



Paranormal Anthology with a Twist

Cynthia Shepp (Editor) , Rene Folsom (Editor) , Michael Loring , Bart Hopkins , Jon Messenger , Anthony Lance , Jason Brant , Penelope Anne Bartotto , more... Nicki Scalise , Magen McMinimy , S.L. Dearing , Eaton Thomas Palmer ...less

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What begin as an idea soon set into motion a chain of events that would lead to heart-stopping action, amazing suspense, and stories that will stick with you way after you are done.

Unique, unexpected, beyond imagining...shocking TWISTS that will have you frantically turning back the pages to see what clues you overlooked to have missed what was coming.

Paranormal stories that span across the genre and will wow you, shock you, and leave you gasping for more.

11 different authors, one main idea, and worlds that will TWIST your imagination...

Paranormal Anthology with a Twist Details

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ISBN :

Cynthia Shepp (Editor) , Rene Folsom (Editor) , Michael Loring , Bart Hopkins , Jon Messenger ,
Author : Anthony Lance , Jason Brant , Penelope Anne Bartotto , more... Nicki Scalise , Magen
McMinimy , S.L. Dearing , Eaton Thomas Palmer ...less

Format : Kindle Edition 264 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Anthologies, Horror, Short Stories, Zombies

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From Reader Review Paranormal Anthology with a Twist for online ebook

Natalie says

Paranormal Anthology With A Twist
Edited And Compiled By Cynthia Shepp & Rene Folsom

Voices of the Soul by Rene Folsom

Ella has a very special gift. Her mother is on her death bed and needs to tell Ella of this special gift before it is too late.

Ella has heard voices through out her life, but never really knew what was taking place in her mind.

Six years after her mothers death, Ella sits in her art class distracted.....until he walks in.....Jonah Chantrey that is.

Suddenly Ella's thoughts are running rapid for this sexy hunk. He responds without saying a word aloud.

Can it be that Ella and Jonah have the same gift?

Yes they discover they are both Soul Seers.

They spend the next couple of hours walking, talking and grabbing a bite to eat. Comparing their soul seeing abilities with one another.

An instant connection is formed and Ella and Jonah make fast plans for a date.

Jonah takes Ella to a stable for a beautiful night ride on two gorgeous horses. They end up at a lake with the moons reflection bouncing off of the rippling water.

Here Ella and Jonah experiment with their soul seeing capabilities and this is where it goes beyond what we expect.....I am not a reviewer to whom of which gives the best parts away.

What happens next will leave you in shock and awe of Rene's writing talents.

Rene's imagination takes us on a captivating~mind blowing~soul shattering journey.

The love and elements of surprise will leave you breathless.

Number 18 by Michael Loring

Twenty seven year old Robert preyed upon women for his own sexual satisfaction. Seventeen of them so far. His prey tonight would be a woman he sees at a carnival with her boyfriend. He overhears them talking about their camp site in the woods. The woman needs to use the restroom and her boyfriend goes to the camp to wait for her. Robert follows the woman and attacks! Will he be the predator? Or will he become the prey?

I thought this story was very intriguing. The twist I knew was there, but had no idea the direction it would go

in.

I loved it Michael!

What a major unexpected thrill!

Sweet Lenora by Bart Hopkins

Lenora leads a very protected life. Her mother makes sure of it. Question is....why?

In Lenora's eyes her mother is an invalid that needs caring for and never leaves her room. Her mother doesn't allow her to listen to music or much else of anything. She gives Lenora long 30 minute talks of how evil and poisonous the world is.

One day Lenora decides she will make some of her own decisions and starts a friendship with Charlie Swain.....her mother is not happy and goes to great lengths to have things her way.

From here on out Bart's twist gets as good as it gets.

Read on book lovers. Bart Hopkins through me for an unexpected loop.

Truth of Dare by Jon Messenger

Four friends around, having drinks and playing truth or dare. Could be fun or a recipe for disaster. Jake, Jill, Brent and Whitney play around with their truths and dares. Most of the dares are not followed through. Then Brent boldly dares Jill to spend the night in the local cemetery.

She takes the dare. Once there, creepy things start happening. NO! I am not telling you what these things are. Bottom line? I surely didn't see this twist ahead. Pay attention book lovers....I bet you won't either!;)

Suburban Zombie by Anthony Lance

This is definitely not your every day, typical kind of zombie story. First time ever....but I will not be revealing anything about it. Why you ask?

It needs to be read by the reader in order to fully appreciate the humor. Anthony had me laughing out loud and enjoying every word of his imagination.

