



## A Stone's Throw Away

*Carl Lee*

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Brian, a loner, ends up at the Research Center as an apprentice.

There, he makes the discovery of a lifetime, one that would make him famous, except he walks away because of a personal issue and tells no one.

He ends up apprenticing with the eccentric Chief Henry, in security.

While working in this vocation, Brian makes an even greater discovery, one he hides from everyone.

But once this genie is out of the bottle, he can't and won't put it back.

## A Stone's Throw Away Details

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Author : Carl Lee

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## From Reader Review *A Stone's Throw Away* for online ebook

### Sharon says

Would you want to live in a world with only one sex? That's the world Brian lives in. He is in a secure installation with the ability to dupe any food that he wants. Outside of the installation, there are predators (tigers). Brian discovers a "secret". This secret complicates his life.

I received this book in exchange for reviewing it. I enjoyed the story but the book could use a lot of editing. There are wrong words and misspelled words. If you can overlook those, the story is different from any other I have ever read.

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### Donna says

I "met" the author online when he posted a chapter to read at Gather.Com and have been a fan since that time. The book took a long time for Carl to work through what he wanted to say in his narrative but the finished product is such a real reading pleasure. The book is what is best about science fiction - it is futuristic, has a secret, keeps you entertained and presents you with a great ending that you can discuss. I loved it and hope people read it and confirm that Carl Lee is a writer to be read.

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### Jans says

*A Stone's Throw Away* takes place in the distant future where the earth and its population have changed dramatically and technology has advanced alarmingly. Computerized devices are plentiful and the ultimate technology for preservation of the species is provided by a machine called "The Dupe" which recycles waste into anything needed or wanted.

The main character, Brian, is an intelligent young man with a lively curiosity about nearly everything. Despite being educated in this brave new world, Brian has a depth of integrity and strong moral fiber. He is one of many, yet one who thinks for himself. Peer pressure makes him uncomfortable, but does not sway him from the course he has set. Brian's curiosity leads him to ask questions, break rules and explore the possibilities that exist outside of the enclosure where he lives.

The story is well-crafted and although the reader travels with Brian on his adventures, much is concealed, to be later revealed. With non-stop action, this book is nearly impossible to put down. Suspense and close calls are plentiful. Each scene is so well described that readers will see the action like a movie.

The ending is as unexpected as it is satisfying. Readers will not want the story to end. Those who read the epilogue will be pleased to see that a sequel is already underway.

It is tempting to compare *A Stone's Throw Away* to landmark science fiction novels such as *Brave New World* and *Stranger in a Strange Land*. It certainly meets that standard, yet it has its own very special story to tell that might very well make it a classic in its own right.

Carl Lee has provided an exciting story that will appeal to all readers, not just science fiction fans. A *Stone's Throw Away* has enough adventure, suspense, mystery and humor to satisfy readers of all genres. Its universal attraction makes it a great gift book as well as an excellent choice for the summer reading beach bag.

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### **Valerie says**

Very easy reading! Full of fast action & adventure. I received this book from a Goodread's giveaway.

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### **Sally Hegedus says**

I received this book shortly after joining goodreads; my first giveaway win. And though I do appreciate the free copy, I'm sorry but I just can't in any honesty recommend the book. I so wanted to like the book - my first win! But I didn't. The premise of the story is intriguing but doesn't pan out. The book is too long, with numerous sections where it felt the plot was just not moving forward. Way too many paragraphs filled with the boring details of supplies being loaded onto or off of carts. Plot elements left hanging, unexplained, devices to enable his characters to do what he needs them to do, but with no explanation of why the event happened really, or of the larger consequences. The characters themselves are poorly realized, without depth, exhibiting confusing and unconvincing behavior. Brian solves this huge scientific quandry that could have untold meaning for humans, but he simply walks away from it and tells no one because he's angry with his co-researcher and he'd rather go fly a plane. What? I just didn't buy it.

Besides the problems with storyline and boring characters, I was very frustrated by the frequently poor sentence structure; so many sentences were poorly worded or just didn't flow. Some just didn't make sense and had to be reread. The writing style is rather poor and simplistic, not at all at the level of a professional writer.

Additionally, there were just many -- many many -- grammatical errors. They completely disrupted the flow. Spelling errors, verb tense and gerund errors, commas where none belonged, and even the misuse of entire words (as when a man walks into a room and announces his "presents" instead of his presence). These errors were probably what upset me most of all - that the book should be presented to readers without having made the effort, or at least an adequate effort, to edit it.

I would not have finished this book had it not been a giveaway win and I had not felt an obligation to finish it.

Plus I just kept hoping that at least the story would improve and I would find some redeeming value. But it didn't happen. For a long while I did not post a review because I felt badly to write my true feelings about the book. But I've decided that if an author puts a book out to the public on a hugely popular site which is dedicated to the rating, listing and reviewing of books, then said readers should feel no guilt when providing honest reviews. Even for giveaways.

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## **Kimberly says**

When I first started to read this book, I was very disappointed. I was expecting so much more and would honestly say that the synopsis gave you an incorrect depiction of what the book was going to be about.

The main character Brian wasn't relatable. I feel the author should have given the reader some kind of background story when it came to his character. I also felt that his friends were in one point and out the next. I wanted to know more about each of them. I wanted to know where they came from, where their parents were, why there were not any women in the book. It is all a mystery.

