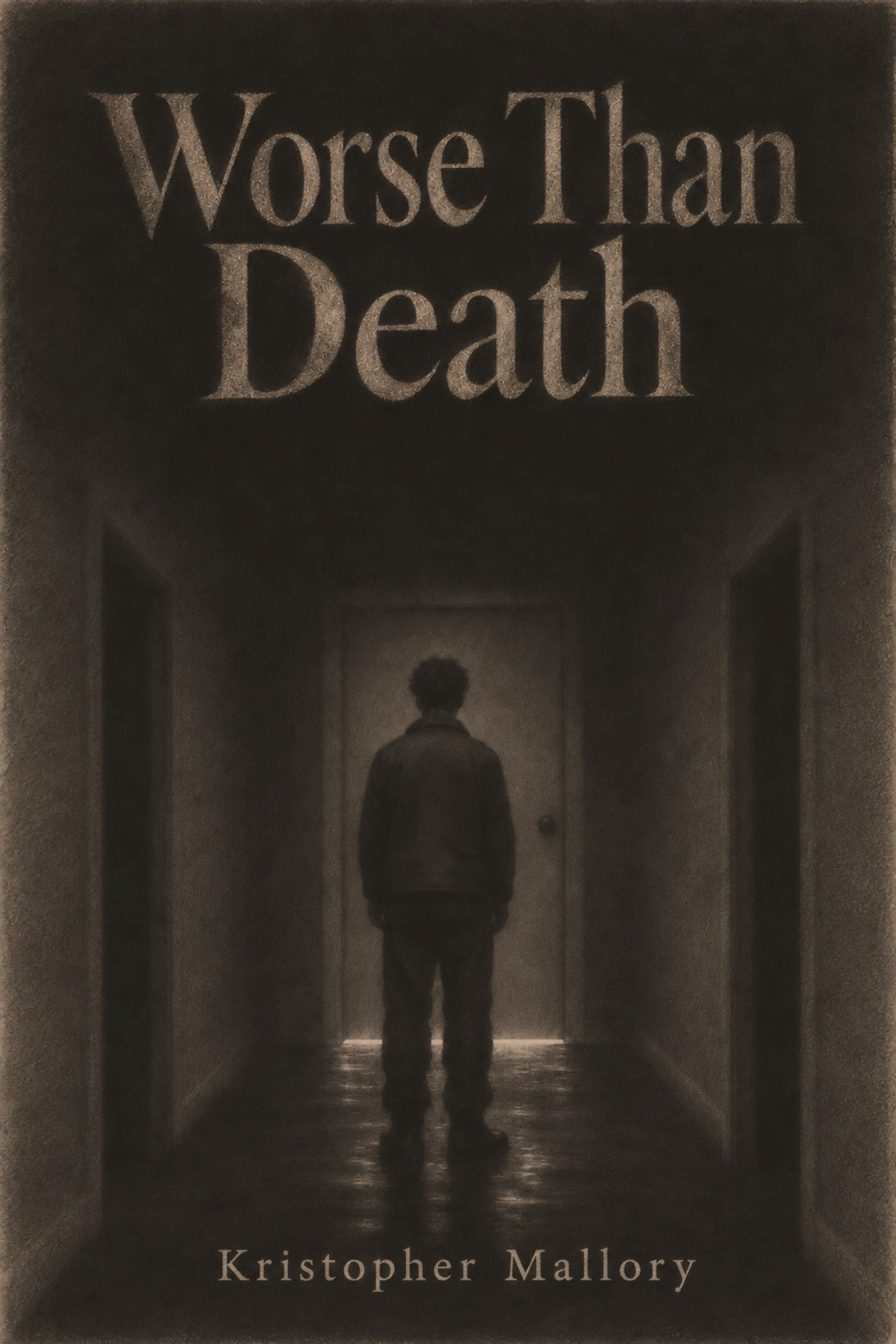
Worse Than Death



Kristopher Mallory

Worse Than Death

by

Kristopher Mallory

Worse Than Death

A Psychological Horror Story

Copyright



www.StealthFiction.com

Worse Than Death

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

Worse Than Death:

"I CAME HERE TO NOT SLEEP NOT TO CRY" – *MoonHopLite*

Worse Than Death:

"It was powerful!!" – *heyimtalking*

The Special Christmas Ornaments of Mr. Everett:

"Ow my chest hurts from holding my breath through most of the story. Very unique and well wriiten, best of luck to you and your town." – *JannaSwag*

I Know What They Are:

"Great Story. Very deep, very suspenseful. Bravo." – *TheWhispersCall*

Special Thanks

For everyone who ever worked a triple shift for one nice thing.