Kudos to you Anthony Lance. What a unique read with some very gory and laughable details.

All I Want For Christmas by Jason Brant

In this short story Jason graces us with the presence of a thirteen year old girl who writes in her diary about her trials and tribulations of life in general, her parents not giving in to her wants and the crush she has on a boy named Stevie.

It was so brilliantly written that Jason Brant had me believing he actually had been a thirteen year old girl at one time. LOL! Yes, his imagination was that damn good!!

He added a definite creepiness to it and humor all at the same time. I will never know how he does it...but he does it well.;

In the Eyes of the Beholder by Penelope Bartotto

Dominic is a truck driver to whom of which has eyes for one woman and one woman only. Her name is Rose. To Dominic, Rose can do no wrong. He knows nothing of Rose's intentions.

Unfortunately....Rose has more up her sleeve than what meets the eye. Rose believes that men are to do for women, give them all they want and make them happy. She is purely out for her own selfish needs. You will soon learn her game and she will soon learn that her own game can some times come back to haunt her.

Penelope added a bit of crazy and deeply strange weirdness, leaving us with a mind boggling bewilderment!

Little Tchotchkes by Nicki Scalise

Marcus Keary has it all together. He is a vampire and is used to getting his meals off of young gothic girls. One day he meets Jules. They become fast friends after she forgot her wallet and he offers to pay for her coffee.

Marcus waits....and waits.... and waits to make his move. Will he get it? Or does Jules know something he doesn't?

The twists just get better and better book lovers. Wait until you see what Nicki did with this one!

It is true what they say....sometimes things just aren't what they seem.

*I Am Serna by Magen McMinimy

Damon is sent to protect Ariel a white witch. Serna the dark witch knows in a few years Ariel's powers will be a deadly match against Serna. Damon does as told and finds Ariel. He has no idea what he is up against. This story was very short and had a pretty great twist. I surely didn't see it coming.

Bloodlines by S.L. Dearing

General Heinrich Muller has one goal in mind. That is to find Sascha and Eduard Engel.

After their mama is taken by the Generals soldiers, they are found by the butcher, put on a train and sent to a man they know nothing about.

This man is Patrice Ambroise. The children soon learn who he is and gain the knowledge of a gift they both have.

Patrice gives them an insight in to their history and wants to protect them at any cost.

S.L. Dearing brings so many surprises to this short twist. She added just the right components of intrigue and beauty.

The twist left me wanting more of a full length story. YES! It was that good!

Metronome by Eaton Thomas Palmer

Mathew is a serial killer that has been a put in the wing of a maximum security prison. Mathew at one time would prey upon his victims as if he was a spider. He even made a dagger that resembled a spiders fangs, dipped it in poison and then kill.

Mathew however, becomes the prey in his cell. He is tortured in his cell. If he doesn't listen to the clock and do as told he will die. Dr. Edgar Collins is in disbelief over this bogus Mathew is feeding him.

They come to the conclusion that they need to remove the clock. What happens next is an insane twist. If you like psychological thrillers, then this is a short read for you.

***In my opinion these are a bunch of very diverse, unique, fun and a little freaky short stories, which I enjoyed, LOL! What Cynthia Shepp brings to these authors is a challenge and a fun one at that.

Rene Folsom has the talent of bringing the covers to life. They both amaze me and I am forever a fan of both of these wonderful ladies.***

~I give this book 5 NarlyNut Stars~

S. Policar says

Since this is an Anthology This review will be slightly different. As Anthologies are a comprised of more than story, it would do the book as a whole a great injustice to review and rate the book as such. This review I image will be quite lengthy as I'm going to break down and review each individual story within this book's covers...

1) Voices of the Soul (Soul Seers #1) by Rene Folsom

The start of this didn't come as a total surprise. It seems to be the current fad to have the main character come into or learn that have some special ability. Though Orella's is a bit different than I've encountered recently. The fact that her mother was able to convey the message and a small amount of what Orella can do, is a touching moment that will make a lump form in even the strongest of people.

While Jonah isn't suprised that he and Ella share the same gift.. Ella's reacting is priceless! I cried from laughing so much.

About the only thing I didn't care for in this story was Jonah. I mean as a characer he's great.. his vocabulary could use an upgrade. The lines he uses on Ella come off as being staged, like he's reading the script for a cheesy 19th century romance.

The ending of this however isa good one. It's quite unexpected and a great start to the Soul Seers Series.

I give this one 5 of 5

2) Number 18 by Michael Loring

I'd like to start with..Hell Yeah!!! I absolutely loved the start of this story. The cold fear and adreline coursing through Robert's veins pulses through the readers as he stalks and attacks his prey. I'm sure if he'd known what he was up against he'd have changed his mind, but that wouldn't make the story interesting.