The book felt rushed. It jumped around and ended parts so abruptly and moved on to the next story line.

For instance, Brian found the answer to memory duping. However, instead of telling of his discovery he switches lanes and says oh I want to fly the plane. What? I can see if he had a convincing reason of why he chose not to disclose his findings. However, it wasn't a reason. It was like I want to fly a plane so who cares that I found the cure to world hunger.

Another thing that bothered me about this book is that I would get lost. I would not know what was happening. I felt the author could imagine the story while he was writing but fell short in creating the imagery the reader needed to fully imagine what the author was trying to say.

I know you are probably wondering why I gave the book 4 stars.

I was going to stop reading this book several times. However, I stuck with it, and I am glad I did. All of my questions were answered. I know certain authors will leave the reader hanging without answering all of their questions. However, this is not the case.

I was really disturbed after one portion of the book, but the author even redeemed himself for that mishap :).

To sum it all up, this was an enjoyable read. It actually had me tugging at each page to see what would happen next.

Even though there are still somethings I do not quite understand, I will be reading the sequel.

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## **Lori says**

I received this book in an author giveaway. DNF, I'm sorry to say. I'm sure there's a good story in here but I gave up in frustration at page 26. Not only were there grammatical errors, but sentences did not make sense and did not flow well, and this threw me out of the story on every other page. Please get an editor so I can try this again.

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## **Squire says**

**Disclaimer:** I won this in the GR First Reads program 2 years ago. I tried to start it several times, but I couldn't get past the first page. But the author had signed it and had asked for an honest, spoiler-free review

and that bothered me. So I decided to grit my teeth and give it a go this year. I was tempted many times to abandon the book, but I toughed it out.

I tried to justify giving this two stars. I really did. The story is good and held a lot of potential. Unfortunately, the author was simply not able tell the story very well. This book is in sore need of an impartial editor.

I'll just list a few of the book's failings:

1. The book is twice as long as it needs to be. A shorter, tighter text would have delivered the suspense need to sustain this story and bring out the idea that Brian is trying to save mankind.
2. The author doesn't understand the basic use of punctuation in a sentence. He also leaves sentences incomplete and omits articles and prepositions needed to make his sentences understood. After a while, I stopped rereading passages and just read on knowing that eventually it would start making sense again.
3. The narrative is dull and uninteresting. It follows the "He did this. He did that. He said this. He said that" pattern that is mind-numbing after a while.
4. This book is full of malapropisms. To be fair, though, the large amount of them in the book was what EARNED the book its one star. I get a lot of enjoyment out of the malapropism. Some of my favorites: an exercise "regime" (regimen)x2; "marooning" (mooring) rope; "amplitude" (aptitude) for child-rearing; announced his "presents" (presence).
5. The cover of the book is confusing and unappealing. It seems awkward that the publisher has the biggest font on the cover and the title the smallest. And on the spine, the title doesn't appear at all, just the publisher.

There's lot more I could mention, but the point is the thing needs to be rewritten to be anything close to successful.

I found this tidbit from the author's afterward note amusing: "Don't let your friends browse bookstore shelves for hours looking for a good read. You have one in your hands looking for readers. So lend your book to a friend. Once returned, lend it again."

Sorry, I want to keep my friends, thank you.

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### **Nour Sharif says**

I am sorry, Carl. But I really don't want to spend any more time on this.

I read about 5 chapters from this book, and I know I might have given up a little too soon, it was just tooooooo much!

There were a lot of grammatical errors. the story was boring so far although the idea was very nice (that's what I signed up to this book). The conversations were stupid and meaningless. And the style of writing was very cheesy.

I am sorry, I really tried. But I really spent too much effort and time on this.

I am not going to finish this book and I really feel bad.

I apologize again, because I seem so ungrateful while I got this book in a giveaway.

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### **Tammie King says**

This is the first book I have read by Carl Lee. It was exciting and full of unexpected twists. This extra-long novel kept me turning pages to the very end. Once I picked it up, I couldn't put it down. Review by JalexMyne of Night Owl Reviews

4.5 / 5 - Top Pick

Full review online at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/v5/Rev...>

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### **Hope says**

What if one machine could take the place of manufacturing? That is what Brian, a post-apocalyptic man, finds out in this 425 page novel by Carl Lee. Brian and his classmates are pushed towards specific careers on what is left of Earth sometime in the distant future. We follow Brian as he comes of age, and while he discovers the cold hard truth of what that really means.

A Stone's Throw Away delves into scientific discovery and possibility we only dream of in the modern age. I appreciate how Lee seems researched, and his backings feel realistic. I'm no physicist – perhaps that's why I'm more likely to accept any pseudo-facts. If there are errors in how things like interspace travel would work, then I prefer to stay with Lee's version!

As sci-fi goes, this one has perfect elements of realism mixed with beyond imagination. The author does not give much away, and the reader has no idea what awaits around each corner. Although at times slow to build suspense, when you peel back the layers it's worth the wait. I am looking forward to the next installment, and was startled by the end. Much like a beloved television show, only there is no scheduled conclusion next week.

Elements of interpersonal relationships are studied throughout – even mankind in the future so distant from tradition will still have the same desires to love, nurture, and be nurtured. Brian struggles with his place in the world, his place with friends, and the prospect of a normal future. I'm really looking forward to how this one plays out. Happy reading!

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