



Carnival of Death

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Matt Cahill is working security at a traveling carnival, seeking a respite in the lonely battle against the supernatural entity known as Mr. Dark. But that's not going to happen. He can sense something isn't right, almost as clearly as he can see the evil in people as rotting flesh. Soon a series of violent, horrifying events rock the carnival...and, most disturbing of all, a fake fortune teller's dark prophecies start coming true.

So when she foresees imminent doom, Matt knows it can only mean one thing: Mr. Dark is here, and it's not for the cotton candy. If Matt can't stop him, Mr. Dark will destroy every last soul in this godforsaken carnival—and salt the earth with blood.

Carnival of Death Details

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From Reader Review Carnival of Death for online ebook

Ming Siu says

Entertaining enough, but it felt like it could've gone further. Ending was a little rushed, too.

Ben Boulden says

Bill Crider's CARNIVAL OF DEATH, the ninth book in The Dead Man series, is as much fun as a reader can have with paper and ink. Matt Cahill, The Dead Man, is working security for a carnival when the evil entity Mr. Dark begins playing games and the carnival goers start behaving in violent and disturbing ways. And it is up to Matt and his trusty ax to save the day. A carnival setting is similar to eating cotton candy without any of the less savory side effects (headaches, toothaches, grouchiness), and this story never faltered in its delivery. Action-oriented horror with splatter, a fortune telling love interest and (did I already say this?) a terrific setting. Highly recommended.

Debbie says

another great episode for Matt -- exactly what you would expect and what you're hoping for.

Doug says

I just read through four Dead Man titles -- #1, 4, 5, and this one. Crider combines the Dead Man set-up with the carnal novel. All the Dead Man titles are Kindle novellas -- pretty short, fast, amusing, violent. This one had enough carnal color that it might have stretched further before the anticipated carnage.

Dan Taylor says

For the first three-quarters this is one of the standout books in the DEAD MAN series. Crider seems to effortlessly bring the reader into Matt Chaill's latest stand-off with Mr. Dark, this time at the site of a traveling carnival. My only complaint is that the battle between Cahill, his lone ally, and the forces of evil seems rushed and made me feel like I was missing something. Still, these are great books especially for those of us who love the men's action genre as well as some gory horror.

Oliver Clarke says

Another fun Dead Man read, the build up for this one was really excellent, but sadly that climax was over way too quickly.

Randy says

Things had been slow since Matt Cahill, the Dead Man, had taken the security job with Cap'n Bob's Stardust Carnival. Tonight, Friday night, seemed different.

It started when he broke up the rape of the fifteen year old girl by a trio of punks. Then the husband that objected to the ring toss game and went a bit too far in his objections. The two pythons had tried to kill their master right in the middle of the erotic dance act, forcing Matt to kill them with his ax.

In all three incidents, Matt hadn't seen the tangible evidence that his old enemy, Mr. Dark, was involved. No rotting faces, no maggots crawling from eye sockets and mouths, stuff only he could see(to everyone else, they looked normal) and proof that Mr. Dark was working his evil.

Besides, no one had died.

And then there was Madame Zora, the fortune teller. Like most everything in the carnival, her act was a scam designed to separate people from their money. But since Matt had joined the carnival, she began seeing real visions, signs of death and destruction. She knew who Matt was and that evil followed him.

The carnival had only been Mr. Dark's opening round. Saturday night was coming and all the principles from the night before were returning, all with more dangerous things on their mind.

Matt was the only one to stop them.

Ed Lynn says

Ninth in the series.

Chris says

Wow - now this was a very short read. Matt has joined up with a traveling carnival, and as expected unusual things finally begin to happen. Mr. Dark shows up, and the one thing that makes this book a bit more interesting even though it's length was way short, is you get a bit of insight into how Matt and Mr. Dark are Yin and Yang. Maybe...anyway, the author could have added more prose and beefed it up a bit more....

John says

Needed another 20-30 pages to really come alive, but what's there is cracking fun.

Josh says

Matt Cahill spends time amongst the carneys where he is inadvertently the cause of their demise. Starting with an attempted rape of a young woman and culminating with a needy co dependence with Mr Dark, CARNIVAL OF DEATH delivers a nice chunk of popcorn fiction that's easily consumed but adds little by way of the dead man mythology and broader end game. The more I read of these novellas the more desensitised I become to what Cahill can and can't achieve with the all powerful wielding of his trusty axe. That said, CARNIVAL OF DEATH was enjoyable in the moment, just not as memorable as some of the previous entries in the episodic life of the dead man.

Jayme says

The Dead Man meets Carnival!!!

Great chapter in the Dead Man Series.

If you have been reading this series, you won't be disappointed with #9. In this chapter we find Matt Cahill working for the carnival. It is a great setting for the Dead Man as there are plenty of fun weird characters that work. The rubes also make for entertaining characters. Carnival of Death is well written and one of my favorites so far in the series.

Eagerly awaiting the next chapter.

Gef says

Carnivals have been fodder for horror ever since Ray Bradbury wrote *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. But as menacing as the characters of Bradbury's tale were, Bill Crider decided his Carnival of Death needed something far more bloody.

The ninth installment in The Dead Man series has Matt Cahill working security for Cap'n Bob's Stardust Carnival, a rinky-dink midway that'd make most state fairs look like Disneyland. Still, he's felt drawn there for some reason, and he's been waiting for signs of Mr. Dark's influence on anyone entering the fairgrounds. The one who starts seeing the signs first, however, isn't Matt, but the carnival's resident palm reader, Madame Zora.

Zora can't really tell you your future. It's just a schtick she learned. Until Matt showed up, that is. Then things got weird for her, as her premonitions started coming true, and the things she was telling patrons weren't concocted from her imagination, but true visions that increasingly scared the heck out of her. Things come to a head as one night at the carnival sees employees and patrons alike turning vicious and violent against one another, with Matt and Zora caught in the middle.

I really liked the setup for this installment, and Madame Zora was a nice twist in the supporting character department, with her having a more direct relationship with the plot and the outcome. The outcome though,

particularly the big climax that sees a couple of the carnival goers infected by Mr. Dark going on a rampage felt a bit out of step with what I'd call the Dead Man canon. I don't want to spoil things with specifics, but if you read this book then you'll probably know what I mean.

All things considered, *Carnival of Death* keeps the pace for the series moving strong, and I'm looking forward to seeing where Matt Cahill winds up next.