I wish this story had been a bit longer. There's not enough to really grasp the reader. The story does hold a lot of potential. The main characters are well thought out and you can picture the grey area between good and evil in which they dwell. I feel however that because it really isn't more than a piece of flash fiction, there isn't enough detail given to the moment. Because of this I can't accurately give the story a strong rating.

I hope Michael Loring will consider lengthening this teaser story into something I can give a justified rating to, but for now...

I give this one 3 of 5

3) Sweet Lenora by Bart Hopkins

This story has a historical feel to it. I can't quite place the time though it would have to be the year of or slightly after the new car Lenora's mother bought, though the feel is older than that. Lenora and especially her mother conduct themselves as if they lived in the Victorian era.. Though I suppose that could be due to how close to that era's end this story takes place and Lenora's mother's illness and detachment from the world around her.

This story is vividly descriptive. Every nuance forms in your mind's eye and before you're even aware you're no longer reading a story but watching it on a screen on you can see. Bart Hopkins has a way with words that so few do, the ability to capture his audience even with works as short as this.

There's one thing that confuses me about this story and prevents me from giving a 5 rating. How long was Lenora's mother as it was discovered at the end? And why had Jakob been so cruel for absolutely no reason?

With these questions in mind, I hope the author will consider perhaps lengthening the story a bit just so the confusion is no longer there.

I give this one 4 of 5

4) Truth or Dare by Jon Messenger

This story starts out strong. Each character's persona is clearly marked within the first chapter. When the kid gloves come off during their game of Truth or Dare, that's when the story takes a plunge into the darkness. It was smoothly done and flowed like it would have had the characters been real people. I liked that a lot.

This story is beautifully written.. However, it is also predictable. I give kudos to the Author for the research done on this though. 1) The knowledge that a spirit is bound to the place it died, and 2) Spirits see the living as we see them. I have to ask though, at the end, where was Brent?

As familiar as this story is, it was still enjoyable. It felt like seeing an old friend after many years apart. For the beautifully written writing and the memories it inspired, I give this one 4 of 5

5) Suburban Zombie by Anthony Lance

I've read my share of zombie stories.. None are as creative as this one is. This is the funniest story I've read yet. The fact of a bunch of zombie women sitting around talking about health risks made me laugh until my ribs hurt!

Now before anyone starts complaining about the use of Mormons being the "zombies" in this parody.. You really need to evaluate. There is no other religious sect that could have been put in that role. Every non mormon at one point or another has been hounded by a mormon or a two. They don't care when you tell them you aren't interested in what they say, they come back numerous times until you're scared to leave your house.

I applaud this Author for being brave enough to take something we all think and twisting it into this hysterical story... Even if he thinks those of us that aren't zombies are just brainless zombies.

5 of 5

6) All I Want for Christmas by Jason Brant

The fact that a man can pull off a typical thirteen year old girl at the start of puberty is impressive. This thirteen year old "adult" has all the cocky "I know it all and should get to whatever I want" attitude down. I also liked the simplicity of this story. It's the diary of an adolescent girl. You don't see many stories written as journals anymore. This was a nice treat for me.

However there's a few things I'd like to point out.. A LOT of the Pagan community may throw a fit over this story.. It's about the most inaccurate thing I've ever read. Luckily I'm not like most pagans.

I do feel the need to put in some corrections. 1) Witches don't celebrate Christmas, they celebrate Yule (december 21) 2) Witches do not eat people (or animals)

Inaccuracies aside, this story was charming and I always give honest reviews so 4 of 5

7) In the Eyes of the Beholder by Penelope Bartotto

I absolutely loved Betty... This story is very descriptive. The writing style is excellent. You see and feel

everything the two main characters do.

I Wish there had been more to it though. To me this seemed to a romantic suspense rather than paranormal. The only element of Paranormal I really came across was Betty Lou. Even if I feel the story did not fit the nature of this anthology like it should, it was still captivating.

It's a well written piece of work, though the end confused me a little bit. Due to the nature of the Anthology itself I can not give this story a 5 since I feel it doesn't fit with the others.. I did love it though and so I give it a 4 of 5

8) Little Tchotchkes by Nicki Scalise

This was a beautifully written piece of art. I thoroughly enjoyed it and the twist honestly caught me off guard. The detailed descriptions allow the reader to not only see everything but to feel it as well. The last line brought a smirk to my lips. It was a very clever touch to such a twisted story. Though I almost pity Marc in his psychosis, his little friend though, I think she should make a come back in another story. I really liked the characters and while I can't even begin to touch on the madness and darkness they each held, this was a good read for any paranormal fan

I give this one 5 of 5

9) I Am Serna by Megan McMinimy

This story disappointed me. It had a good strong start, but then it just ended. I can't help but feel like a chunk of this story is missing.