Table of Contents

Copyright
Other Releases
What People Are Saying
Special Thanks

Worse Than Death

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

Worse Than Death

“No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear.”

~ C. S. Lewis, A Grief Observed (1961)

I remember…

Coming home after working a triple shift, we would have a little spending money after paying our bills. My daughter had wanted a dollhouse, and I had wanted her to have at least one nice thing.

Oddly, the bedroom was empty, but a note was on the nightstand. One word: Goodbye.

She had always said she'd leave, but I never listened. Why now? Certainly not when we were getting our marriage on track. Not when I was trying so hard to be the husband and father they deserved.

The house was dark except for a dim glow from beneath the bathroom door. At first, I heard nothing except for my heart pounding. Then a faint sound of running water sent shivers down my spine. Suddenly, the carpet became wet under my feet. My hand trembled as I reached for the door handle.

Locked.

"Susan?" I whispered—all my fears compressed into a word.

Please, God. No.

The seconds I waited for a reply felt like an eternity.

"Susan!" The sound of my voice tore my sanity to shreds.

I slammed my shoulder into the door.

"Maisie!" I prayed that my daughter would not be in there, too.

Before the hinge shattered, my imagination had already etched what the memory would be: A porcelain tub overflowing with crimson water. A bloodied razor blade on the floor. A pale-skinned woman with slit wrists and dead eyes held onto a three-year-old girl who would never experience the life she deserved.

That moment before the door gave way is what I remember most clearly. That moment is worse than death.

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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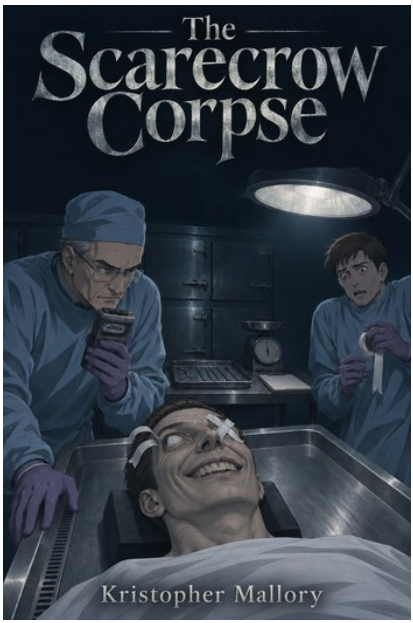
Hear It Read Aloud

Some stories are better heard in the dark.

Worse Than Death has a complete audio narration, read by Michael, a digital voice. It runs 2 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 SCARECROW CORPSE