The writing style at the end of the story was nowhere near as strong as it had been at the beginning. I would love to read this story in its entirety.. However, if this is all the story has to offer before editing was done, the author should consider filling in the chunk that seems to have been ripped from it

I give this story 3 of 5

10) Bloodlines by S.L.Dearing

This story is as old as time itself. This version was amazingly written. Descriptive enough to feel and see and hear everything as you read.

You can feel poor little Sascha's heart and how brave Eduard tried to be.

The time line is not commonly used, which is another added bonus. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and look forward to reading other works by Ms. Dearing.

I do hope the author will consider expanding on this piece and let Sascha and Eduard have many more adventures for her fans to read and look forward to.

I give this one 5 of 5

11) Metronome by Eaton Thomas Palmer

This final story in the anthology was very predictable. I reminded me of an old episode of the twilight zone I'd seen when I was little. Where a reader likes description, I found this story to be a bit too descriptive.

It was almost as if the author were trying to fill in gaps with descriptions that didn't need to be there. I feel that because of the excessive amount of description in the story, the reader is almost robbed of the experience of watching the main character slowly lose his grasp on sanity because of IT.

I did however enjoy the irony of the end. That was amusing. Almost like a just desert.

I give this one 3 of 5

As for the anthology as a whole, I think it's wonderful. And while I didn't completely like all the stories within the pages, other people will. I think some of the stories had too much spliced out of them which caused them to lose their hold of a reader, but with anthologies that's to be expected due to the needed size of each story.

I enjoyed reading the stories and I give a big kudos to each of the eleven authors that compiled this book. As for the stories I rated a 3, I'd love to read some longer works those authors have as I'm well aware that some people do much better with longer works where they don't have the "fear" of needed things being cut out.

I thank each of you for allowing me a taste into your minds.. and a big thanks to Cynthia for allowing me to review this.

I give this book 4 of 5 and can't wait to read the next one if Cynthia opts to gather some more.. or even these same authors to make a volume 2.

Heidi says

I really enjoyed this book and had it read within in two days. I always like to find new authors, and this was a glimpse into what they write. I have added a couple to my want to read another one list. They were also free of many typo's that really annoys me when I read many beta books. I do not like spoilers so I will give a brief review of each book.

Voices of the Soul: Wow! I really didn't see the twist that was coming in this book. It had me wanting to know more. Renee Folsom has been added to my want to read more list.

Number 18: After reading about the author I could guess what direction the twist was in this book. I thought that justice was served though. It was a good read.

Sweet Lenora: The twist at the end of this book was also I surprise. Very enjoyable.

Truth or Dare: The ending also had a good twist. Although it left me saddened (in a good way) that this could almost be realistic.

All I Want for Christmas: Jason Brant is one of my favorite authors so I was not disappointed in this story. It was written in diary form of a young teenage girl and first love. The twist went in a different direction then even I expected. Kudos

Suburban Zombie: Not your typical zombie story. I found it humorous and feeling sympathy for the zombies at the end.

In The Eyes of the Beholder: True love is really blind. Very well written.

Little Tchotchkes: Not your typical vampire story. I think it would also make a good CSI episode.

I am Serna: Another interesting twist. I wished it could have been longer. Still a good short story.

Bloodlines: This one grabbed my attention from the beginning since I like to study events from WW2. From my personal beliefs I did not care for parts of the ending, but still well written and thought out.

Metronome: This one is also a good short story of a doctor working in a prison for the mentally insane. He thinks he can cure them so they can go to a regular prison. Enjoyed the ending of this book and loved the twist at the end. Another author added to my read more list.

Brandy Rivers says

Overall 4.5

Interesting mix of stories. Some I loved but I liked the rest so I will go with a four because I prefer my stories longer and meatier but I would give it an extra half star if I had that option. And since its an anthology I'll be short and too the point on each

Voices of the Soul - I really did love this one even though I generally hate that kind of ending

Number 18 - The story kept me reading.

Sweet Lenora - This story didn't pull me in as much as some of the others.

Truth or Dare - Not what I expected, but liked it all the same

Suburban Zombie - Not bad, but the style wasn't one I preferred.

All I want for Christmas - So twisted but I loved it.

In the Eyes of the Beholder - I loved that I couldn't predict everything, and the story was great. I'm still rolling a couple things over in my head but I won't spoil anything.

Little Tchotchekes - I have high standards for vampire stories, especially shorts. I liked it.

I am Serna - I liked it, but not a fan of the end.

Bloodlines - Interesting, wasn't what I expected.

Metronome - Deliciously dark

Caroline Rolley says

This collection of short stories has something for all paranormal fans! The twists are very well done and most take you totally by surprise. It's hard to review an anthology of short stories without telling each of the stories, but they're all very well written and different from each other. If you need quick but satisfying reads,

this book is well worth it!

Sati Marie Frost says

A very nice anthology here, much better than most horror collections that I've read. None of the stories were bad, although there were a couple that I didn't quite warm to, as well as a handful that I enjoyed, and two - *Voices of the Soul* and *Bloodlines* - that I thought were piercingly beautiful.

Voices I have in single ebook form, and I've been planning to reread the whole *Soul Seers* series, so I skipped it this time round, but I know that it was one of my top five (out of nearly 400!) books read this year. Rene Folsom has been a favourite of mine ever since I discovered her books this summer. But I'm very happy to have discovered S.L. Dearing's work by reading this collection, and I'll look out for her in the future.

5 stars for those two stories, 3 stars for a couple of the others, and 3.5 - 4 for the rest, evening out to a very credible 4 stars from me.

Julia says

Voices of the Soul - I was really enjoying this story, until the end. The ending ruined it for me. But before that it was a good paranormal love story.

Number 18 - liked this story, and liked the twist at the end.

Sweet Lenora - This story was just ok for me. I really didn't care much about Lenora, and I felt she was a little weak willed.

Truth or Dare - I liked the beginning of the story.

Suburban Zombie - I thought this was funny and original. I liked all the dark humor.

All I Want for Christmas - This was also a little funny. Written in the voice of a 13 year old girl, it had a good twist at the end.

In the Eyes of the Beholder - I liked all the characters, and I felt we got an insight into their characters. The ending was a little bit confusing for me.

Little Tchotchkes - I enjoyed reading this one. It was suspenseful and was interesting all the way through. I am a little sorry they did not become a couple. That would have been even more interesting.

I am Serna - this was a good story. Well written, and I wanted to know more about the characters. This could definitely be expanded into a novel.

Bloodlines - a good story, but the secret of why they wanted the children wasn't that exciting to me. Seemed like a lot of buildup, and then I felt a little let down.

Metronome - nice ending. This one kept you guessing for some time. Is he insane, or is there really some paranormal entity after him. I liked the ending. It was a fitting end for a serial killer.

Sadie Yates says

This book was an adventures read.Each story was vivid and full of imagery.There were a few stories I found to be predictable,but I think with so many vampire stories it's hard not to be.My top 3 stories were:Voices of the soul, Bloodlines and Metronome. "Voice" was a great way to start the readings.I was on the journey with the character and the ending through me for a loop. Bloodlines use of history and religious elements blended beautifully.Great imagery that you can see the battle unfold. And the last story Metronome,wow, leave it to the last one to freak me out. Everything in this story was creepy, and I mean that in a nice way.The author got his point across. Glad I read it in the day time.At night, in the dark might have made me book the book down and read in smaller doses.

Pamela says

very awesome read!!! amazing stories well written

Theresa says

I've always enjoyed stories with twists and this anthology provided plenty of good ones. Twist has a great variety of stories, from the haunting style of Sweet Lenora to the interesting vampire lore found in Little Tchotchkes and the hilarious teenage angst of All I Want For Christmas. Each story is engaging and entertaining. The anthology covers almost the full gamut of paranormal creatures: mind readers, werewolves, vampires, ghosts, zombies, Mormons (yes, Mormons are paranormal here), witches, haunted trucks, angels and spirit entrapment.

I don't want to say too much about each story for fear of giving things away, so I'll just give some brief impressions of each one.

Voices Of The Soul by Rene Folsom- A unique concept with romance and a bit of spice.

Number 18 by Michael Loring- A serial killer stalks his 18th victim. Creepy and dark.

Sweet Lenora by Bart Hopkins- A young girl gets advice from her bed-ridden mother. I loved the writing style of this one.

Truth Or Dare by Jon Messenger- College drinking game gone bad. Touching and sad.

Suburban Zombie by Anthony Lance- A new twist on zombie lore with some very unique villains.

All I Want For Christmas by Jason Brant- It's almost scary how well Jason did the voice of a 13-year-old girl.

In The Eyes Of The Beholder by Penelope Bartotto- Interesting combination of paranormal concepts. Compelling and different.