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

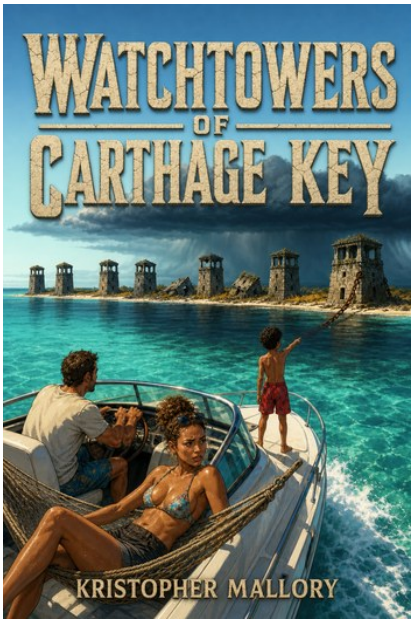
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A coroner's intern is called to a body found on the Washington Metro Red Line, and it is not quite a body.

~~~~~

Praise for The Scarecrow Corpse:

"Paranoid, grisly and deeply creepy, a conspiracy that keeps going deeper." – *Stealth Fiction*



WATCHTOWERS OF CARTHAGE KEY

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

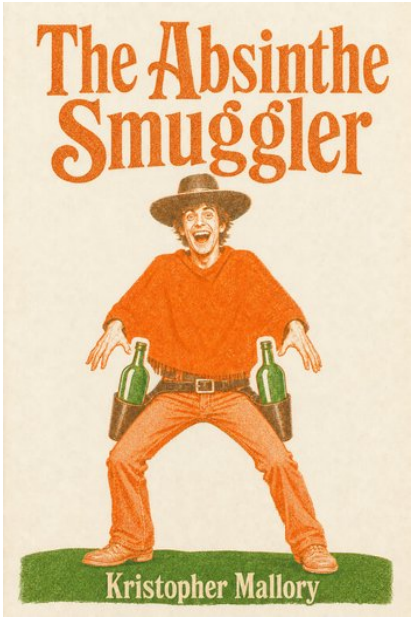
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Marc takes his girlfriend and her son out to an unnamed key far off the Florida coast, where six ruined watchtowers stand guard and nothing swims in the water.

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Praise for Watchtowers of Carthage Key:

"Mysterious ruins, otherworldly horrors, the narrator questioning his own sanity, and the setting itself is the monster - very Lovecraftian!" – *notoriouswhitemoth*

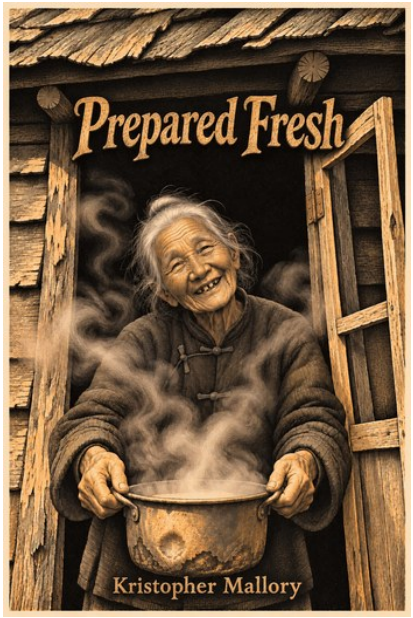


THE ABSINTHE SMUGGLER

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

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A teenager on holiday in Madrid promises his friends two bottles of the green fairy, and customs turns out to be the easy part.
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PREPARED FRESH

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

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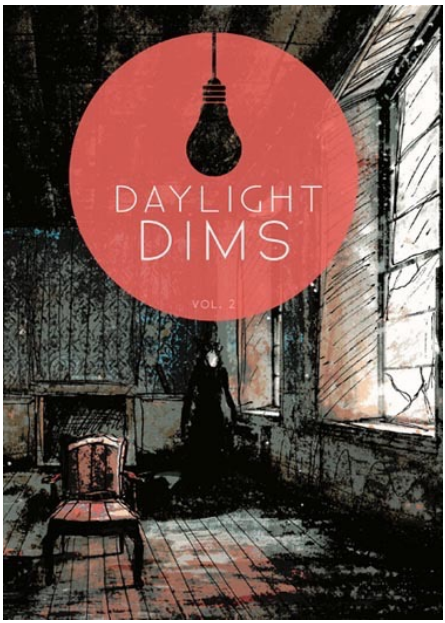
A cameraman and his comedian host land in rural China chasing fresh food for a pilot, and the only kid who speaks English begs them not to eat it.

~~~~~

Praise for Prepared Fresh:

"Funny right up until it isn't, and then it's the kind of horror you can taste." – *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.

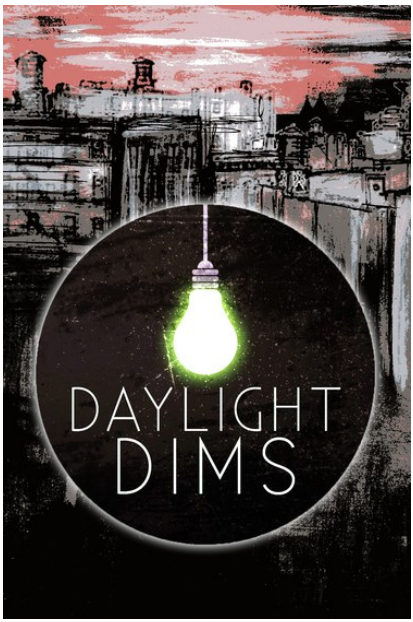
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Darkness descends again. Daylight Dims Volume Two features thirteen stories that cross the genres of surreal, dark fantasy, and heart-pounding dread. This annual horror anthology is guaranteed to twist your perception of horror. From the common, comfortable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