Little Tchotchkes by Nicki Scalise- Very unexpected but well done twist on vampire lore.
I Am Serna by Magen Mcminimy- Great urban fantasy style.

Bloodlines by S. L. Dearing- A chilling villain hunts down two extraordinary children.

Metronome by Eaton Thomas Palmer- A good psychological mystery. Is he crazy or isn't he?

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Magen McMinimy says

I probably shouldn't leave a review because I have my own short story in the anthology, but ignoring what I think of my own story there are some very talented authors represented in this book and I enjoyed every single story I read. Well Done All

Terri Baldwin says

Voices of the Soul (Soul Seers One) by Rene Folsom

Orella (Ella) heard voices in her head, actually the thoughts of others, as long as she could remember. She and her mother were in a terrible car accident shortly before her 14th birthday. After Ella awoke in the hospital following the accident, she was brought to see her mother who was being kept alive on life support. Her mother talked to her in her head, explaining the gift that she had and that she was a soul seer. Her mother had this gift too. She passed away shortly after telling Ella this. Six years later, Ella was in college and a new student entered her class. She and Jonah had an instant connection, and she learned that he was also a soul seer. He helped her to understand her gift a bit more, and they explored the boundaries of what their gift could do.

The twist at the end of this story left me absolutely stunned and desperate to find out what happened next! This story was gut-wrenching and sweet, exciting and really left an impact on me. I can't wait for the next one!

Number 18 by Michael Loring

Robert was a predator, carefully watching his chosen victim waiting for the perfect time to attack. He was exact and precise as he stalked victim number 18, a petite brunette named Alexa, who was at a carnival with her boyfriend, Daniel. He watched them as they argued about what stuffed animal to pick, and then knew he had his opportunity when Daniel headed back to the campsite, Alexa planning to meet up with him after using the ladies room. The incredible detail mapped Robert's sick mind and I felt like I was right there with them in the woods as he stalked her. I literally held my breath, waiting for him to finish his horrific task.

The twist in this story was excellently written and detailed. It was brutal, fierce, and perfectly ironic! I

couldn't help but smile a little bit at the end of this one... sometimes you get what you deserve! LOVED it!

Sweet Lenora, by Bart Hopkins

This story was set in the 1930's about a girl, Lenora, who came from old money. Always the dutiful daughter, she always listened to her ill bedridden mother. It seemed a lonely existence for Lenora. The only people in her life were her mother who needed a lot of rest, and the servants who saw to her needs, but kept an emotional distance. I was truly happy for Lenora when she met a boy named Charlie at school. They wanted to spend more time together, but Lenora's mother was not pleased with this new acquaintance, because he came from new money and wasn't of the same social standing as her family. Her mother arranged for Lenora to be escorted to the fair by Jakob Schmidt, a young man her mother deemed more acceptable, as he was from old money. Lenora was miserable at the fair, and Charlie was pleased to see this as he hid in the shadows and watched. At the end of the evening, Jakob became violent with Lenora and Charlie stepped in, striking Jakob with a rock and seeing Lenora safely home.

The twist in this particular story made her bizarre home life make absolute sense to me. It was horrifying and awesome!

Truth or Dare, by Jon Messenger

This is a tale of four college kids having a few drinks and playing a game of truth or dare. The loser would have to write the philosophy final for the winner. Brent, Whitney, and Jake all took their turns; the final truth or dare came to Jill, Jake's girlfriend. She chose dare, and the dare was to spend the night in Creepy Cemetery; a long-neglected cemetery near their campus. Once at the cemetery, Jill heard whispers and saw ghostly apparitions but the real shock happens when...

The twist. Not revealing it, though it surprised me and reminded me of a very important lesson at the same time. A truly excellent story that really made me think!

Suburban Zombie, by Anthony Lance

Neighbors Ted, Dave and their respective families are zombies. They live in a picture-perfect neighborhood in zombie suburbia. As the mothers in the neighborhood drop their children off at school and discuss crumbed brains among themselves, they don't realize they are being followed. The neighborhood is being invaded by...

The twist in this story is very ironic and hilarious. I loved the banter between the characters, and laughed out loud quite a few times while reading it. I will never think of zombies the same way after reading this!

All I Want for Christmas, by Jason Brant

This is the story from a girl's point of view, done exclusively in diary entries. Thinking back to myself at thirteen, these entries are pretty accurate for a girl of that age. She has a serious crush on Stevie and her parents won't let her date yet. Each entry is early-teen angst toward her parents and classmates at its finest! Christmas was something she certainly wasn't looking forward to, since Stevie was all she wanted...until she opened her gift.

The twist in this story came out of nowhere and I truly never saw it coming. It was delicious!!!

In the Eyes of the Beholder, by Penelope Bartotto

In this short story, Dominic was a truck driver who had to spend weeks at a time away from the girl he loved, Rose. He missed her terribly and planned on asking her to marry him when he got back home. Rose, however, didn't feel the same about Dominic. She felt that men had only one purpose in the universe- to provide women with what they need, want, and desire. Rose was not who Dominic thought she was. She was planning to get ahead, using a rich man that she was seeing, Kevin, to her advantage. Dominic was getting in the way of her plans, so she had to do something. Luckily for Rose, she had everything she needed at her disposal. She feigned an attack and had Dominic rush home to her, not even stopping to make his delivery first. She drugged him and took him to a warehouse, where she planned to drain him of his life so she could be free to take advantage of Kevin.

The twist was eerie! I loved this story, it played like a horror movie in my head. I'm sure the secondary characters at the diner knew more than they let on, but that just added to the creepy factor to this story... well done!

Little Tchotchkes, by Nicki Scalise

This is the story of a vampire named Marcus who cased goth clubs for his next meal. The girls were always willing to take him home, where he'd seduce them and then make them his meal. He always took a trophy from each victim, keeping it in his apartment. Bored with goth girls, an opportunity for a challenge presented itself when he paid for coffee for a girl who misplaced her wallet. She showed up at his apartment with a coffee for him later that evening and made herself at home. He befriended this woman, named Jules, for a while waiting for his opportunity to get her to take him home with her. He never fed at home. That chance never happened.

The twist in this one? Wow! Double wow! Depravity is the word of the day with this story! Absolutely brilliant ending!

I am Serna, by Magen McMinimy

I love witch stories, and this was no exception. A white witch was trying to save her niece, Ariel, from the Serna the Witch Queen. Ariel was already powerful, and the Witch Queen was worried that her powers might soon surpass her own. Ariel's niece hired Damon, a warlock and protector of the magical community to keep Ariel safe. She was hiding in a town named Sebastopol, working in a small biker bar. Damon flashed (teleported) himself to the little town and entered the bar, meeting Ariel. Ariel knew who he was immediately, and accused him of leading Serna to her when hellhounds attacked them in the parking lot. Luckily, Damon killed as many as he could and flashed Ariel to the hotel room he was staying in while in town. After guarding Ariel for a little while, he became attracted to her and wanted to get to know her better. He flashed her to his home and...

This twist caught me by surprise! I loved the ending to this, and actually re-read it to see if I had missed a clue as to what would happen!

Bloodlines, by S.L. Dearing

This story took place in WWII era Germany. A general was searching for two children, Sascha and Eduard Engel. They found their mother, but she had carefully hidden them under the floorboards. They had been forced to witness the interrogation and removal of their mother through the wood slats. All they had left of

her was an oval, bronze pendant. A kind neighbor rescued them and sent them off to France to stay with a man named Patrice. Patrice was a wonderful man, and the children were delighted to find out that he was their grandfather and that their mother was his daughter. They shared a special gift, they could hear each other's thoughts. The general soon located the family, and went to the house. This is when the twist happens.

This twist was scary, amazing and finally beautiful! This story left me grinning and happy. It would have made a fine full-length novel, too!

Metronome, by Eaton Thomas Palmer

This short story took place in a psychiatric wing of a maximum security prison. Matthew, a serial killer, is a patient that Dr. Edgar Collins is determined to rehabilitate. His nurse, Erin, isn't quite as optimistic. Matthew saw himself as a spider, preying on the evil and foul people in the world. He made a dagger in the shape of a spider's fang, and dipped the end in poison, so that when he killed his victim, it resembled the demise of a spider's prey. While in therapy, Matthew was confident and smug, in control of himself and quite able to strike fear into the heart of Erin. In his cell, however, he became the prey. The clock just outside his cell tormented him endlessly, telling him to listen to him and not cry out. If he didn't follow the clock's instructions the clock would stop, ending Matthew's life. The doctor was quite irritated by Matthew's belief that the stopping of the clock would cause him to die, so he ordered a guard to cut power to the clock. He told Matthew that he deserved a day out of his cell, and that he could spend it in the lounge. This excited Matthew, and he stepped out into the hallway, instantly noticing that the clock had stopped.

The twist in this story was excellent! The horror inflicted on Matthew may have matched the horror Matthew inflicted upon his victims. This was a beautifully-crafted psychological nightmare!

I also want to point out that Cynthia Shepp has been absolutely amazing, not only in getting established authors to think outside the box and submit a short story, but also to readers who aspire to write. Hers is truly a labor of love, and these anthologies have allowed many readers to live their dream of seeing their work in print. Cynthia, you are awesome!

Claire Thake says

A brilliant anthology separated into 11 short stories. I don't want to ruin the surprise of any of the stories so has instead written by opinions of them all individually not giving the stories away.

Voice of the Soul - Rene Folsom

I absolutely loved this story! Very well written and I found myself drawn into the story. Will definitely be looking into reading the other novellas which continue this story.

Number 18 - Michael Loring

Short but sweet, this had my mind wondering from the beginning what would happen. I immediately thought the predator wasn't what he was portrayed to be so this had a great twist to the ending.

Sweet Lenora - Bart Hopkins

I personally didn't enjoy this story as much as the previous 2, for a short story it seemed to take longer to get to any real content and i found it hard to connect to the main character.

Truth or Dare - Jon Messenger

A well written short story, but I found it very predictable as the the outcome. I would have liked to have seen an extra chapter maybe to see the main characters reaction to the outcome.

Suburban Zombie - Anthony Lance

This really made me giggle! A very well written, alternative view on zombie life! A very interesting short read.

All I want for Christmas - Jason Brant

Amazingly written and the twist at the end was brilliant. I would have never guessed that outcome! Amazed at how well Jason wrote from the view of a 13 year old girl!

In the eyes of the beholder - Penelope Barlotto

An interesting piece with an interesting twist, well written and to me came across as a TV/movie concept.

Little Tchotchkes - Nicki Scalise

Wow the twist on this was amazing! So well written and i would love to see this story expanded to its potential to see all the prior events leading up to this point and to see the outcome for the little plant!

I am Serna - Magan McMinimy

Short and well written with an interesting twist at the end which was unpredictable and unexpected.

Bloodlines - SL Dearing

This Story didn't appeal to me as much as the others, it was well written but the story just didn't draw me in as much of the others. I think I felt the ending was rushed and would have liked to see a bit more expand it.

Metronome - Eaton Thomas Palmer

This was a very intriguing story, I would love for this to be expanded into a longer story to see some background into the clock and to see what the future held.

Overall I really enjoyed this anthology and it has totally left me wanting more! I was very impressed with a lot of the authors and will definitely be looking into more of there work, I am especially looking forward into reading more of the soul seers series by Rene Folsom and will be adding them to me 'to read' list for the near future.

Cynthia Has done as amazing job putting together this anthology and it will definitively be one that I recommend to others.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Ann-marie says

This Anthology is a great compilation of authors, most of whom I have not heard of before now. I enjoyed all the stories in here, and they kept me guessing throughout each one. There were a few stories I thought I had figured out half way through, just to be proven wrong. I wrote down the names of a few authors that I plan on looking up to see what else they have available to read, because I love their writing style.

I definitely recommend this book if you are looking for something spooky, and that will keep you turning those pages to find out what happens next. You will not be disappointed in the least. Good job to all the authors involved.

Tonya says

This is a great anthology filled with awesome stories that will leave you wanting more and some really amazing authors! I loved each and every story in this anthology, all are 5 stars.

Rene Folsom- Soul Seers 1: Great short read, does end with you wanting more and wondering what is happening, but all novellas are out now. I love Ella and Jonah!

Michael Loring- Number 18: Loved this story, left me wanting more!! Michael's werewolves are awesome, they aren't your sissy wolves!!

Bart Hopkins- Sweet Lenora: Wow, what a twist to the story!! I loved it

Jon Messenger- Truth or Dare: I love a good ghost story. And this one is great. Leaves you wondering and wanting more!

Anthony Lance- Suburban Zombie: I was laughing just about the entire time reading this story. Loved it!!

Jason Brant- All I want for Christmas: Another funny read. My family was looking at me like I was crazy for laughing so much. Was not expecting the ending at all!

Penelope Bartotto- In the Eyes of the Beholder: Great read. Loved the twist. Karma is a witch, that's for sure.

Nicki Scalise- Little Tchotchkes: Wow, what a twist that I wasn't expecting. Really left me wanting more! I will have to start bugging Nicki to give me more of this story!!

Magen Mcminimy- I am Serna: Too Short!! But still loved it. I didn't see what happened coming at all. I really want more!

S.L. Dearing- Bloodlines: I love the surprises that you always find in S.L.'s books. Great little read!

Eaton Thomas Palmer- Metronome: Tick, Tick, Tick. Didn't see that coming at all. Great read!!
